



New England Fishery Management Council

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY (MOTIONS ONLY)

Recreational Advisory Panel

DoubleTree Hilton, Danvers, MA

February 19, 2014

The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) met on February 19, 2014 in Danvers, MA to: 1) discuss potential FY2014 proactive accountability measures (AMs) for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock stocks and, 2) review the alternatives in Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 and impacts analysis in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of interest to the recreational fishery.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Barry Gibson (Chairman), Michael Sosik (Vice Chair), Frank Blount (GF OSC Chairman), Richard Bellevance, Tom DePersia, Jason Colby, Peter Gawne, Patrick Paquette, Johnathan Sterrit, Donald Swanson, William Tower, Kevin Twombly (RAP members present); Jamie M. Cournane, PhD, Fiona Hogan, PhD, Michelle Bachman, and Andrew Applegate (NEFMC staff); Michael Ruccio (NMFS GARFO staff); Scott Steinback (NEFSC/SSB). In addition, approximately 15 members of the public attended.

KEY OUTCOMES:

- RAP recommended potential AMs for FY2014 for GOM cod and haddock stocks.
- RAP recommended alternatives under consideration in the DEIS of Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2.

AGENDA ITEM #1: GULF OF MAINE HADDOCK AND COD

PRESENTATION: RECENT GROUND FISH PDT ANALYSIS OF THE GOM HADDOCK STOCK (JAMIE COURNANE, GROUND FISH PDT CHAIR)

PRESENTATION: GULF OF MAINE COD AND HADDOCK: REVIEW OF FY2013 BIOECONOMIC MODEL AND POTENTIAL AMs FOR FY2014 (SCOTT STEINBACK, NEFSC/SSB)

1. MOTION: TWOLLEY/BELLAVANCE

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council that the GOM cod and haddock AMs remain at status quo regulations for the recreational fishery in FY 2014.

MOTION #1 TABLED 10-0-0.

2. MOTION: BELLEVANCE/DEPERSIA

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council that for GOM haddock and cod separate measures be considered for the for-hire and private anglers, that are conservational equivalents.

MOTION #2 FAILED 3-6-1.

3. MOTION: PAQUETTE/STERRIT

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council that for GOM haddock and cod measures for FY2014 include the following: closing GOM haddock for October 15th, 2014 through April 15th, 2015 and reduce minimum size GOM haddock to 20 inches.

MOTION #3 FAILED 2-3-4.

4. MOTION: TOWER/PAQUETTE

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council that 1) for GOM haddock for FY2014 to close wave 2 (March and April), and 2) adopt up to a 22 in minimum size cod and up to a 22 in minimum size haddock.

MOTION #4 PASSED 9-1-0.

RAP CONSENSUS STATEMENT

The RAP has serious concerns with the MRIP private recreational cod and haddock data on effort (number of trips) and non-compliance issues for FY2013 regarding minimum sizes.

AGENDA ITEM #2: HABITAT OMNIBUS AMENDMENT 2

5. MOTION: DEPERSIA/TOWER

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council for the Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 the selection of alternatives that 1) maintain the WGOM groundfish closure and 2) for DHRA alternatives- No Action- in the Gulf of Maine Area as preferred.

Staff Note: Habitat Alternative 1 in the Western GOM sub-region and Spawning Alternative 1 in the GOM region include the WGOM groundfish closure.

MOTION #5 PASSED 8-0-0.

6. MOTION: TOWER/PAQUETTE

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council for the Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 the selection of alternatives that maintain the Cashes Ledge groundfish/habitat closure and Jefferys Bank habitat closures as preferred.

Staff Note: Habitat Alternative 1 in the Central GOM sub-region includes the Cashes Ledge groundfish and habitat closures, and Spawning Alternative 1 in the GOM region includes the Cashes Ledge groundfish closure.

MOTION #6 PASSED 8-0-0.

7. MOTION: TOWER/PAQUETTE

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council for the Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 the selection of alternatives that maintain the Closed Area 1 and 2 as preferred.

Staff Note: Habitat Alternative 1 for the Georges Bank sub-region and Spawning Alternative 1 for the Georges Bank/Southern New England region include the Closed Area 1 and 2 groundfish closures.

MOTION #7 PASSED 6-1-0.

8. MOTION: PAQUETTE/TOWER

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council for the Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 the designation of the Massachusetts Bay Cod Spawning Area as preferred.

Staff Note: Spawning Alternatives 2A and 2B in the GOM region include the Massachusetts Bay Cod Spawning Area. However, Alternative 2B is inconsistent with Motion 9.

MOTION #8 PASSED 5-0-1.

9. MOTION: STERRIT/TOWER

The RAP recommends to the Groundfish OSC/Council for the Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 that recreational vessels continue to be exempted from the rolling closures as preferred (either through No Action or Alternative 2A).

MOTION #9 PASSED 6-1-0.

The RAP meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.