

Amendment 18 Update

Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

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NEFMC Groundfish
OSC Meeting
June 9, 2014



Outline

1. Documents
2. Timeline check-in
3. HA fishery
4. Peer review of Compass Lexecon report
5. Accumulation limits
6. Inshore GOM measures

Documents

(#3) PDT memo to OSC, June 2, 2014

(#6) PDT memo, regarding GOM cod, April 16, 2014

(#7) Amendment 18 Discussion Document, June 2, 2014



Timeline – EA Scenario

2014

- Jun. 9** Groundfish Committee meeting.
- Jun. 12-13** CIE review of Compass Lexecon report.
- Jun. 17-19** NEFMC approves Range of Alternatives.
- Jul. 21** CIE review reports finalized.
- Nov. 18-20** NEFMC votes on final action.

2015

- May 1** Possible implementation of measures.

Note:

- ” A NMFS decision on whether an EA or EIS is necessary will be made after the NEFMC approves the Range of Alternatives.
- ” The Council could still hold public hearings if it prepares an EA.
- ” November 2014 Council agenda is getting packed. May need to delay.



Timeline – EIS Scenario

2014

- Jun. 9** Groundfish Committee meeting.
- Jun. 12-13** CIE review of Compass Lexecon report.
- Jun. 17-19** NEFMC approves Range of Alternatives.
- Jul. 21** CIE review reports finalized.
- Jun.-Oct.** Notice of Intent revised, PDT develops DEIS (analyze probable effects).
- Nov. 18-20** NEFMC approves DEIS with range of alternatives and selects preferred alternatives.

2015

- Jan. 1** DEIS accepted by NMFS.
- Feb. 1** EPA approves DEIS and issues NOA that DEIS is available.
- Feb.-Mar.** DEIS 45-day public comment period.
- Apr.** NEFMC votes on final action.
- Jun. 1** EIS submitted to NERO.
- Jun.-Nov.** EIS review, revisions, EIS final submission, and deeming of proposed regulations. GARFO publishes NOA. 60-day public comment period.
- Dec.** Possible implementation of measures.

2016

- May 1** Possible implementation of measures.



Handgear A fishery

*Discussion
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p. 39*

Sect. 4.3.2 Alternative 2: Establish a HA fishery

Option A. HA permit sub-ACL. Catch history qualification years are FY1996 – FY2006.

PDT Comment:

- “ Qualification years not consistent with current practice. 66 permits use FY1996-FY2001, including one HA permit.
- “ Unless Council recommends otherwise, NMFS would likely keep the qualification years consistent with current practice upon implementation.

*PDT memo
p. 9*



Handgear A fishery

*Discussion
Doc.
p. 40*

Sect. 4.3.2 Alternative 2: Establish a HA fishery

Option B. Account for the catch of other stocks in the “other sub-component” sub-ACL.

PDT Comment:

- “ Current sub-options are not clear on:
 - “ The data used to calculate the discard rate.
 - “ When the discards would be subtracted from the sub-ACL.
- “ PDT recommends replacement text.

*PDT
memo
p. 9*



Handgear A fishery

*Discussion
Doc.
p. 44*

Sect. 4.3.2 Alternative 2: Establish a HA fishery

Option I. “....In sectors, the PSC associated with HA permits can only be used by HA fishermen that are using handgear...”

PDT Comment:

- “ Reminder that this is inconsistent with current practice. NMFS cannot control ACE once it is allocated to sectors.
- “ Nonviable options should not be included in a fishery action.
- “ PDT recommends removing this option.

*PDT memo
p. 10*



Peer Review of Compass Lexecon Final Report

June 12-13, 2014 - Hawthorne Hotel - Salem, MA

Review Coordinator: Chad Demarest, NEFSC

Review Chair: Dr. Eric Thunberg, NMFS HQ/NEFSC SSC

Panelists:

- ” Dr. Trond Bjorndal, SNF Centre for Applied Research at NGG, Bergen, Norway
- ” Dr. Jamie Brown Kruse, Director, Center for Natural Hazards Research, East Carolina University
- ” Dr. Andrew Schmitz, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Florida
- ” Dr. Quinn Weninger, Department of Economics, Iowa State University

June 12: Overview, CL presentation, TOR consideration, two public comment periods.

June 13: Closed to public, panel finalize recommendations.

July 21: Review report(s) finalized.



Docs. @
www.nefmc.org

Accumulation Limits

*Discussion
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Number of options for PSC Alternatives (Sect. 4.1.2)

Alternatives 2-4 state, “The Council may select one or more of the multispecies stocks to which this alternative applies.”

PDT Comment:

- “ This language creates the potential to have a very large number of options in the document, far more than would be feasible to analyze.
- “ The alternatives have distinct rationale. Only applying them to certain stocks may not be consistent with the rationale.
- “ PDT recommends removing this language.



Accumulation Limits

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PSC Alternative:	1	2*	3,3A*	4*	4A	5	6
GB cod	-	10	15.5	30	30	20	15.5 collectively
GOM cod	-	8	15.5	15	15	20	
GB haddock	-	15	15.5	30	-	20	
GOM haddock	-	7	15.5	15	-	20	
GB yellowtail flounder	-	14	15.5	30	-	20	
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	-	5	15.5	15	-	20	
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	-	8	15.5	15	-	20	
Plaice	-	9	15.5	20	-	20	
Witch flounder	-	9	15.5	20	-	20	
GB winter flounder	-	23	15.5	30	-	30	
GOM winter flounder	-	7	15.5	15	-	20	
Redfish	-	10	15.5	20	-	20	
White hake	-	8	15.5	20	-	20	
Pollock	-	6	15.5	20	20	20	
SNE/MA winter flounder	-	-	15.5	15	-	20	

Shading indicates a cap is lower than the maximum currently held by an individual or permit bank.

*Council may select one or more stocks to which this alternative would apply.



Accumulation Limits

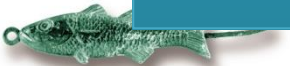
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Entities to which alternatives apply

Alternatives apply to various combinations of “entities”, “human persons” and “permit banks.”

PDT Comment:

- ” “Entity” and “permit banks” not defined.
- ” Each nonprofit permit bank already has a human person affiliated with it in the NMFS database.
- ” Scallop permit cap applies only to human persons.
- ” RFA guidance is being revised regarding which entities it applies to. Impacts analysis under current guidance may not be consistent with new RFA guidance.
- ” Unless Council recommends otherwise, NMFS would likely apply and accumulation limit to human persons and state-operated permit banks upon implementation.



Accumulation Limits

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PSC Redistribution

Alternative 3, Option A states that PSC acquired in excess of a cap for a stock may be split off the permit and redistributed to the fleet.

PDT Comment:

“ This redistribution concept could be applied to all the alternatives.



Inshore Gulf of Maine

PDT
memo
p. 5-7

April Council motion:

“Further analysis and development of measures to be included in Amendment 18 that would address potential concentrations of effort in the inshore Gulf of Maine and impacts on GOM cod and other depleted stocks without reestablishing trip limits.”

PDT Comment:

- “ Motion indicates that the Council’s primary concern is addressing cod depletion in the inshore GOM, a biological objective.
- “ PDT was unsure how the Council envisions having this biological objective fit within the socioeconomic goals of Amendment 18.
- “ *A possible rationale:* There are biological circumstances that attract effort in the inshore GOM - by all vessel sizes. With inshore depletion, some vessels could lose their feasible fishing area and may go out of business, reducing fleet diversity.
- “ Measures could prevent all vessels from fishing too hard inshore.
- “ Don’t overlap/conflict with the ongoing Habitat Amendment.



Inshore Gulf of Maine

PDT
memo
p. 5-7

PDT brainstorming exercise:

1. Listed 14 potential measures suggested by Council members, public, and through preliminary PDT discussion (SEE MEMO).
2. Identified those which may meet the biological objective, A18 goals, or both.
3. Brief discussion identifying specific implications, trade-offs, feasibility, etc. of three potential measures.

Potential measures	A18	A18 & biological
Haddock separator trawl in GOM for vessels >75'.	√	√
No vessels >75' w of 70° W.	√	-
GOM cod TAC division	√	√



Inshore Gulf of Maine

PDT
memo
p. 5-7

PDT questions/concerns (selected):

- “ What is the goal of addressing effort concentrations? Reducing effort? Shifting effort? Dispersing effort? Other?
- “ If there are inshore and offshore areas, how would allocations be divvied up? Could ACE be leased across a sub-boundary?
- “ Are there safety concerns if larger vessels can only fish offshore?
- “ Would cod-excluding gear target other depleted stocks?
- “ How would ACE be assigned to a smaller area than what a stock is assessed at?



Inshore Gulf of Maine

Additional staff brainstorming:

- ” No nighttime fishing inshore
- ” No fishing on weekends
- ” Move the fishing year start to July 1
- ” No trawls > a certain length
- ” Allow a larger sized buffer around spawning closures (e.g., Whaleback)
- ” Spread ACE use throughout fishing year (e.g., 25% Feb. - April, 40% May – Sept., 35% Oct.-Jan.)

