



New England Fishery Management Council

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 2, 2014
TO: Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC)
FROM: Frank Blount, Groundfish Oversight Committee Chairman
SUBJECT: OSC meeting on Monday, June 9, 2014

There will be a Groundfish Oversight Committee (OSC) meeting at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Warwick, RI on **Monday June 9 starting at 9:00 AM.**

Purpose. The purpose of the OSC meeting is to continue development of Framework Adjustment 52 (FW52), a narrow and focused action to revise commercial groundfish fishery accountability measures (AMs) for northern and southern windowpane flounder stocks and 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 53 (FW53), to be initiated at the June Council meeting, 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. 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; 978-465-0492 ext. 103) or Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 ext. 110).

1. Meeting memo (this document)
2. Agenda
3. PDT memo to OSC, dated June 2, 2014
4. Draft Framework Adjustment 52 with Appendix I, dated June 2, 2014
5. Framework Adjustment 52 Committee Decision Document, dated June 2, 2014
6. PDT memo, regarding GOM cod in SRA 514, dated April 16, 2014
7. Amendment 18 Discussion Document, dated June 2, 2014
8. GF OSC meeting summary, March 28, 2014
9. GF OSC meeting summary, April 4, 2014
10. GAP meeting summary, April 1, 2014
11. Correspondence

Framework Adjustment 52

Recent activity. The Committee met on March 28th and April 4th, 2014 and discussed the draft alternatives in FW52 (Documents 8 and 9). In addition, the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on April 1, 2014 to make recommendations on FW52 to the Committee (Document 10). The Council met in April 2014 to select the alternatives for analysis in FW52 and tasked the PDT with refining the alternatives and working on the environmental impact analysis. Since that meeting, the PDT met on May 13th to further develop the draft alternatives for FW52 and has been completing analyses for the draft document. Please refer to the PDT memo on FW52 (Document 3), which provides discussion questions for the Committee to consider, and also the draft framework document which includes the draft alternatives and draft environmental impact analysis for FW52 (Document 4).

Next steps. Council staff will provide an overview presentation to review PDT progress on analysis with respect to FW52 including an examination of the draft alternatives and the draft environmental impacts analysis.

After opportunities for questions and feedback, the Committee will discuss FW52 and possibly make recommendations to the Council on preferred alternatives. A decision document has been provided (Document 5) to facilitate this discussion. To make the most of our meeting time on **June 9th**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Jamie Cournane (jcournane@nefmc.org).

The Council is scheduled to take final action on FW52 at its June meeting.

Amendment 18

Recent activity. The Committee met on March 28th and April 4, 2014 and discussed many of the draft alternatives in A18 (Documents 8 and 9). In addition, the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) met on April 1, 2014 to make recommendations on A18 to the Committee (Document 10). The Council met in April 2014 to discuss an update on A18 development and tasked the OSC with additional work. Since that meeting, the PDT met on May 13th to further develop the draft alternatives for A18. Please refer to the PDT memos on Amendment 18 (Documents 3 and 6) and also the draft measures for A18 (Document 7). Document 3 provides discussion questions for the Committee to consider.

Next steps. Council staff will provide an overview presentation to review recent PDT discussion of A18, including an examination of the April 2014 Council motion on the inshore Gulf of Maine.

After opportunities for discussion and feedback, the Committee will continue developing draft measures for A18. To make the most of our meeting time on **June 9th**, you are encouraged to prepare motions in advance and either bring them to the meeting or send them to Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org).

The Council is scheduled to select the range of alternatives for this action at its June meeting.

Framework Adjustment 53

Recent Activity. FW53 will be initiated at the June 2014 Council meeting. The anticipated primary purpose of FW53 is to set specifications for several groundfish stocks (Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder stocks, pollock, GOM haddock, and TRAC stocks: GB yellowtail flounder, Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, and EGB haddock).

Potential adjustments to management measures that have been discussed recently include:

- **Windowpane flounder sub-ACLs and AMs:** The Council passed this motion at its' April meeting: *To 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.*
- **Rollover:** The Northeast Region Coordinating Council also learned about the assessment schedule for 2015. An operational assessment of all groundfish stocks is planned for late September 2015. This causes timing problems for the management system. Currently, ABCs/ACLs do not roll-over for groundfish stocks. One possibility is to add an alternative for 2015 ABCs/ACLs roll over into 2016 absent ABCs being implemented in time for the start of FY 2016. The OSC may want to consider the tradeoffs of a rollover provision having a sunset (e.g., for FY 2015 to FY 2016 only) versus allowing rollover for all specifications in the future.
- **Carryover:** The Council also expressed interest at its April meeting in discussing whether or not to revisit carryover in FW53.

Next Steps. After discussion, the OSC may wish to recommend items to be included in FW53, which will be initiated at the June Council meeting.