

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Oversight Committee met January 24, 2013 in a joint meeting with the Groundfish Advisory Panel and the Recreational Advisory Panel. The Committee met January 25, 2013 in a separate meeting. A meeting summary will be distributed at a future date. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) held conference calls on January 3, 11, and 15, 2013, and met with the Closed Area Technical Team on January 18, 2013. A PDT report to the SSC is under that tab, and a report to the Committee is attached.
- B. Amendment 18 - Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: Scoping hearings for this amendment were held in January and a report was provided to the Council at the June Council meeting.
- C. Framework Adjustment 48: The Council approved Framework 48 in December after removing the FY 2013 - 2015 specifications. Staff is working to complete and submit the document to NMFS.
- D. Framework Adjustment 49: This action is a joint action with Scallop Framework 24 because it adjusts timing of scallop fishery access to the year-round groundfish closed areas. This document was submitted to the NMFS in mid-January. This is the final report for this action.
- E. FY 2013 Specifications Action/ Framework Adjustment: The Council will vote on the FY 2013- 2015 specifications at this meeting. Guidance from NMFS indicates that this action should be a framework and should modify the SNE/MA winter flounder rebuilding plan. Staff will assemble a document for review and distribute it prior to the meeting. The SSC met January 23, 2013 to recommend ABCs for GOM cod, GB cod, and SNE/MA winter flounder. These will be included in the specification package. Documents for that meeting are included with the SSC Status Sheet under Tab 12.
- F. FY 2013 Interim Action: The Council request NMFS take interim action for GOM cod and GOM haddock in FY 2013. If NMFS replies to this request there may be further Council discussion of the issue.
- G. Closed Area Technical Team (CATT): The CATT completed its analysis of the potential effects of the sector exemption area option in Framework 48 and met during December and January to analyze data that would identify potential groundfish areas where spatial management of fisheries could achieve the objectives. The Council will be provided an update on CATT and Committee progress on possible modifications to groundfish closed areas.. 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.
- H. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TMGC will hold an intercessional meeting in Portland, ME on February 26-27, 2013.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Action on FY 2013 -2015 specifications, including possible changes to management measures for SNE/MA winter flounder and changes to the SNE/MA winter flounder rebuilding plan

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting Summary, December 19, 2012
- 2. Groundfish Plan Development Team meeting report dated January 18, 2013
- 3. Draft FY 2013- 2015 specifications action (*to be distributed*)
- 4. Groundfish Catch Reports
- 5. CATT progress report (*to be distributed*)
- 6. Correspondence