



## New England Fishery Management Council

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

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 2, 2014  
**TO:** Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC)  
**FROM:** Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman  
**SUBJECT:** OSC meeting on Friday, April 4, 2014

There will be a Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting at the Sheraton Colonial Hotel in Wakefield, MA on **Friday April 4th starting at 9:00 AM.**

**Purpose.** The 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. PDT memo, regarding A18 – accumulation limits, dated March 25, 2014
5. Amendment 18 Discussion Document, dated April 2, 2014
6. PDT memo, regarding FW52, dated April 3, 2014
7. GF OSC draft meeting motions, March 28, 2014
8. GAP draft meeting motions, April 1, 2014
9. Research Steering Committee meeting report, March 14, 2014
10. 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 memos on Amendment 18 (Documents 3 and 4), which provide discussion questions for the Committee to consider, and also the draft measures for A18 (Document 5). The Committee also met on March 28, 2014 and discussed many of the alternatives in A18 (Document 7). In addition, the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on April 1, 2014 to make recommendations on A18 to the Committee (Document 8).

**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 **April 4th**, 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 FW 52 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. The Committee also met on March 28, 2014 and held an initial discussion of FW 52 (Document 7). In addition, the GAP met on April 1, 2014 to make recommendations on FW 52 development to the Committee (Document 8).

**Next steps.** Since the Council meeting, the PDT has met several times to discuss FW 52. Please refer to the PDT memo on FW52 (Document 6), which provides background information on recent windowpane flounder catches and discards, additional information from trawl surveys, and suggestions on potential revisions to the current AMs.

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 **April 4th**, 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)).

## Other Business: Groundfish Research Recommendations

**Recent Activity.** The Research Steering Committee met on March 14, 2014 in Taunton, MA to discuss and identify research questions for Council funded groundfish collaborative research projects (Document 9). The GAP provided feedback during its meeting on April 1, 2014 (Document 8).

**Next Steps.** The RSC would like Committee feedback on these questions. The RSC will be meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> and will be providing a report at the April Council meeting.