

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
GROUNDFISH ADVISORY PANEL MEETING**

WAKEFIELD, MA

APRIL 1, 2014

**DRAFT MOTIONS**

**FRAMEWORK 52**

**Motion # 1 (Odlin/Raymond):**

The Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) recommends to the Groundfish Oversight Committee (GF OSC) that they:

1. Move forward with an in-season adjustment of the current windowpane flounder AMs for the groundfish fishery in FW52 utilizing updated survey indexes, and
2. Immediately initiate another framework to further allocate the windowpane flounder ACL to be expanded to other components of the fishery, and develop AMs for these components.

Motion # 1 carried (11/0/0).

**Motion #2 (Brown/Raymond):**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC that they consider measures to implement flounder-friendly gear in small-mesh fisheries throughout the range of the windowpane flounder, winter flounder, and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder stocks.

Motion #2 carried (10/0/0).

**Motion #3 (Odlin/Canastra):**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC that the windowpane actions recommended by the GAP (i.e., Motions #1 and #2) should be given priority by the OSC, because of the immediate negative economic impacts on and increased safety concerns of the industry. It is unfair for the groundfish industry to bear the burden of the current AMs.

Motion #3 carried (11/0/0).

## **AMENDMENT 18**

### **Motion #4 (Odell/Raymond):**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC that the GF OSC recommend, in the US/CA in season quota trading section, Option 2, sub-option B (in-season trades of sector ACE).

### **Motion #4a (Raymond/Odlin):**

To substitute that the GAP recommends to the GF OSC that it not pursue trades with Canada at this time. However, if the GF OSC disagrees, then the GAP recommends to the GF OSC that the GF OSC recommend, in the US/CA in season quota trading section, Option 2, sub-option B (in-season trades of sector ACE).

Motion #4a to substitute passed (8/1/2).

Motion #4a as the main motion as substituted passed (8/1/2).

### **Motion #5 (Platz/Brown):**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC that language be included in the vessel upgrade provisions to allow an increase in the length of 10% or 10 ft to address the greater constraints a percentage based formula places on the ability of small boats to adapt to sustainability and fishing considerations.

Motion #5 was withdrawn.

### **Motion #6 (Raymond/Bouchard):**

The GAP does not support accumulation caps on the fishery; however, if the GF OSC continues to pursue accumulation caps, the GAP recommends that the GF OSC focus only on a cap on number of permits that can be held by an individual or entity. The cap should prevent disenfranchisement of current owners (no forced divestiture) while encouraging the consolidation that is still needed to reduce overcapitalization. The cap should not limit the number of permits enrolled in a sector.

The GAP recommends that the GF OSC should not impose restraints on the flow of allocation trades or leases between individuals, sectors, and/or vessel classes. Such restraints are incompatible with the fundamental concept that sectors themselves should decide when, how and

by whom the sector's allocation should be utilized. Trade restraints would limit sectors' ability to pursue their own diversity goals, such as providing allocation to new entrants, or giving preference to owner-operators, specific vessel classes, and/or gear types.

The GAP recommends that the GF OSC should not set aside PSC or ACE for new entrants or permit banks. There are no such set asides in any fishery in the Northeast, and the groundfish fishery should not be used as testing ground for such a concept.

The GAP recommends that the GF OSC should not create inshore/offshore areas. Restrictions applied differently to inshore/offshore areas have been discussed within the industry dating back to A13 and were not supported then or now.

Motion #6 carried (9/1/1).

**Motion #7 (Raymond/Smith):**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC that the GAP supports the following options for the Handgear A fishery: removing the March 1-20 closure; removing the standard tote requirement; and to consider exempting HA vessels from VMS.

Motion #7 failed (5/6/0).

**Motion #8 (Raymond/Brown):**

While acknowledging the work of permit banks in providing a public good and helping to meet the objectives of A18, the GAP recommends to the GF OSC that if accumulation limits go forward permit banks should not be given a greater cap than other entities.

Motion #8 passed (10/0/1).

**GROUND FISH RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**Motion #9 (Odlin/Odell):**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC that there be an additional bullet added to the groundfish research priority list developed by the Research Steering Committee (RSC): to identify the reasons for the low quota utilization rates on the healthy stock of GB haddock and to identify ways to increase utilization of that stock and provide management advice.

Motion #9 passed (7/0/0).

### **Motion #10 (Platz/Bouchard)**

That the GAP requests that future determinations for cooperative research spending be generated by the GAP prior to being sent to the RSC for review.

Motion #10 passed (7/0/0).

### **Groundfish Research Questions from the RSC**

1. What is the recreational haddock discard mortality rate?
2. To examine the timing and distribution of cod spawning in GOM and GB/SNE stocks.
3. To refine biological stock structure for GOM Cod and GB/SNE cod.
4. What are the gear engineering solutions that could reduce bycatch of GB YTF?
5. Identify GB YTF hot spots and develop an avoidance system.
6. What are the gear engineering solutions that could reduce bycatch of SNE WPF?
7. Identify SNE WPF hot spots and develop an avoidance system.
8. Examine species-specific net herding/effective swept area characteristics of the NOAA survey trawl net?

### **Motion #11: (Odlin/Canastra)**

The GAP recommends to the GF OSC and RSC that #4, #5, #7, #8 (from the above list of groundfish research questions from the RSC) be removed from the list of recommendations and #6 should be focused on small-mesh fisheries.

Motion #11 passed (6/0/1).

### **Motion #12: (Odlin/Brown)**

To add another bullet to the groundfish research priority list developed by the RSC: that in the event that sector exemptions to access closed areas are required to have shore-side data analysis that funds be directed to that purpose.

Motion #12 passed (7/0/0).