

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: There have not been any meetings since the last Council meeting. The Groundfish PDT held a conference call January 13, 2010; a PDT report is attached.
- B. GB Yellowtail Flounder Rebuilding Strategy: In November, 2009 the Council voted to consider revising the rebuilding strategy for this stock. The PDT will present a memo identifying possible alternatives. The Council will be asked to identify alternatives that will be considered later this year after the TRAC in July.
- C. Framework 44: At the September Council meeting the Council approved an action to adopt OFLs/ABCs/ACLs for FY 2010 – 2012, U.S./Canada TACs for FY 2010, and to modify common-pool management measures for FY 2010. This action is identified as FW 44. The final document was submitted to NMFS for review on January 15, 2010. It is possible that the Council may revisit the allocation of yellowtail flounder to the scallop fishery as a result of its reconsideration of Scallop Framework 21.
- D. Amendment 16: The Council made final decisions at the June 22 – 25, 2009 Council meeting. Amendment 16 was formally submitted to NMFS on October 16, 2009. The FR for the Notice of Availability published Friday, October 23, 2009 (74 FR 54773). The comment period for the amendment ends December 22, 2009. A decision on the amendment is expected by January 22, 2010. The proposed rule was published December 31, 2009 (74 FR 69382), and the comment period ended January 20, 2010.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Identification of candidate GB yellowtail flounder rebuilding strategies

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Groundfish Plan Development Team Report, January 15, 2010
- 2. Staff presentation on GB yellowtail flounder rebuilding strategies (*to be distributed*)
- 3. US/Canada area catch reports
- 4. Correspondence