



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: October 1, 2012
TO: Recreational Advisory Panel
FROM: Barry Gibson
SUBJECT: **October 3, 2012 RAP Meeting Materials**

1. Please review the attached materials prior to our meeting at the Holiday Inn, Peabody, MA. Please contact me if you have questions. The package includes:

- Agenda
- Recent recreational catch summary (to be distributed)
- Preliminary Council priorities for 2013 (with relevant Council motions attached)
- Draft FW 48 management measures extract: preliminary ABCs/ACLs, possible access to closed areas for sector vessels
- Options and Alternatives to Minimize the Effects of Fishing on EFH (Draft, 10 September 2012)
- Commercial fishing activity in SA 514
- Correspondence (to be distributed – nothing received yet)

2. The main purpose of this meeting will be to develop recommendations for recreational measures for FY 2013 and beyond. We will receive a report on the model used to develop recreational measures, recent catches, and example measures for 2013. Because the ABC for GOM cod will not be determined until after an assessment in December, we will have to consider a range of possible catches.

3. Council staff will update us on the following issues:

- Commercial fishing activity in SA 514;
- A proposal that, if approved, would allow sector vessels to fish in parts of the groundfish closed areas;
- The Omnibus Habitat amendment process and consideration of changes to groundfish closed areas

4. Panel members should be aware that there are two ongoing processes that may modify existing closed areas. As noted above, staff will provide additional details at the meeting, but here is a short overview:

- FW 48 will include an option that would allow sectors to fish in parts of the groundfish year-round closed areas. This is intended to provide increased access to stocks in order to help mitigate the expected low catches quotas for FY 2013. The Council anticipates voting on this measure in November.
- The Council is developing an Omnibus Habitat amendment. In addition to possible changes to habitat management areas, this amendment will consider changes to groundfish closed areas (both year-round and seasonal). The Council anticipates approving alternatives in January, and then developing an EIS that will be taken to public hearings. A final vote would be expected later in 2013. While the habitat areas are fairly well-defined, the groundfish closed area piece of this action will be developed over the next few months.

5. The Council will determine 2013 priorities in November. The draft priorities under consideration, and September motions related to those priorities, are attached.

6. Please contact me if you have questions.



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Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting

Agenda

October 3, 2012

Holiday Inn, Peabody, MA

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions/approval of agenda
- 9:10 a.m. Overview of Framework Adjustment 48 (*Terry Stockwell/Tom Nies*)
 Possible sector access to parts of closed areas
- 9:30 a.m. Description of model used to develop recreational measures (*Scott Steinback, Min-Yang, NEFSC*)
- 10:30 a.m. Measure development for FY 2013 and beyond (including review of recent catches)
- Noon Lunch
- 1:10 p.m. Recent commercial fishing activity in SA 514 (*Fiona Hogan, NEFMC staff*)
- 2:15 p.m. Possible future modifications to closed areas (*Tom Nies, NEFMC staff*)
- 3:15 p.m. Tentative 2013 Council priorities
- 4:00 p.m. Other business
- 4:30 p.m. Adjourn