

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) held a conference call on May 9, 2011; a meeting summary is attached. The Groundfish Oversight Committee met on May 26, 2011; a meeting summary is attached. The Groundfish Oversight Committee, Groundfish Advisory Panel, and Plan Development Team participated in a workshop on fleet diversity and accumulation limits; a report of that meeting will be provided. An Augmented Groundfish Plan Development Team (APDT) has begun work on setting ABCs for 2012-2014 and held conference calls on April 7, 2011 and May 18, 2011; summaries are attached.
- B. Amendment 17/State-Operated Permit Banks: NMFS prepared a draft Amendment 17 to address NOAA-sponsored state-operated permit banks for the Council's review. The comment period for the amendment ended May 18, 2011. Final action is scheduled for the June Council meeting. The Groundfish Committee will present a recommendation for the Council's consideration.
- C. Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: A workshop was held June 9, 2011 to identify possible goals, objectives, and measures to address fleet diversity and accumulation limit issues. The Council will receive a report of that meeting and may want to consider providing additional guidance for addressing these issues based on the results of the meeting.
- D. Approval of Additional Gear: At this Council meeting the Council will consider changes to the process used for recommending that additional gear be authorized for special management programs. Staff will present alternatives at the meeting.
- E. Framework 47: This framework will set ABCs for 2012-2014, address Accountability Measure (AM) issues, and will consider removing the current cap on yellowtail flounder that the scallop fishery can harvest from the GB access areas. The Council will receive a report on framework progress and will consider Committee motions for several measures.
- F. Framework 45: The framework was implemented May 1, 2011.
- G. Framework to the FMP Addressing Haddock Catch Cap in the Herring Fishery: FW 46 considers modifications to the haddock catch cap that applies to the herring fishery. The Council selected a preferred alternative at the April 2011 Council meeting. The framework document was submitted to NMFS for review on May 13, 2011.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Final action on Amendment 17: an amendment to authorize NOAA-sponsored state-operated permit banks.

III. MOTIONS

- A. Amendment 17: To adopt Alternative 2 (as amended) as the preferred alternative for Amendment 17. To strike item 8 in alternative 2 and replace it with: If more funds become available to state permit banks the use of those additional funds in NOAA sponsored state-operated permit banks described in A17 shall come to the Council for approval prior to using those funds for the purpose of the permit bank outside the sector process. And that state permit banks be required to report on an annual basis to the Council on the performance of the state permit bank.

- B. FW 47 Measures:
 - a. To allocate SNEMA winter flounder to sectors and allow landing of the ACL.
 - b. To consider eliminating the 10 percent cap on yellowtail flounder caught in the GB access areas.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary , May 26, 2011
- 2. Accumulation limits a fleet diversity workshop report, June 9, 2011 (*to be provided*)
- 3. Groundfish Plan Development Team conference call summary dated May 23, 2011 (call held May 9, 2011)
- 4. Draft Amendment 17 to address NOAA-sponsored, state-operated permit banks
- 5. Public comments on Amendment 17
- 6. Council policy on approval of additional gear (existing)
- 7. Alternative council policies on approval of additional gear
- 8. Augmented Groundfish Plan Development Team conference call summary dated April 16, 2007 (call held April 7, 2011)
- 9. Augmented Groundfish Plan Development Team conference call summary dated May 31, 2011 (call held May 18, 2011)
- 10. Groundfish catch reports
- 11. Sector ACE trading report
- 12. Correspondence