

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Groundfish Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: The Recreational Advisory Panel will meet on Jan. 20, 2021. The Groundfish Advisory Panel will also meet on Jan. 20, 2021. The Groundfish Committee will meet on Jan. 26, 2021 before the Council session begins the same day. The Groundfish Plan Development Team met on Jan. 7, 2021. All meetings were or will be held by webinar.
- B. Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring: The Council took final action on Sep. 30, 2020. Council staff is preparing the FEIS for submission to GARFO.
- C. Framework Adjustment 61 (specifications and management measures): The Council took final action on Dec. 2, 2020 for (1) 2021 total allowable catches for U.S./Canada TACs for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, (2) 2021-2023 specifications for roughly half of the groundfish stocks, and (3) white hake rebuilding. Final action on a universal sector exemption for redfish is planned for this Council meeting, and the Groundfish Committee is expected to make recommendations to the Council.
- D. Recreational Measures for 2021: Staff will provide an overview to the Groundfish Committee of possible recreational management measures for fishing year 2021 for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock. The Groundfish Committee is expected to make recommendations to the Council.
- E. Recreational Groundfish Party/Charter Limited Entry – The Groundfish Committee will receive a summary of public feedback on developing a strawman proposal for a potential limited entry program for party/charter vessels in the recreational groundfish fishery. The Groundfish Committee is expected to discuss the proposal and make recommendations to the Council on next steps.
- F. Control Rules – The Groundfish Committee will receive an update on work to revise acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules for groundfish stocks. No action by the Council is anticipated.
- G. Atlantic Cod Stock Structure – The Groundfish Committee will receive an update on proposed working groups/workshops. No action by the Council is anticipated.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. Framework Adjustment 61 – Final action; universal sector exemption to allow fishing for redfish.
- B. Recreational Fishery - Develop recommendations for fishing year 2021 recreational measures for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock for submission to GARFO.
- C. Recreational Party/Charter Limited Entry - Discuss the strawman proposal and next steps.

**III. INFORMATION**

- 1. Groundfish Committee motions for Council meeting (*to be provided*)
- 2. Presentation: Council staff (*to be provided*)

3. Framework Adjustment 61/Specifications and Management Measures
  - a. Draft alternatives, January 2021
  - b. Memo from Groundfish PDT to Committee re FW61 draft environmental impacts analysis for a universal sector exemption for redfish
  - c. Memo from Groundfish PDT to Committee re follow-up on FW61 universal sector exemption for redfish
  - d. Council Decision Document for Framework Adjustment 61 (*to be provided*)
4. Recreational measures for fishing year 2021
  - a. Preliminary data summary and information, NEFSC
  - b. Groundfish PDT to Groundfish Committee memo re possible recreational measures for FY2021 for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock (*to be provided*)
5. Limited Entry Strawman for Party/Charter Recreational Groundfish
  - a. Presentation
  - b. Summary Report with Appendices
6. Presentation: Update on work to revise ABC control rules for groundfish stocks
7. Atlantic Cod Stock Structure
  - a. Presentation
  - b. Summary of proposed working groups/workshops
8. Meeting Summaries
  - a. Recreational Advisory Panel, meeting motions, Jan. 20, 2021 (*to be provided*)
  - b. Groundfish Advisory Panel, meeting motions, Jan. 20, 2021 (*to be provided*)
  - c. Groundfish Committee, meeting motions, Jan. 26, 2020 (*to be provided*)
9. Correspondence