

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

April 13-15, 2021

Via Webinar

FINAL MOTIONS

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

REPORTS ON RECENT ACTIVITIES

Council Executive Director Report

1. Mr. Reid moved and Dr. Sissenwine seconded:
that the Council approves the proposed changes to the Operations Handbook that provide guidance to the Scientific and Statistical Committee on conflicts of interest and recusals.

The Council agreed by consensus.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

HERRING COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council specify in the Framework 7 document that the affected vessels related to spawning restrictions are only those that are on a declared Atlantic herring trip.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Alexander, Mr. Balzano, Mr. Bellavance, Mr. Godfroy, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Ms. Griffin and Mr. Tracy

No: Dr. McKenzie and Mr. Reid

Abstain: Ms. Etrie, Mr. Pentony and Dr. Sissenwine

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (12/2/3).

2. Mr. Bellavance moved and Mr. Godfroy seconded:
that the Council maintain the goals and objectives of Framework 7 as drafted but clarify the scope of this action to focus on measures that minimize potential impacts of the herring fishery on adult spawning aggregation only.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Balzano, Mr. Bellavance, Mr. Godfroy, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pentony, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Tracy

No: Dr. McKenzie

Abstain: Mr. Alexander, Ms. Etrie and Dr. Sissenwine

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (13/1/3).

SKATE COMMITTEE REPORT

Amendment 5

3. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council proceed to develop Amendment 5 using the problem statement, goals, and types of measures to consider as already approved by the Council.

The Council agreed by consensus.

Skate FMP Objectives

4. Dr. McKenzie moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
that the Skate Fishery Management Plan Objectives #2 (on rebuilding overfished stocks) and #5 (on setting research priorities) be updated. The Committee will bring specific recommendations to a future Council meeting for approval.

The Council agreed by consensus.

Amendment 5 Continued

5. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that alternatives be developed for an intermediate possession limit trigger for the wing and bait fisheries. An intermediate trigger should be close to the current percentages of landings relative to Total Allowable Landings that trigger incidental limits (75% or above). Develop alternatives for possession limit reduction options at 50% and 75% for when an intermediate possession limit is triggered. For discussion at least, develop triggers in all wing and bait seasons.

The motion *carried* on a voice vote (15/1/1).

6. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council develop alternatives that would require the federal permit to be maintained year-round (prevent dropping or picking up mid-year).

The Council agreed by consensus with one abstention.

7. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that alternatives be developed for a limited access permit program for the bait fishery. At least one alternative would use the criteria developed by Advisory Panel members in April 2019, with the most recent end dates for qualification (likely 2020).

The criteria would be for two qualification groups: 1) vessels having a Letter of Authorization (LOA) prior to the control date (July 30, 2009) and bait landings (over 1 lb.)

in FY 2014-2020 (would have a 25,000 lb. trip limit); and 2) vessels having an LOA only after the control date and 50,000 lb. or more of bait landings (live lb.) in FY 2009-2020 (would have a 10,000 lb. trip limit). All other vessels with bait landings since 2004 would be non-qualifiers (would have a 1,200 lb. trip limit).

Roll call vote:

Yes: Ms. Griffin, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Dr. McKenzie, Mr. Bellavance and Mr. Arrestad

No: Mr. Tracy, Ms. Ware, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Godfroy, Ms. Etrie, Mr. Balzano, Mr. Alexander and Dr. Sissenwine

Abstain:

The motion *failed* on a roll call vote (7/9/0).

8. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that alternatives be developed for a limited access permit program for the wing fishery with options for qualification years that are more recent than the control date (March 31, 2014). Additionally, to task the Plan Development Team with updating the wing qualifying tables in the Discussion Document with participation past the control date (through 2020).

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mr. Arrestad, Mr. Bellavance, Dr. McKenzie, Mr. Olszewski and Mr. Pappalardo

No: Mr. Alexander, Mr. Balzano, Ms. Etrie, Mr. Godfroy, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Dr. Sissenwine and Mr. Tracy

Abstain: Mr. Pentony

The motion *failed* on a roll call vote (5/10/1).

9. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that new control dates be established for the wing and bait fisheries.
- 9a. Dr. McKenzie moved and Mr. Bellavance seconded:
to table the motion until the June Council meeting

The Council agreed by consensus to table.

10. Ms. Etrie moved and Dr. McKenzie seconded:
that the Council develop options to improve precision and accuracy of skate data including at-sea monitoring and/or VMs requirement.

The Council agreed by consensus with one abstention.

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT

11. Mr. Reid moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:

that the Council comment on Ocean Wind, LLC – New Jersey, New York Bight Wind Energy Areas and the Port Access Route study: Northern NY Bight, jointly with the MAFMC when appropriate and effective.

The Council agreed by consensus.

NORTHEAST TRAWL ADVISORY PANEL (NTAP)

The Council by consensus agreed with the MAFMC, that the NTAP proposed use of available research funds should be used for the project titled Quantifying the impact of a restrictor rope on the composition, rate, and size-distribution of catch derived from a bottom trawl survey.

Thursday, April 15, 2021

GROUND FISH COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Mr. Bellavance moved and Mr. Godfroy seconded:
that the Council develop a limited entry program for the charter/party component of the recreational groundfish fishery.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mr. Balzano, Mr. Bellavance, Mr. Godfroy, Dr. McKenzie, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo and Mr. Tracy

No: Mr. Gates, Mr. Alexander, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin and Dr. Sissenwine

Abstain: Ms. Etrie and Mr. Pentony

The motion *failed* on a roll call vote (7/7/2) for lack of majority.