

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Oversight Committee met August 2, 2012; a meeting summary is attached. The Committee also met September 19, 2012; the chairs will give a report and a meeting summary will be provided in the future. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) held a conference call on July 25 and August 6, 2012 and met on September 11, 2012; reports are 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 Committee is working on measures to improve sector operations, ABCs for FY 2012 -2014, and several AM issues. A progress report will be provided. The Committee may also recommend including measures in this action that would modify closed area access in order to mitigate expected low ACLs in FY 2103.
- D. Closed Area Technical Team (CATT): A Closed Area Technical Team (CATT) was formed and held two meetings to begin considering the role and effectiveness of closed area management for groundfish. The team's work is intended to analyze the impacts of proposed Framework Adjustment 48 measures which may allow partial access to year round groundfish closed areas. As a second phase of work, the CATT will develop alternatives to complement and augment the habitat management areas for consideration in the Omnibus Habitat Amendment. The latter phase includes consideration of rolling closures, spawning closures, as well as year round closed areas. The initial work focused on further development and ranking of the potential impacts of closed areas for groundfish and other management to identify closed area objectives for groundfish ACL management.
- E. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC): The TMGC met in St. Andrews, NB on September 5-6, 2012. The Council will receive a report on the Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee assessments of EGB cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder. U.S. TMGC members will report the recommended quotas for FY 2013 that the Council will consider approving.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Consideration of U.S./Canada area quotas for FY 2013.
- B. Possible action on Committee recommendations for FW 48 alternative measures.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting Summary, August 2, 2012
- 2. Groundfish Plan Development Team meeting reports dated (July 27, August 14, and September 11, 2012)
- 3. Draft framework management measures (to be distributed)
- 4. White Paper: Developing Effective Monitoring for the NE Multispecies Fishery
- 5. Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee status reports for assessments of EGB cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- 6. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee Guidance Document for 2013
- 7. Groundfish Catch Reports
- 8. Correspondence

