



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
C. M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 10, 2013  
**TO:** Groundfish Oversight Committee  
**FROM:** Terry Stockwell  
**SUBJECT:** **Committee Meeting Materials; April 16-17, 2013**

1. Please review the attached materials prior to our day and a half meeting at the Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA. These materials will also be used at the Council meeting. Additional materials will be brought to the meeting. The package includes:

- Agenda
- Groundfish PDT memo to Committee dated April 7, 2013 (GOM cod catches assuming  $M=0.4$ )
- Groundfish PDT memo to the Committee dated April 9, 2013 (Amendment 18 progress)
- Groundfish PDT memo to the Committee dated April 11, 2013 (EGB reporting issues)(to be provided)
- Letter from David Goethel to the NEFMC dated March 13, 2013
- Juvenile groundfish habitat and groundfish spawning area recommendations for Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 (presentation)
- Spatial Management Case Study Summary
- Table of groundfish spawning information found in the literature
- Estimation of spatial management impacts on net fishery revenue
- Maps and other supporting documentation of the CATT analyses (online or CD only)
- March XXX Committee meeting summary (to be provided)
- Correspondence

2. The first day of the meeting will focus on groundfish management issues. There will be three broad discussion areas, as well as an opportunity for addressing other business:

a. An update on PDT progress on Amendment 18. This is expected to be a fairly brief report on the analytic tasks assigned to the PDT at our last meeting.

b. A PDT report on EGB reporting issues.

c. A discussion of a letter suggesting the Council request further work on reference points, modified catch advice for 2013, and possible development of an amendment. As part of this discussion the PDT will first report on what catches would be if the Mramp model was used with a reference point based on  $M=0.4$ , a task they were assigned by the Council in January.

d. The PDT has begun to consider the GB and GOM haddock spillover issue but is not yet ready to report to the Committee.

e. A short overview of the recent white hake assessment will be provided under the “other business” agenda item. The Committee may want to consider a recommendation that the Council request a change to the ABC for FY 2013.

3. The second day of the meeting will focus on a report from the Closed Area Technical Team (CATT) on the identification of spatial management areas to reduce impacts on juvenile groundfish habitat and groundfish spawning. After receiving the report, the Committee will develop recommendations for the Council on the area management options that should be considered as groundfish alternatives for the Omnibus Habitat Amendment. These recommendations will then be integrated jointly with the Habitat Committee to approve a range of alternatives at the June Council meeting for the Omnibus Amendment and DEIS. Habitat Committee members have been invited to attend this meeting so that they can become familiar with the CATT analyses and recommendations. They will not be at the table and will not make, or vote on, Committee motions. This is an important step in furthering the Omnibus Amendment and I urge Committee members to prepare for this discussion in advance. Please remember we are still in the process of crafting alternatives for the amendment, we are not voting on a proposed action.

4. Please contact me with your questions.



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**Groundfish Oversight Committee  
Agenda  
April 16-17, 2013  
Holiday Inn, Mansfield MA**

April 16, 2013

- 1:00 p.m.        Introductions/Approval of Agenda
- 1:15 p.m.        Update on Amendment 18 progress (*Rachel Feeney*)
- 1:45 p.m.        EGB reporting issues (*Tom Nies*)
- 2:45 p.m.        Break
- 3:00 p.m.        Correspondence on status determination criteria and catch advice
- 4:15 p.m.        Other business  
                    White hake assessment overview (*Dr. Fiona Hogan*)
- 5:00 p.m.        Adjourn

(January 25 agenda on following page)

April 17, 2013

8:30 a.m. Report of the CATT on groundfish closed area development (*Andrew Applegate, Michelle Bachmann*)

9:30 a.m. Development of groundfish closed area recommendations

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Development of groundfish closed area recommendations (cont.)

5:00 p.m. Adjourn