

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on March 25, 2015 and developed recommendations to the Groundfish Committee regarding the alternatives in Amendment 18 (A18). The Groundfish Committee then met the following day on March 26, 2015 to consider the recommendations of the GAP, Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) and public. The Committee made recommendations on preferred alternatives in A18 to the Council. The Groundfish PDT held a conference call on February 19, 2015 and a meeting on March 10, 2015.
- B. Amendment 18 – Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: The Council selected the range of alternatives for this action at its November 2014 meeting. Since the Council meeting, the PDT has further developed analyses for the Committee and Council to consider in the DEIS. See below for Council Action on A18.
- C. Report on the Performance of the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery, May 2013 – April 2014: The Council will receive a report from the NEFSC's Social Sciences Branch on FY 2013 groundfish fishery performance.
- D. Framework Adjustment 53 – Specifications and Management Measures: In November 2014, the Council took final action on Framework 53 (FW 53). The formal submission of FW 53 to NMFS was on February 20, 2015 and then it was resubmitted on March 16, 2015. A proposed rule for this action was published in the Federal Register on March 9, 2015.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Identify preferred alternatives in A18 for the purposes of review at public hearings.
- B. Approve the A18 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Amendment 18 DEIS, April 9, 2015
- 2. Amendment 18 DEIS Decision Document, April 9, 2015
- 3. Staff presentation on Amendment 18, April 21, 2015 (to be provided)
- 4. GAP meeting summary, March 25, 2015
- 5. Committee meeting summary, March 26, 2015
- 6. PDT memo to the Groundfish Committee re A18, March 18, 2015
- 7. Amendment 18 Action Plan, version 16, March 17, 2015
- 8. NEFSC/SSB Presentation on FY 2013 Groundfish Performance Report, April 21, 2015 (to be provided)
- 9. Groundfish Catch Reports
- 10. Correspondence