



New England Fishery Management Council

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NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
GROUNDFISH ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
WAKEFIELD, MA
APRIL 1, 2014
DRAFT MOTIONS

GROUNDFISH RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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

Discussion: There has been some reasonable success with the Canadian fishermen testing out gear types more suitable for haddock. There was a consensus that further research is also need for the US fleet.

Motion #11 (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 #11 passed (7/0/0).

Discussion: There was a consensus to bring forth research questions related to a particular FMP to be discussed with the AP and committee before going to the RSC.

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 #12: (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 #12 passed (6/0/1).

Discussion: Many AP members felt that this has been researched extensively and that it should be lower on the priority list. They felt that # 6 needed to be more concerned and geared towards small mesh fisheries.

Motion #13: (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 #13 passed (7/0/0).

Discussion: The AP felt that the closed areas need to be researched more and find out what content is in closed areas and how much. In reference to “shore-side” data analysis, this is analyzing the observer data.