

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Plan Development Team held a conference call on February 17 and March 7, 2011; PDT reports are attached. The PDT also held a conference call March 24 to edit FW 46 management measures; the PDT edits are reflected in the attached draft document. PDT reports based on those discussions are attached. The Groundfish Committee met March 17, 2011 and April 18, 2011; meeting summaries will be provided.
- B. Transboundary Management Guidance Committee: On December 20, 2010, the International Fisheries Clarification Act was approved by the legislature, which clarifies that the Understanding can be considered an international agreement for the purposes of setting ACLs. A conference call was held February 9, 2011, and the TMGC recommended an increase in the GB yellowtail flounder TAC for 2011 (US share of 1,458 mt vice the original 1.045 mt). This change is expected to be published in the FW 45 proposed rule.
- C. Framework 45: The framework was submitted to NMFS for initial review on December 15, 2010. Minor modifications were completed and the final framework document was resubmitted in January 2011. The proposed rule was published March 3, 2011; the final rule is expected to be published before the Council meeting.
- D. Framework to the FMP Addressing Haddock Catch Cap in the Herring Fishery: FW 46 considers modifications to the haddock catch cap that applies to the herring fishery. The draft document was reviewed by the Groundfish Oversight Committee at its April 18, 2011 meeting. The Council is scheduled to take final action at this meeting.
- E. State-Operated Permit Banks: NMFS has submitted a draft Amendment 17 to address NOAA-sponsored state operated permit banks for the Council's review. The comment period for the amendment will extend to May 18, 2011. Final action is expected to take place at the June Council meeting, as opposed to this meeting as originally planned.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Final action on FW 46: a framework adjustment to address issues related to a haddock catch cap for herring midwater trawl vessels.
- B. Receive public comment on Amendment 17, an amendment to the Northeast Multispecies FMP that may authorize state-operated permit banks. Council action is not anticipated.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary , March 17, 2011
- 2. Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary, April 18, 2011 (to be provided)
- 3. Groundfish Plan Development Team conference call summary dated March 4, 2011

4. Groundfish Plan Development Team Conference Call Summary dated March 7, 2011
5. Draft Framework Adjustment 46 (haddock catch cap)
6. Draft Amendment 17 to address NOAA-sponsored, state-operated permit banks
7. Strawman sector review workshop plan
8. TMGC - exploration of trading of quota – staff discussion paper
9. Groundfish catch reports
10. Sector ACE trading report
11. Correspondence