



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: May 25, 2012
TO: Groundfish Oversight Committee
FROM: Terry Stockwell
SUBJECT: **Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting, May 30, 2012**

1. Please review the attached materials prior to our meeting in Mansfield, MA. This package includes:

- Agenda
- May 15, 2012 RAP Meeting summary
- May 22, 2012 GAP Meeting summary (motions attached, summary will be provided at the meeting)
- May 16, 2012 GF PDT meeting summary. Please note this document includes several attachments that will be reviewed by the Committee.
- Measure development overview
- Proposed rule on changes to data confidentiality regulations
- Draft sector monitoring white paper (updated)
- April 18, 2012 Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary
- Correspondence

3. The Committee will receive reports from the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) and the Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP). The RAP report will be the first agenda item in order to facilitate the schedule of the RAP Vice-Chair.

4. The Committee will receive an overview of the current state measure development for the sector monitoring action and the ABC action. NMFS and Council staff held informal discussion about combining the two actions and voting on the combined action at the November Council meeting. That approach reduces workloads, particularly in the review process, but also in document preparation; but it does make it more difficult for sectors to understand what

monitoring measures may be adopted before they submit operations plans in September. We will consider this idea and may develop a recommendation for the Council.

5. Staff will present PDT analyses for a full retention policy and for a program to defray ASM costs. This will include suggested measures text for the Committee to review. Staff will also present an update on investigations into the presence of monitoring bias.

6. With respect to the ABC action, there are several issues to address:

- The Committee plans to consider a SNE/MA windowpane flounder sub-ACL for the scallop fishery. The PDT has updated the catch series for this stock, and preliminary information is also available for FY 2011.
- The approval letter for FW 47 advised the Council that reactive AMs need to be developed for Atlantic halibut, Atlantic wolffish, and SNE/MA winter flounder. In addition, the letter suggests that the Council consider modifying the implementation of FW 47 AMs so that if data are available the AMs can be implemented in the year following an overage. The Committee needs to begin development of these AMs as quickly as possible. One alternative is to adopt the AMs that were considered in FW 47.
- The GAP and RAP have made several suggestions with respect to administering AMs. In a nutshell, they suggest that AMs for a sub-ACL not be triggered unless overall ACLs are exceeded.

7. We have allotted some time on the agenda to discuss GB yellowtail flounder. Since we are planning a joint Groundfish/Scallop Committee meeting for June 18, I would like this discussion to focus on what information is needed to make that meeting more productive.

8. NMFS recently published a proposed rule that suggests changes to data confidentiality provisions. The Committee may wish to discuss this under other business as there may be implications for the evaluation of sectors. Comments are due June 22, the day after the Council meeting.

9. Please contact me if you have questions.



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Groundfish Oversight Committee

Agenda

May 30, 2012

Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions/approval of agenda
- 9:05 a.m. Recreational Advisory Panel Report (*Mike Sosik, Vice Chair*)
 Monitoring funding mechanisms
- 9:30 a.m. Overview of pending groundfish actions
 Tom Nies, NEFMC staff
- 10:00 a.m. Groundfish Advisory Panel Report (*Emilie Litsinger*)
- 10:30 a.m. Sector Management Action (*Tom Nies*)
 Full retention
 ACE distribution to defray monitoring costs
- Noon Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Sector Management Action (continued)
- 2:00 p.m. ABC management action (*Tom Nies*)
 SNE/MAB Windowpane Flounder Sub-ACL for the scallop fishery
 AM measures
- 4:00 p.m. GB Yellowtail Flounder ABC/ACL for FY 2012
- 4:45 p.m. Other business
 Proposed rule on data confidentiality
- 5:15 p.m. Adjourn