

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Framework Adjustment 58 and Possible 2019 Priorities

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**Groundfish Advisory Panel and
Committee Meetings**
October 29, 2018





Framework Adjustment 58- Specifications and Management Measures

Scope

- 1) To revise or establish rebuilding plans for several stocks (Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder, Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic (MA) yellowtail flounder, witch flounder, Gulf of Maine (GOM)/GB (Northern) windowpane flounder, and ocean pout),
- 2) To set specifications for fishing year 2019 for U.S./Canada stocks (Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder),
- 3) To exempt vessels fishing exclusively in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area waters from Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) commercial minimum fish sizes, and
- 4) To allow for a temporary change to the Atlantic sea scallop fishery accountability measure implementation policy for the GB yellowtail flounder stock

Objectives

To meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery.

Range of Alternatives

4.1 Updates to Formal Rebuilding Programs and Annual Catch Limits

- Formal Rebuilding Plans

- Annual Catch Limits

4.2 Fishery Program Administration

- Minimum Fish Size Exemptions for Vessels Fishing in NAFO Waters

4.3 Commercial Fishery Measures

- Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Accountability Measure

- Implementation Policy

Timeline - May 1, 2019 Implementation

2018	
MAR-JUN	Committee/AP/PDT preliminary discussion and analysis
JUN 12-14	NEFMC – Council initiates framework
JUL 10-12	TRAC assessments for US/CA stocks including EGB Cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
JUL-AUG	PDT develops options for the SSC to consider for OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder and rebuilding plan options for SSC feedback
AUG 15	SSC recommends ABC for GB yellowtail flounder and provides feedback on rebuilding plan options
SEP 11-13	TMGC/SC recommends TACs for US/CA stocks
JUL-SEP	Committee/AP/PDT develop alternatives and analysis
SEP 24-27	NEFMC – Receives an update on the development of the action, approve range of alternatives, including TACs for US/CA stocks
OCT-DEC	Committee/AP/PDT refine alternatives and complete impact analysis
DEC 4-6	NEFMC – Council takes final action/approves framework
DEC-JAN	PDT completes submission document
2019	
JAN	Preliminary submission
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY 1	Implementation

For Today's Meeting

- Discuss the range of alternatives for FW58, including the PDT's questions on the development of the alternatives for the rebuilding plan options by groundfish stock (see memo pp. 1), and
- Possibly make recommendations on preferred alternatives.



Groundfish Priorities

List of 2018 Priorities

Legal/Regulatory Requirement- Annual

- Set ABCs/ACLs for US/CA stocks
- Revise rebuilding plans as needed (ocean pout, GB winter flounder, witch flounder, GOM/GB windowpane flounder, and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder)
- Additional guidance on sector overages (removed from consideration September Council meeting)
- TRAC/TMGC

List of 2018 Priorities

Annual

- Address allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data
- Get input on different ways to manage recreational fishery in light of highly variable catch estimates: for example, consideration of catch error estimates under MRIP, and errors in bioeconomic model used to determine measures
- Specify allocation review triggers
- Sector five-year review

Multi-Year

- ASM action/Amendment 23 (including work groups/workshops necessary and working group on how fishery dependent data can be used to inform stock abundance).
- Scope limited entry in groundfish party/charter fishery
- Address Status Determination Criteria issue when analytic assessments fail (postponed from annual to multi-year- June Council meeting)
- Cod Stock Structure Working Group

Groundfish Advisory Panel

Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting on September 18, 2018

Initial Discussion of 2019 Priorities

To add to the list for discussion, examine the issue of leased fish and possible changes to management system.

Motion *carried* 4/0/2.

To add to the list for discussion, process for U.S./Canada quota trading.

Motion *carried* 5/0/1.

Recreational Advisory Panel

Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting on October 29, 2018

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee for 2019 priorities, in ranked order of highest importance:

1. Review the recreational allocations for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock using the most recent information from the 2019 assessments, and if determined necessary, make changes through the annual framework action with 2020-2022 specifications.
2. Develop a Recreational Committee/Working Group to focus on groundfish and non-groundfish recreational management issues.
3. Continue to hold listening sessions for possible limited entry for party and charter in the recreational Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery to help the Council determine next steps.

Carried by consensus.

For Today's Meeting

- Hold discussion of possible priorities for 2019, and
- Develop recommendations.