

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Multispecies (Groundfish) Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: No meetings have been held since the last Council meeting.
- B. Biennial Adjustment/FW 42: FW 42 adjusts management measures as necessary to achieve Amendment 13 rebuilding targets. The final decision on this FW was made at the January Council meeting. The document was submitted to NMFS on March 29, 2006; after a few revisions requested by NMFS the document was resubmitted on April 26, 2006. After review and publication of a proposed rule, regulations are likely to be implemented in late summer or early fall, 2006.
- C. NMFS Emergency Rule: NMFS published an emergency rule that became effective on May 1, 2006. The major elements of the proposed rule included differential DAS counting at 1.4:1 in most areas and extension of the DAS leasing program. A court challenge to the emergency rule has been filed by the State of Massachusetts.
- D. Cape Cod Commercial Hook Sector Operations Plan: The Council will consider providing comments to NMFS on two elements of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Sector Operations Plan. The Sector has proposed that sector vessels be excused from differential DAS counting designed to protect yellowtail flounder and from regulations that limit leasing between sector vessels to vessels of similar size.
- E. Future groundfish actions: The Executive Director will provide a brief overview of preliminary planning for the 2009 multispecies adjustment during the reports section of the agenda.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Possible development of comments on the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Sector Operations Plan for FY 2006.

**III. MOTIONS**

- A. None.

**IV. INFORMATION**

- A. DAS use by category and DAS leasing reports
- B. US/CA quota monitoring
- C. CCCHFA Hook Sector Operations Plan
- D. Correspondence