

Final Motions
New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
January 28-29, 2026
Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

Groundfish Committee Report

Recreational Management Measures

1. Mr. Pappalardo moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council recommends to GARFO for recreational measures (status quo measures proposed in FY2025) for:

Western Gulf of Maine Cod:

- Open season: May 1 – 31 and September 1 - October 31,
- Minimum size: 23 inches, and
- Possession limit: 1 fish per day

Gulf of Maine Haddock:

- Open season: May 1 - February 28/29 and April 1 – 30,
- Minimum size: 17 inches, and
- Possession limit: 15 fish per day

The motion *failed* by unanimous consent with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

2. Mr. Alexander moved and Ms. Odell seconded:
that the Council recommend to GARFO the following recreational measures for fishing year 2026:

Gulf of Maine Haddock:

- Open season: May 1 - February 28/29 and April 1 – 30,
- Minimum size: 17 inches, and
- Possession limit: 20 fish per day

Yes: Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Ware, Mr. Pierdinock and Mr. Alexander
No: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith and Mr. Whelan,
Abstain: Mr. Pentony and Mr. Dangelo

The motion *failed* on a roll call with two abstentions, Mr. Pentony and Mr. Dangelo (6/9/2).

3. Ms. Odell moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:

that the Council recommend to GARFO the following recreational measures for fishing year 2026:

Gulf of Maine Haddock:

- Open season: May 1 - February 28/29 and April 1 – 30,
- Minimum size: 17 inches, and
- Possession limit: 15 fish per day

The motion *carried* on a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (15/0/1).

4. Mr. Pierdinock moved and Ms. Odell seconded:

that the Council recommend to GARFO the following recreational measures for fishing year 2026:

Western Gulf of Maine Cod (Option 1 in staff memo)

- For Hire open season: Sept 1 - Oct 31
- Minimum size: 23 inches
- Possession limit: 1 fish per person per day
- Private mode: cod closed year-round

4a. Ms. Ware moved to substitute and Mr. Smith seconded:

that the Council recommend to GARFO the following recreational measures for fishing year 2026:

Western Gulf of Maine Cod (Option 2 in staff memo)

- All modes open season: Oct 1 - Oct 31
- Minimum size: 23 inches
- Possession limit: 1 fish per person per day

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Dangelo, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Ware, Ms. Zobel, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Brawn and Mr. Aarrestad
No: Mr. Alexander, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pierdinock and Ms. Odell
Abstain: Mr. Pentony

The motion to substitute *carried* on a roll call with one abstention, Mr. Pentony (12/4/1).

4b. The main motion as substituted:

that the Council recommend to GARFO the following recreational measures for fishing year 2026:

Western Gulf of Maine Cod (Option 2 in staff memo)

- All modes open season: Oct 1 - Oct 31
- Minimum size: 23 inches
- Possession limit: 1 fish per person per day

The main motion as substituted *carried* with a show of hands with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Scallop Committee Report

LAGC IFQ Program Review

5. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
that the Council accept the LAGC IFQ Program Review Report as complete and share the final report with NOAA Fisheries.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Habitat Committee Report

6. Mr. Smith moved and Mr. Aarrestad seconded:
that the Council initiates the 2026 EFH Framework to the Atlantic Sea Scallop and Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plans, with the following problem statement and objective:

- Problem statement: During the EFH 5-year technical review completed in January 2025, the Council recognized the need to update EFH designations for its managed species based on recent species distribution and abundance data and species distribution model outputs. The current designations are based on data through 2005 and may not reflect current habitat use by Council-managed species.
- Objective: Revise EFH text descriptions and maps for all life history stages of Atlantic sea scallop, Acadian redfish, American plaice, Atlantic halibut, Atlantic wolffish, haddock, ocean pout, offshore hake, pollock, red hake, silver hake, white hake, windowpane flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.