



New England Fishery Management Council

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 John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 2018
TO: Groundfish Committee
FROM: Groundfish Plan Development Team
SUBJECT: **Planning for a joint meeting of the PDT/GAP/Committee for Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring**

The Groundfish Plan Development Team met on October 16, 2018 in Gloucester, MA. Among other topics, the PDT discussed planning for a joint meeting of the PDT, Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) and Groundfish Committee for Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring.

At its September meeting, the Council unanimously passed the following motion with respect to Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring:

The Council reaffirms that improving catch accounting should be the primary goal of this action. The Council does not know at this time what level to which to improve catch accounting as a standard for this action. The Council recommends convening a joint Plan Development Team, Groundfish Advisory Panel, and Committee meeting to establish standards for improving catch accounting and monitoring.

In response to the Council's motion, the following summarizes the PDT's draft proposal for a joint meeting.

Proposed goals/objectives and intended outcomes for the Committee:

- Agree on the problems facing the groundfish fishery to be addressed through this action.
- Identify a monitoring baseline for the fishery (i.e., coverage levels, bias levels, level of accuracy/precision of data, and compliance) in which to assess how to improve the monitoring program.
- Recommend standards for improving catch accounting and monitoring.

Format: a two-day meeting hosted by the Groundfish Committee:

Day 1:

- Day 1 would be a joint meeting of the PDT/GAP/Committee, with the goal of information sharing between PDT and GAP/Committee.
- PDT members would present analysis with opportunity for GAP and Committee members to ask questions.

- PDT would also present a strawman document to address the goals/objectives (listed above) for the GAP/Committee to consider on Day 2.

Day 2:

- Day 2 would be a “split day” meeting with GAP in the morning session and Committee in the afternoon session. Some PDT members - identified in advance - would stay for the second day to answer any additional questions from the GAP and Committee.
- The GAP would consider the PDT’s strawman document. The GAP would make recommendations to the Committee on any changes.
- Then, Committee would make final recommendations for any changes for the PDT to address. The Committee would then provide a report to the Council once changes were incorporated by the PDT.

Next steps: The PDT would need to identify the analyses to be presented – observer bias, coverage level/bias, sector monitoring CV, discard incentives, and others. Preferably this work would be reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee prior to presentation at the joint meeting.