



New England Fishery Management Council

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM
(Revision of January 15 memo)

DATE: January 21, 2014
TO: Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC)
FROM: Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: OSC meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2014

There will be a Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Danvers, MA on **Thursday January 23 starting at 9:00 AM.**

Purpose. The main purpose of the OSC meeting is to continue development of Amendment 18 (A18) to the Northeast Multispecies fishery management plan (FMP). Additionally, the Vessel Baseline Amendment will be discussed. Council final 2014 priorities related to groundfish will be also reviewed.

Meeting Materials. Paper copies of the documents listed below will be provided at the meeting. A PDF of each document is posted to www.nefmc.org. Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. New members should also review past meeting materials. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 103) or Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 110).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. Recommendations for Excessive-Share Limits in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery, final report by Compass Lexecon, December 31, 2013
4. PDT memo to OSC regarding A18, January 16, 2014
5. Amendment 18 discussion document, January 15, 2014
6. 2012 Final Report on the Performance of the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) fishery (May 2012 – April 2013), by NEFSC/Social Science Branch, January 2014 (may not be available before the OSC meeting)
7. GF OSC meeting summary, November 18-19, 2013
8. GF OSC meeting summary, December 9, 2014
9. PDT memo to OSC regarding fish tote regulations, January 22, 2014.
10. Correspondence

Amendment 18

Recent activity. The OSC met in November 2013 to receive a presentation from Compass Lexecon and discuss Amendment 18. Several motions were made by the OSC, but the Council did not make any motions relative to Amendment 18 in November. At the December 2013 Council meeting, the Council moved to insert two of the US/CA quota trading options from Framework 51 into Amendment 18 and to task the VMS/Enforcement Committee to discuss the requirement that vessels fishing under a Handgear A permit carry a standard tote on board. The VMS/Enforcement Committee met on January 17 and agreed by unanimous consent to recommend that this requirement be removed.

Please refer to the PDT memo on Amendment 18 (Document 4), which provides discussion topics for the Committee to consider, and also the draft measures for Amendment 18 (Document 5). The PDT is also providing a brief memo on the fish tote regulations (Document 9).

Next steps. Council staff will provide an overview presentation to review Plan Development Team work, an update on the Compass Lexecon project, and other updates. The Committee will spend the bulk of day developing measures for Amendment 18. To make the most of our meeting time on **January 23**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Rachel Feeney.

Vessel Baseline Amendment

Recent activity. The Council received an overview presentation on the Vessel Baseline Amendment at its September 2013 meeting. At the meeting, it was requested that the Council's committees, as appropriate, be provided will an opportunity to comment on the Amendment as it pertains to the different fisheries.

Next steps. Northeast Regional Office staff will provide an overview of the alternatives for an omnibus amendment to simplify vessel baseline restrictions. After opportunities for discussion, the Committee may wish to provide input on the proposed analysis of the alternative for the Environmental Assessment.