

Draft Groundfish Catch Share Review Report Outline

After reviewing the NOAA’s guidance¹ and Scallop LAGC IFQ review contents², the technical working group³ organized the Amendment 13/16 and 18 goals and objectives by topic to produce a draft review report outline (see next section for goals and objectives). The technical working group recommends the catch share review cover the following items:

1. Executive Summary
2. Purpose, Need, and Scope of the Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) catch share review
 - a. Purpose and need
 - b. Scope - key goals and objectives addressed in this review
3. Northeast Multispecies Fishery
 - a. Summary of groundfish resources
 - b. Summary of management history
 - i. Goals and objectives of Amendment 13/16, 18 - document the goals and objectives, focusing on FMP and Amendment(s)
 - ii. Summary of changes to the catch share program since Amendment 16
 - c. Summary of the sector fishery
 - i. Allocations- Document the initial allocations and any changes- including any stocks with commercial and recreational allocations
 - ii. Eligibility
 1. Document the eligibility requirements.
 2. Survey current and historical participants’ satisfaction with the program and changes in their well-being (time permitting).
 - iii. Transferability- Document the policy and criteria for transfers of catch privileges, and any restrictions.
 - iv. Duration- Document the lifespan of the catch privileges.
 - v. New Entrants
 1. Document the programs to assist new entrants
 2. Explain any barriers to entry, including costs.
 3. Explain if entry cost has increased such that market power is being exercised and economic inefficiencies are being created.
 - vi. Auctions and royalties – explain that this is not applicable.
4. Evaluation of the catch share program
 - a. Introduction and summary
 - b. Catch and sustainability (Goal 1, Objective 1, Objective 2, Objective 3, Objective 4)
 - i. Document system of catch limits and status of stocks.
 - ii. Document by stock any overages – including their magnitude and frequency and any accountability measures implemented.

¹ See 01-121-01, located here <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/laws-and-policies/fisheries-management-policy-directives>

² Located here: http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180202_LAGC_IFQ_Council_Approved.pdf and here: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/ifq-report-information>

³ A technical working group was identified in July 2018 with members of New England Fishery Management Council staff, Northeast Fisheries Science Center Social Science Branch staff, and Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office staff. The technical working group developed a draft outline for the review.

- iii. Document utilization rates and in cases of less than full utilization explain the drivers.
 - iv. Document changes in bycatch and discard mortality.
 - c. Fleet capacity and diversity (Goal 2, Objective 7, Objective 8, A18 Objective 4)
 - i. Capacity and consolidation of catch
 - ii. Diversity (dimensions: gear types, vessel sizes, geographic locations (ports), participations levels)
 - iii. Sector and Common Pool participation
 - iv. Permit Banks
 - v. Excessive shares
 - 1. Analyze and evaluate the equity/disproportional impacts of existing caps.
 - 2. Examine what impacts the caps have on market power by affected entities.
 - d. Community impacts (Goal 4, Objective 8)
 - i. Fishery dependence
 - ii. Shoreside infrastructure
 - e. Commercial allocations, utilization and transferability (A18 Goal 3)
 - i. Allocations and use
 - ii. Quota market and leasing
 - iii. Transboundary management (Objective 5)
 - f. Bycatch and discards (Objective 10)
 - i. Within-groundfish discards and bycatch
 - ii. Extra-groundfish discards and bycatch
 - iii. Discard and bycatch mortality
 - g. Research, cooperation with industry, assessment procedures (Objective 6, A18 Objective 2)
 - h. Minimizing adverse impacts to essential fish habitat to the extent practicable (Objective 9)
 - i. Data collection, monitoring and enforcement
 - i. Document the existing data collections, monitoring, and enforcement programs.
 - ii. Evaluate the programs with respect to achieving the goals and objectives.
 - iii. Document any improvements expected through future actions.
5. Summary of Findings
- a. Net benefits to the Nation
 - b. Participation at varying levels and excessive shares
 - c. Fishery capacity and conservation and management
 - d. Safety, compliance, and enforcement
 - e. Future data and research needs
6. Cost Recovery- explain that the program does not include cost recovery
7. Acknowledgements and Meetings

The key fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives the review should address⁴

The technical working group extracted the goals and objectives from A13/A16 and A18. The technical working group recommends the review should address the highlighted portions as the key FMP goals and objectives.

Goals and Objectives (From Amendment 13/16⁵)

The goals and objectives of this amendment remain as described in Amendment 13:

Goal 1: Consistent with the National Standards and other required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other applicable law, **manage the northeast multispecies complex at sustainable levels.**

Goal 2: **Create a management system so that fleet capacity will be commensurate with resource status so as to achieve goals of economic efficiency and biological conservation and that encourages diversity within the fishery.**

Goal 3: Maintain a directed commercial and recreational fishery for northeast multispecies.

Goal 4: **Minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on fishing communities and shoreside infrastructure.**

Goal 5: Provide reasonable and regulated access to the groundfish species covered in this plan to all members of the public of the United States for seafood consumption and recreational purposes during the stock rebuilding period without compromising the Amendment 13 objectives or timetable. If necessary, management measures could be modified in the future to insure that the overall plan objectives are met.

Goal 6: **To promote stewardship within the fishery.**

Objective 1: Achieve, on a continuing basis, optimum yield (OY) for the U.S. fishing industry.

Objective 2: Clarify the status determination criteria (biological reference points and control rules) for groundfish stocks so they are consistent with the National Standard guidelines and applicable law.

Objective 3: Adopt fishery management measures that constrain fishing mortality to levels that are compliant with the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

Objective 4: Implement rebuilding schedules for overfished stocks, and prevent overfishing.

Objective 5: Adopt measures as appropriate to support international transboundary management of resources.

⁴ For an example, see pp. 2 of <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/2b.-Draft-workplan-for-Scallop-LAGC-IFQ-5-year-review-.pdf>

⁵ Available at: http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/091016_Final_Amendment_16.pdf

Objective 6: Promote research and improve the collection of information to better understand groundfish population dynamics, biology and ecology, and to improve assessment procedures in cooperation with the industry.

Objective 7: To the extent possible, maintain a diverse groundfish fishery, including different gear types, vessel sizes, geographic locations, and levels of participation.

Objective 8: Develop biological, economic and social measures of success for the groundfish fishery and resource that insure accountability in achieving fishery management objectives.

Objective 9: Adopt measures consistent with the habitat provisions of the M-S Act, including identification of EFH and minimizing impacts on habitat to the extent practicable.

Objective 10: Identify and minimize bycatch, which include regulatory discards, to the extent practicable, and to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.

Additional Goals (from Amendment 18⁶)

The Council has identified four goals for this action. This document includes discussion of related measures and how they are proposed to impact the fishery.

1. Promote a diverse groundfish fishery, including different gear types, vessel sizes, ownership patterns, geographic locations, and levels of participation through sectors and permit banks;
2. Enhance sector management to effectively engage industry to achieve management goals and improve data quality;
3. Promote resilience and stability of fishing businesses by encouraging diversification, quota utilization and capital investment; and
4. Prevent any individual(s), corporation(s), or other entity(ies) from acquiring or controlling excessive shares of the fishery access privileges.

⁶ Available at: <http://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/160812-A18-FEIS-formal-submission-with-appendices.pdf>