

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Recreational Advisory Panel met May 15, 2012; a meeting summary is attached. The Groundfish Advisory Panel met May 22, 2013; a meeting summary is attached. The Groundfish Oversight Committee met May 30, 2012; a meeting summary is attached. The Committee also held a joint meeting with the Scallop Oversight Committee on June 18, 2012; the chairs will give a report and a meeting summary will be provided in the future. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) met May 16, 2012; a report is attached.

- B. Amendment 18 - Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: Scoping hearings for this amendment were held in January and a report will be provided to the Council at the June Council meeting. The comment period for scoping on this action closed on April 30, 2012. Staff will provide a report on the scoping period at this meeting. A summary of the comments received is attached, as well as all comments and scoping meeting summaries.

- C. Framework 47: This framework set ABCs for 2012-2014, addressed Accountability Measure (AM) issues, and removed the current cap on yellowtail flounder that the scallop fishery can harvest from the GB access areas. The Council approved the framework in November 2011. The framework document was submitted February 6, 2012, the proposed rule was published March 27, 2012, and the comment period ended April 11, 2012. The framework was approved on May 1, 2012. This is the final update on this action. Council members should note the approval letter highlighted several AM issues that will need to be addressed in the next action.

- D. GB YTF Working Group: In April the Council asked NMFS to convene a working group to address the low FY 2012 ABC for GB yellowtail flounder. The working group met in New Bedford, MA on May 23, 2012. NMFS and the Council will consider taking action on the recommendations of the working group. The Groundfish and Scallop Committees may bring forward recommendations from their joint meeting for Council consideration.

- E. Sector framework and ABC action: The Committee has begun work on measures to improve sector operations, ABCs for FY 2012 -2014, and several AM issues. The Committee will recommend that these measures be combined into one action to reduce preparation and review workloads. The Council will formally initiate this action at this meeting.

- F. GOM cod: A stock structure workshop was held June 12 -14, 2012. This was Phase I of the SSC's recommended three-phase approach to investigate this issue.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Possible action to address GB yellowtail flounder issues.
- B. Initiate an action to revise sector measures, adopt specifications for FY 2012 -2014, modify AMs, and other measures as recommended by the Committee.

III. INFORMATION

1. Groundfish Oversight Committee Meeting Summary, May 30, 2012
2. Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting Summary, May 15, 2012
3. Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting Summary, May 22, 2012
4. Groundfish Plan Development Team meeting report dated May 25, 2012
5. Draft framework management measures
6. White Paper: Developing Effective Monitoring for the NE Multispecies Fishery
7. NERO approval letter for Framework Adjustment 47, dated May 1, 2012
8. NERO letter on updated stock status dated May 30, 2012
9. NEFMC letter to State Directors dated November 28, 2011
10. Summary of Amendment 18 scoping period comments
11. Amendment 18 scoping meeting summaries
12. Amendment 18 scoping period written comments received
13. Groundfish Catch Reports
14. Correspondence