



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
E.F. "Terry" Stockwell, Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### DRAFT MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 21, 2014  
**TO:** Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC)  
**FROM:** Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** OSC meeting on Friday, March 28, 2014

There will be a Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting at the Omni Providence Hotel in Providence, RI on **Friday March 28th starting at 9:30 AM.**

**Purpose.** The main purpose of the OSC meeting is to continue development of Amendment 18 (A18), an amendment to address fleet diversity and accumulation limits in the commercial groundfish fishery, to the Northeast Multispecies fishery management plan (FMP). Additionally, Framework Adjustment 52 (FW52), a narrow and focused action to revise commercial groundfish fishery accountability measures (AMs) for Southern and Northern windowpane flounder stocks, will be discussed.

**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](http://www.nefmc.org). Staff will provide copies of any additional meeting materials that are not included in this package. If you have any questions about the documents, please contact Jamie Cournane ([jcournane@nefmc.org](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org); 978-465-0492 ext. 103) or Rachel Feeney ([rfeeney@nefmc.org](mailto:rfeeney@nefmc.org); 978-465-0492 ext. 110).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. PDT memo, regarding A18, dated March 21, 2014
4. Amendment 18 Discussion Document, dated March 21, 2014
5. PDT memo, regarding FW52, dated March 24, 2014
6. Letter from Tom Nies to John Bullard regarding data confidentiality, dated February 11, 2014
7. GF OSC meeting summary, January 23, 2014
8. Recreational Advisory Panel summary, February 19, 2014
9. Correspondence

### Amendment 18

**Recent activity.** The Committee and Council met in January 2014 to discuss an update on A18 development and tasked the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) with additional analysis. Since that meeting, the PDT has met several times to discuss progress on tasks and further develop draft

alternatives for A18. Please refer to the PDT memo on Amendment 18 (Document 3), which provides discussion questions for the Committee to consider, and also the draft measures for A18 (Document 4).

**Next steps.** Council staff will provide an overview presentation to review PDT progress on analysis with respect to A18 including an examination of: accumulation limits; permit banks; permit holdings data; United States/Canada quota trading for Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, EGB haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder; Handgear A fishery proposal; and recent spatial and temporal trends in fishing effort and biology of Gulf of Maine cod. In addition, the OSC will review additional scoping period comments.

After opportunities for discussion and feedback, the Committee will continue developing draft measures for A18. To make the most of our meeting time on **March 28th**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Rachel Feeney ([rfeeney@nefmc.org](mailto:rfeeney@nefmc.org)).

### **Framework Adjustment 52**

**Recent activity.** The Council initiated FW 52 at its February 2014 meeting. The purpose of FW52 is to revise accountability measures (AMs) for the commercial groundfish fishery for southern and northern windowpane flounder stocks. The current AMs were triggered for FY 2014 due to overages of the overall annual catch limit (ACL) in FY 2012 for both windowpane stocks. The Council requested that any revision to the current AMs be applied retroactive to FY 2014, or any overages that occurred prior to FY 2014. This would not only mitigate overages that have already occurred, but would better ensure that additional overages do not occur in FY 2014.

**Next steps.** Since the Council meeting, the PDT has met several times to discuss Framework Adjustment 52. Please refer to the PDT memo on FW52 (Document 5), which provides background information on recent windowpane flounder catches and discards and additional information from trawl surveys.

After opportunities for questions and feedback, the Committee will spend the remainder of the day discussing FW52. To make the most of our meeting time on **March 28th**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Jamie Cournane ([jcournane@nefmc.org](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org)).