

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Oversight Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC) met on March 28 and April 4, 2014. The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on April 1, 2014. Meeting summaries for these meetings will be distributed at a future date as soon as possible. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) held two conference calls on March 4 and March 31 and one in-person meeting on March 18, 2014.
- B. Amendment 18 - Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: The PDT worked on several analytic tasks assigned by the Committee for this amendment and reported on this work at the March 28 and April 4 meetings. With recommendations from the Groundfish Advisory Panel and the PDT analysis in hand, the Committee made recommendations to the Council on the draft alternatives for inclusion in Amendment 18.
- C. Framework Adjustment 52- Revising the Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures (AMs): The PDT provided analysis to the Committee regarding Framework Adjustment 52 (FW 52). With recommendations from the Groundfish Advisory Panel and the PDT analysis in hand, the Committee made recommendations to the Council on the types of alternatives that should be further developed for FW 52. Due to the shortened timeline and under the guidance of the Committee, the PDT has updated its memo in order to provide draft alternatives for consideration in FW 52 by the Council.
- D. Framework Adjustment 51: The framework was submitted to NMFS but has not yet been approved. Comments on the proposed final rule were due on April 1, 2014.
- E. Closed Area Technical Team (CATT)/Omnibus EFH Amendment 2: See Habitat Status Report.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. The Council will possibly approve the range of alternatives in draft Amendment 18 to be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- B. The Council will possibly approve the range of alternatives in draft Framework Adjustment 52 to be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Assessment.
- C. The Council will possibly consider a request for Emergency Action to implement an experimental cooperative research program for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder (see Correspondence for a letter from the Center for Sustainable Fisheries, New Bedford, MA).

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Amendment 18 Discussion Document, dated April 11, 2014
- 2. PDT memo on Gulf of Maine cod biology and commercial fishery effort in Area 514 (*to be provided*)
- 3. PDT memo, regarding FW52 (*to be provided*)
- 4. GF OSC draft meeting motions, April 4, 2014
- 5. GF OSC draft meeting motions, March 28, 2014
- 6. GAP draft meeting motions, April 1, 2014
- 7. Groundfish Catch Reports
- 8. Correspondence