

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
December 4-6, 2018
Hotel Viking
Newport, RI

FINAL MOTIONS

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

WHITING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Mr. Alexander moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council select Status Quo/No Action for small-mesh multispecies fishery limited access.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (13/1/1).

RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE

The Council agreed by consensus to discontinue the Research Steering Committee (RSC) as a standing Committee unless the RSC becomes central to research priority setting within the Council and NMFS recommits to using the RSC as an advisory body.

ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Council agreed by consensus to adopt the Enforcement Committee consensus statements as follows:

Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (ALWTRT) regulations

That the Council refer to ALWTRT that the Council recommends that fixed gear vertical lines should be required to have additional markings within ten feet of the surface in order to facilitate visual inspection of gear from surface vessels.

Cod-end Compliance Assistance Program (CAP)

That the Council continue the Cod-end CAP, for another year, in order to collect additional data in order to verify mesh changes over time.

Omega Mesh Measurement Gauge

That the Council recommends that NOAA use its authority to adopt use of the Omega gauge to enforce measuring mesh size, once General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) satisfies its legal requirements.

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT

Clam Dredge Framework

2. Mr. Alexander moved and Mr. Kendall seconded:
that the Council select Alternative 2.

- 2a. Mr. Reid moved to substitute and Mr. Pentony seconded:
to approve the following exemption areas for the clam fishery as specified below:
A) McBlair and Zone AB open year-round, and
B) Old South/East Door open May 1-Oct 31.
To include the mussel fishery in this exemption (A & B).
Monitoring requirements detailed in the draft Framework would apply.
Further, to task the PDT to develop with the industry a prioritized list of research needs in order to develop a fine-scale survey of Rose and Crown and Zone D. The intent is to work towards an exempted fishing permit program for these areas which will support the potential development of additional exemptions in the future.

Friendly amendment:

to approve the following exemption areas for the clam fishery as specified below:
A) McBlair and Zone AB open year-round, and
B) Old South/East Door open May 1-Oct 31.
To include the mussel fishery in this exemption (A & B).
Monitoring requirements detailed in the draft Framework would apply.
Further, to task the PDT to develop with the industry a prioritized list of research needs concerning Rose and Crown and Zone D. The intent is to work towards an exempted fishing permit program for these areas which will support the potential development of additional exemptions in the future.

The motion to substitute *carried* on a show of hands (12/4/0).

Main Motion:

To approve the following exemption areas for the clam fishery as specified below:
A) McBlair and Zone AB open year-round, and
B) Old South/East Door open May 1-Oct 31.
To include the mussel fishery in this exemption (A & B).
Monitoring requirements detailed in the draft Framework would apply.
Further, to task the PDT to develop with the industry a prioritized list of research needs concerning Rose and Crown and Zone D. The intent is to work towards an exempted fishing permit program for these areas which will support the potential development of additional exemptions in the future.

The main motion as substituted *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (16/0/0).

3. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Balzano seconded:
to submit the Framework Adjustment for Surf Clam Exemption in Great South Channel Habitat Management Area to NMFS.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (15/0/1).

Offshore Wind Development

The Council agreed by consensus to task the Council staff to develop comments, jointly with the MAFMC and approved by the Executive Committee, to BOEM on the forthcoming Vineyard Wind DEIS.

The Council agreed by consensus that the Council submit comments to BOEM on seismic testing.

Wednesday, December 05, 2018

GROUND FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

Framework Adjustment 58/Specifications and Management Measures

1. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council select as preferred options for rebuilding plans:

Georges Bank winter flounder: Option 2/Sub-Option B ($F_{\text{rebuild}} = 70\% F_{\text{MSY}}$ and $T_{\text{target}} = 10$ years);

Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder: Option 2/Sub-Option B ($F_{\text{rebuild}} = 70\% F_{\text{MSY}}$ and $T_{\text{target}} = 10$ years);

Witch Flounder: set the rebuilding timeline at 23 years (2043) and an exploitation rate of 6 percent, or as otherwise determined in a future stock assessment for witch flounder; and

Northern Windowpane Flounder and Ocean Pout: set the rebuilding timeline (T_{target}) for each stock at 10 years and the rebuilding fishing mortality rate (F_{rebuild}) at $70\% F_{\text{MSY}}$.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

2. Mr. Stockwell moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council select as preferred:
In Section 4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits: 4.1.2.2, Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications;

In Section 4.2.1 Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Option 2 Exempt vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and;

In Section 4.3.1 Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy, Option 2 Temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery AM implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

3. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Etrie seconded:
to submit Framework Adjustment 58 as amended today to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (16/0/1).

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council agreed by consensus to finalize and send the draft letter to Senator Sullivan with Council comments on the possible impacts of the Draft on Strengthening America's Fisheries by Improving Sustainable, Healthy Management Act.

The Council agreed by consensus to send a letter, once approved by the Executive Committee, to Senator Blumenthal with Council comments and concerns on the Supporting Healthy Interstate Fisheries in Transition Act (SHIFT Act).

SCALLOP COMMITTEE REPORT

Framework Adjustment 30/Specifications and Management Measures

OFL and ABC

4. Mr. Balzano moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.1, Alternative 2 (4.1.2), Updated OFL and ABC for FY 2019 and FY 2020, as the preferred alternative.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (16/0/0).

Northern Gulf of Maine

5. Mr. Balzano moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.2, Alternative 2 Sub-Option 1 (4.2.2.1), as the preferred alternative.
 1. Set NGOM TAC using exploitable biomass projections for 2019 and 2020, cap removals for all fishery components, and apply LA share of TAC toward RSA compensation fishing. NGOM TAC split: first 70,000 lbs to LAGC, then 50/50 split between LA and LAGC.
 2. Set the NGOM TAC at $F=0.20$ (2019 TAC at 205,000, 2020 TAC at 170,000).

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (16/0/0).

Specifications alternatives

6. Mr. Balzano moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.3 Alternative 4.3.3.2 as preferred. This alternative would allocate in Fishing Year 2019:
- 7 Access area trips (18,000 lb trip limit)
 - o 1 Closed Area I FLEX trip
 - o 3 Nantucket Lightship-West trips
 - o 3 Mid-Atlantic Access Area trips
 - o Set Full time Limited Access Days at Sea at 24 (F=0.23)
 - FY 2020 Default Measures: Allocate 1 trip to the Mid-Atlantic Access Area, 1 trip to the Nantucket Lightship-West (18,000 lbs), 18 FT LA DAS, LAGC IFQ at 75% of 2019 quota.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (16/0/0).

LAGC IFQ Access Area Fishing

7. Mr. Balzano moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.4, Alternative 2 (4.4.2), total LAGC IFQ access area trips based on 5.5% of the total access area allocations, allocate trips proportionally to each area, and allocate FLEX trips to only Closed Area I, as the preferred alternative.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

Additional Measures to Reduce Fishery Impacts

8. Mr. Balzano moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.5, Alternative 2 (4.5.2), as the preferred alternative. (Allow RSA compensation fishing in open access areas, Prohibit RSA Compensation fishing in CAI Access Area, and allow limited RSA compensation fishing in the NGOM Management Area).

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

Standard Default Measures

9. Mr. Balzano moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.6.1, Alternatives 4.6.1.2, Standardize default open-area DAS for the LA component and LAGC IFQ quota allocation at 75% of the preferred alternative for the previous Fishing Year allocation, as the preferred alternative;
and
That the Council adopt in Section 4.6.2, Alternatives 4.6.2.2, Standardize LAGC IFQ access area allocations as 5.5% of the total expected access area harvest, as the preferred alternative.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

10. Mr. Balzano moved and Ms. Paterson seconded:
that the Council approves Scallop Framework Adjustment 30 for submission to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (14/0/1).

HERRING COMMITTEE REPORT

11. Mr. Kendall moved and Dr. McKenzie seconded:
that the Council should reiterate its support for their original September 2018 recommendations for a 2019 Atlantic herring in-season ABC adjustment in a comment letter to NMFS on the proposed rule by the Dec. 31, 2018 deadline.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (11/3/3).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

SPINY DOGFISH

1. Mr. Grout moved and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the Council adopt the 2019-2021 Spiny Dogfish Specifications including the 6,000 lb. trip limit.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

2. Mr. Grout moved and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the Council agrees to the submission of the 2019-2021 Spiny Dogfish Specifications.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (16/0/1).

3. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council recommends to the MAFMC that an action be considered as a priority for 2019 regarding spiny dogfish trip limits that includes removing the federal spiny dogfish trip limits.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (16/0/1).

2019 COUNCIL PRIORITIES

1. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council approves the 2019 priorities as recommended by the Executive Committee.

GROUND FISH

- 1a. Mr. Bellavance moved and Dr. McKenzie seconded:

to amend the priorities for Groundfish for 2019 by adding holding public listening sessions and consider the results for possible initiation of an amendment to develop a limited access program for the party/charter fishery.

The motion to amend *carried* on a show of hands (15/1/1).

- 1b. Ms. Etrie moved and Mr. Keliher seconded:
to amend the priorities for Groundfish for 2019 to revise the Council policy on new gear standards.

The motion to amend *carried* on a show of hands (14/0/3).

WHITING

- 1c. Mr. Reid moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to amend the priorities for Whiting for 2019 to investigate sources of bycatch and adopt possible avoidance mechanisms for bycatch in the small-mesh multispecies fisheries.

The motion to amend *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

OTHER PRIORITIES

- 1d. Ms. Etrie moved and Mr. Bellavance seconded:
to amend the Other Priorities for 2019 to include participation in the MAFMC Framework for eVTR.

The motion to amend *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

The Main Motion as amended:

That the Council approves the 2019 priorities as recommended by the Executive Committee.

To amend the priorities for Groundfish for 2018 by adding holding public listening sessions and consider the results for possible initiation of an amendment to develop a limited access program for the party/charter fishery.

To amend the priorities for Groundfish for 2019 to revise the Council policy on new gear standards.

To amend the Other Priorities to include spiny dogfish and participation in the MAFMC Framework for eVTR.

- 1e. Mr. Stockwell moved and Dr. McKenzie seconded:
to approve the 2019 priorities..

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).