

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Groundfish Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Oversight Committee met March 6, 2013 in a joint meeting with the Groundfish Advisory Panel, and again on April 16-17, 2013. The Recreational Advisory Panel met February 15, 2015. The Groundfish Plan Development Team held conference calls on March 13, March 27, and April 5, 2013. The Closed Area Technical Team (CATT) met on February 15, March 7, and March 27; held a conference call on April 3, and met jointly with the PDT on April 4. Because of the pace of meetings and work on Framework 48 and Framework 50, the Committee and RAP meeting summaries have been delayed.
- B. Amendment 18 - Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: The Groundfish Committee assigned the PDT several analytic tasks for this amendment and expects to resume work on the issues prior to the June Council meeting.
- C. Closed Area Technical Team (CATT)/Omnibus Habitat Amendment: In November 2012, the Council approved goals and objectives that the Closed Area Technical Team (CATT) and Groundfish PDT developed for groundfish management in the Omnibus Habitat Amendment. The CATT presented its analyses and recommendations to the Groundfish Committee on April 17, 2013. The Groundfish Committee will present its recommendations for measures aimed at reducing impacts on juvenile groundfish habitat and groundfish spawning through spatial management.
- D. White Hake: A benchmark assessment for this stock was completed in February, and the report will be provided to the Council at this meeting. The Groundfish Committee may bring forward a recommendation to request that NMFS increase the FY 2013 ABC for this stock.
- E. Framework Adjustment 48: Framework 48 was submitted to NMFS on February 26, 2013 and resubmitted on April 9, 2013. The proposed rule was published March 25, 2013, and the comment period closed April 9, 2013. A final rule will be published in the near future.
- F. FY 2013 Specifications Action/ Framework Adjustment 50: Framework 50 was submitted to NMFS on March 22, 2013. The proposed rule was published March 29, 2013, and the comment period closed on April 15, 2013. A final rule will be published in the near future.
- G. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TMGC held an intercessional meeting in Portland, ME on February 26-27, 2013. The Council will be provided an oral report of that meeting by the U.S. TMGC co-chair.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. The Council will approve groundfish measures aimed at reducing impacts on juvenile groundfish habitat and groundfish spawning through spatial management. If approved, these measures will be integrated with the Habitat Committee's measures to reduce impacts on vulnerable bottom habitat and dedicated habitat research areas into draft alternatives for the Omnibus Habitat Amendment and DEIS.
- B. Possible request for an emergency or interim action to increase the FY 2013 white hake ABC.

**III. INFORMATION**

- 1. Groundfish PDT memo to the Committee dated April 9, 2013 (Amendment 18 progress)

2. Groundfish PDT memo to the Committee dated April 11, 2013 (EGB reporting issues)(to be provided)
3. Groundfish PDT memo to Committee dated April 7, 2013 (GOM cod catches assuming  $M=0.4$ )
4. Copy of GOM Cod presentation, Michael Palmer, Populations Dynamics Branch, NEFSC
5. Letter from David Goethel to the NEFMC dated March 3, 2013
6. Juvenile groundfish habitat and groundfish spawning area recommendations for Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 (presentation)
7. Spatial Management Case Study Summary
8. Table of groundfish spawning information found in the literature
9. Estimation of spatial management impacts on net fishery revenue
10. Maps and other supporting documentation of the CATT analyses (online or CD only)
11. March 6, 2014 Committee meeting summary (to be provided)
12. February 15, 2013 Recreational Advisory Panel meeting summary
13. Correspondence
14. Groundfish Catch Reports