



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
C. M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 12, 2012  
**TO:** Groundfish Oversight Committee  
**FROM:** Terry Stockwell  
**SUBJECT:** **Meeting Materials, January 18, 2012**

1. Please review the attached materials prior to our meeting in Portland, ME on January 18. The package includes:

- Agenda
- 53<sup>rd</sup> Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop Summary Report (advance copy dated January 9, 2012)
- Groundfish PDT report dated January 12, 2012
- Sector workshop meeting summary
- NMFS update on pending sector issues
- Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting report dated November 2, 2011
- Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting report dated November 1, 2011
- Correspondence

2. A major objective of this meeting is to discuss the management of GOM cod. The Committee will receive a staff report on the recent GOM cod assessment. The Science and Statistical Committee is scheduled to discuss this issue on January 25, and the Council will receive their report at the January Council meeting. The Council's Executive Committee will propose a planned response to the assessment results as follows:

- January 25 SSC meeting: SSC consider the assessment and identify any issues that warrant further consideration. The SSC will also review catches developed by the PDT

that are based on various management scenarios. These catches may not meet legal or policy objectives.

- February 1: The Council will consider the SSC's advice and will recommend a way forward, which could include a future meeting to address any scientific issues identified by the SSC. The Council may choose to forward a request for emergency action from NOAA Fisheries that would be effective in FY 2012 while the Council develops its response to the assessment results. The Council may direct the SSC to recommend an OFL/ABC/ACL for GOM cod at a future date.

The Committee may want to recommend management measure for the Council to consider at the January meeting. This could include recommendations for measures that could be adopted as part of an emergency action or measures that could be adopted through a Council action at a later date. While the attached PDT report offers a few ideas for consideration there has been little time available to analyze any measures. There may be a limited opportunity for the PDT to analyze Committee recommendations prior to the Council meeting.

Because of the importance of this issue we have asked Groundfish Advisory Panel and Recreational Advisory Panel members to attend the meeting. We were unable to schedule separate meetings for those two panels. While this is not a joint Committee/AP/RAP meeting, I urge Committee members to carefully consider individual AP member comments.

3. The Committee will take up a discussion of the sector framework. This initial discussion will focus on identifying the issues that the Committee wants to address. To facilitate that discussion please review the report of the sector workshop and the report of the Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting from November 2011.
4. The PDT began to work on possible modifications to groundfish closed areas in December but progress was slowed by the need to address the GOM cod assessment. The Committee will receive an update from the PDT and may want to provide direction as work proceeds.
5. Sectors have requested exemptions for FY 2012; NMFS will request public comment via a proposed rule that is expected to be published just before the Council meeting. The Committee will review the requested exemptions and may develop recommendations for Council comment.



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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

**Groundfish Oversight Committee**

**Agenda**

**January 18, 2012**

**Marriott Portland at Sable Oaks, Portland, Maine**

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|-----------|--|
| 9:00 a.m. | Introductions/approval of agenda                             |
| 9:15 a.m. | Overview of SAW 53 GOM cod assessment (Tom Nies)             |
| 9:45 a.m. | Discussion of GOM cod management response                    |
| Noon      | Lunch  |
| 1:15 p.m. | Sector framework (Anne Hawkins)                              |
| 2:15 p.m. | FY 2012 sector exemptions (Anne Hawkins)                     |
| 3:15 p.m. | Possible modifications to groundfish closed areas (Tom Nies) |
| 4:15 p.m. | Other business   |
| 4:30 p.m. | Adjourn  |

*A scoping hearing for Amendment 18 is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine.*

