

DECISION DOCUMENT

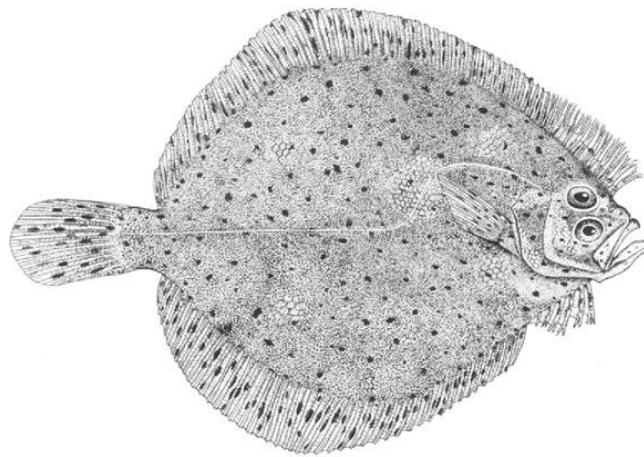
for

Framework Adjustment 52

to the

Northeast Multispecies

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



Groundfish Committee Meeting

June 9, 2014

The following decision tables in this document appear in the same order as the sections in the Draft Framework 52 document; page numbers are provided for reference.

The document will be updated with Committee motions after the June 9, 2014 Committee meeting.

**Section 4.1.1 – Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures in the Groundfish Fishery
(p. 24)**

Groundfish Committee Motions:

•

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description *Three Alternatives (more than one can be selected, see below)
Option 1	No Action
Option 2	Area-Based Accountability Measure for Windowpane Flounder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Option A: Modified AM trigger that incorporates stock status and biomass • Sub-Option B: Consideration of catch performance over the most recent two-year period when determining AM implementation
Option 3	Seasonal accountability measure for the northern windowpane flounder stock
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
•	
Groundfish Committee Recommendations	
•	
Groundfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GAP recommends an in-season adjustment of current AM that utilizes updated survey indices and the immediate initiation of another framework that would further allocate windowpane flounder to other components of the fishery. • 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 	
Recreational Advisory Panel Comments/Recommendations	
• Not applicable	
Other Important Considerations/DEA References	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological impacts: p. 139 • Habitat impacts: p. 143 • Endangered and other protected species impacts: p. 157 • Economic impacts: p. 159 and Addendum • Social impacts: p. 161 • Appendix I provides an overview of the biomass criteria development. This is one of two criteria included in Option 1/Sub-Option A. The other is that the stock is rebuilt. Additional clarification is needed from General Counsel as to whether requiring that the stock be rebuilt is necessary when scaling back an AM. • The southern windowpane flounder stock likely meets the two criteria defined in Option 1/Sub-Option A, however the northern windowpane flounder does not meet both. • Seasonal AMs were only developed for the northern stock and were not recommended to be revised in-season in FY 2014 due to timing concerns that would impact the effectiveness of the AM. • Table 1 on the next page (and also on pp. 160 as Table 42) compares the different options and the potential for an in-season change in FY 2014 for the groundfish fishery. The AMs in the southern stock area could potentially be changed in-season in FY2014, but not for the northern stock area. 	

Table 1- Overview of the alternatives and potential for in-season change for FY 2014 groundfish fishery AMs.

<i>Would the groundfish fishery AMs potentially change in-season during FY2014 for each of the alternatives, accounting retroactively for FY 2012 and FY 2013 monitoring catches?</i>					
<i>Northern Windowpane Flounder Stock</i>					
Monitoring Catch Fishing Year	% of Total Annual Catch Limit Caught	Option 1: No Action	Option 2: Sub-Option A	Option 2: Sub-Option B	Option 3
2012	128% (209 mt/163 mt)	NO	NO	NO	NO
2013	165%* (237.2 mt/144 mt)	NO	NO	NO	NO
<i>Southern Windowpane Flounder Stock</i>					
2012	<u>Total ACL:</u> 137% (521 mt/381 mt) <u>Groundfish sub-ACL:</u> 147.9% (106.5 mt/72 mt)	NO	YES <i>Possibly scaled back to small area gear-based AMs depending upon if stock status/biomass criteria are met.</i>	NO	Not applicable.
2013	If there is an underharvest of the total ACL.... <u>Total ACL:</u> 42%** (223.6 mt)/527 mt)** <u>Groundfish sub-ACL:</u> 102%** (119.6 mt/102 mt)**	NO	NO	YES <i>Since there is an underharvest in Year 2 (FY2013 catches) following an overage (FY 2012 catches), the AM remains in place for at least 4 months (May 1-August 31) in Year 3 (FY 2014) then is possibly removed.***</i>	Not applicable.

*Preliminary commercial groundfish fishery (sector and common pool) catch monitoring only (237.2 mt), May 9, 2014. Source: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/nemultispecies.html>; does not include other components.

**Preliminary commercial groundfish fishery (sector and common pool) catch monitoring only (119.6 mt), report run on May 9, 2014.; scallop fishery catches (104 mt), report run on March 6, 2014; does not include other components. Source: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/nemultispecies.html>

*** Depending on the timing of final catch information and implementation date of FW52.