

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Groundfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Groundfish Oversight Committee met October 4, 2011; a meeting summary is attached. The Recreational Advisory Panel and the Groundfish Advisory Panel met November 1, 2011. The Committee also met November 2, 2011. Motions from these meetings are included in this binder and meeting summaries will be distributed. The Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) held conference calls on September 29, 2011 and October 12, 2011; the meeting reports are attached.
- B. Framework 47: This framework will set ABCs for 2012-2014, address Accountability Measure (AM) issues, and will consider removing the current cap on yellowtail flounder that the scallop fishery can harvest from the GB access areas. The draft framework document is under development and an updated version will be provided at the Council meeting. The Council will select preferred alternatives at this meeting.
- C. Recreational Accountability Measures (AMs): The recreational fishery exceeded its allocation of GOM haddock in FY 2010. The Council will receive the recommendations of the Recreational Advisory Panel and the Groundfish Committee with respect to recreational AMs for GOM haddock. The Council will consider providing advice to NERO on the AMs that should be considered.
- D. U.S./Canada Resource Sharing Understanding: The Council approved FY 2012 U.S./Canada area quotas for EGB cod and haddock at the September Council meeting but referred the proposed quota for GB yellowtail flounder back to the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) with direction to negotiate a quota of up to 1,150 mt. The TMGC met and agreed on a 1,150 mt quota. These quotas have been incorporated into FW 47.
- E. Accumulation Limits/Fleet Diversity: Council staff is preparing a schedule and Federal Register notice to initiate scoping for this amendment.
- F. Sector workshop: A workshop was held October 25th and 26th, 2011 to review the first year of sector operations. A summary will be distributed.
- G. Assessment Updates: During development of ABCs for FY 2012 – 2014, the SSC expressed concern with using medium-term projections (5-7 years after the terminal year) to set ABCs. As a result the SSC is expected to recommend ABCs only for FY 2012 for the stocks last assessed at GARM III. The Groundfish Committee will ask the Council to endorse a request that this winter the Northeast Fisheries Science Center update assessments for stocks last assessed at GARM III so that ABCs for these stocks can be updated. The Council request is a formality – the NEFSC already notified the Council it will perform these assessments. The Council will need to consider adoption of the results while setting priorities.

- H. Amendment 17/State-Operated Permit Banks: The Council approved Amendment 17 at the June Council meeting. Formal submission and deeming of the regulations was completed September 7, 2011. The proposed rule should be published in the near future.
- I. Framework Adjustment 46: This framework was partially approved by NMFS and the measures implemented September 14, 2011.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Provide advice on recreational fishery AMs for GOM haddock
- B. Approval of Framework Adjustment 47.

III. MOTIONS

(to be distributed)

III. INFORMATION

1. Draft Framework Adjustment 47
2. Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary, October 5, 2011
3. Groundfish Oversight Committee meeting summary, November 2, 2011 (motions attached, summary to be distributed)
4. Groundfish Advisory Panel meeting summary, November 1, 2011 (motions attached, summary to be distributed)
5. Recreational Advisory Panel meeting summary, November 1, 2011 (motions attached, summary to be distributed)
6. Groundfish Plan Development Team call summary dated October 3, 2011
7. Groundfish Plan Development Team call summary dated October 27, 2011
8. Sector workshop summary (to be distributed)
9. TMGC Guidance Document (addendum) for 2012
10. Groundfish catch reports
11. Correspondence