

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth, NH
January 30-31, 2018
FINAL MOTIONS

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

SKATE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Dr. McKenzie moved and Mr. Reid seconded:
that the Council initiate a framework action to adjust measures so that the wing fishery remains open as long as possible.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

HABITAT COMMITTEE

2. Mr. Grout moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council select Option 6 (600m minimum depth) as the final preferred alternative coral zone. The area would be designated as a closure to all bottom-tending gears, with an exemption for the red crab pot fishery.

- 2a. Mr. Pappalardo moved to amend and Mr. Pentony seconded:
that the Council adopt Option 6 (600m minimum depth) as a broad coral protection zone. The use of all bottom tending gear will be prohibited within the zone (Section 4.3, Option 1). The use of pot gear for red crab (Section 4.3, Option 1, Sub-Option A) shall be exempt from these restrictions. In addition, the Council adopt Option 7, a broad coral protection zone (Section 4.2.1), as revised consistent with the January 5, 2018 PDT Memorandum. This area will be closed to all mobile bottom-tending gear (Section 4.3, Option 2).

The motion to amend *failed* on a show of hands (3/14/0).

Main motion:

That the Council select Option 6 (600m minimum depth) as the final preferred alternative coral zone. The area would be designated as a closure to all bottom-tending gears, with an exemption for the red crab pot fishery.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

3. Mr. Grout moved and Mr. Kendall seconded:
to submit the Deep-Sea Coral Amendment as amended today.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (16/0/1).

4. Mr. Grout moved on behalf of the Committee:

that the Council oppose offshore oil and gas development along the North Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic regions in the strongest terms possible.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (14/0/3).

The Council agreed by consensus to send the BOEM comment letter with additions suggested today. Mr. Pentony and Mr. Keliher abstained.

5. Mr. Grout moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council support the development of a report that documents spatially the fisheries value of the Northeast US continental shelf. This report can then be used to develop comments related to offshore energy. 'Fisheries' includes the value of extracted resources as well as supporting habitats, etc. Data could be summarized by wind energy area, statistical area, etc.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (17/0/0).

RESEARCH STEERING COMMITTEE

6. Mr. Mark Alexander moved and Mr. Bellavance seconded:
for improving Council research priority setting:
 - Process: PDTs will continue to have the lead in developing and updating research needs, with RSC and SSC review prior to Council approval. The RSC should also help track if and how research needs are being met.
 - Product: The feasibility of developing a database should be explored, but a spreadsheet will be developed as a first step. Information should include: a description/rationale, priority category (e.g., "near-term"), FMP/species, broad category, other priority lists it is included on (e.g., assessment, RSA), and research status (e.g., no action, underway).
 - Feedback: The Council Coordination Committee should be asked to send a letter to NMFS requesting that its national research funding programs require proposals to indicate if and how the work would meet an identified Regional Council priority in addition to the national priorities of the program.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (16/0/1).

7. Mr. Terry Alexander moved and Mr. Reid seconded:
that the Council set as a research priority the impact of raised ground cables compared to conventional ground cables on the seabed.

The Council agreed by consensus to adopt this research priority.

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

GROUND FISH

Recreational Management Measures for FY 2018

1. Mr. Terry Stockwell moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council recommends to NMFS Status Quo (“Option 0”) management measures for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock for fishing year 2018. Status quo recreational measures are:
 - 1) Cod: no possession year-round
 - 2) Haddock: 12 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed March-April 14 and September 17-October 31.

- 1a. Mr. Terry Stockwell moved to amend and Mr. Godfroy seconded:
that the Council recommends to NMFS Status Quo (“Option 0”) management measures for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine Haddock for fishing year 2018. Status quo recreational measures are:
 - 1) Cod: no possession year-round
 - 2) Haddock: 12 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed March-April 14 and September 17-October 31.This recommendation is contingent upon the State of Massachusetts changing the allowance of a private recreational angler to retain 1 GOM cod to 0. If the state does not, the Council recommends the agency adopt Option 7 (split measures by mode).

The motion to amend was *withdrawn* by its maker.

- 1b. Mr. Terry Stockwell moved to substitute and Mr. Mark Godfroy seconded:
that the Council recommends to NMFS Option 1 (Status Quo with no MA GOM Cod Possession) unless the retention of 1 GOM cod by private recreational anglers in Massachusetts waters is retained for FY 2018, in which case the Council recommends Option 7 (Split Measures by Mode).

Option 1: Status quo recreational measures:

- 1) Cod: no possession year-round
- 2) Haddock: 12 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed season March-April 14 and September 17-October 31.

Option 7: Split Measures by Mode:

- 1) Cod: no possession year-round
- 2) Haddock:
For-Hire: 10 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed season March-April 14 and September 17-October 31
Private: 12 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed season March-April 14, May, and September 17-October 31.

The motion to substitute *carried* on a show of hands (14/0/2).

Main Motion:

that the Council recommends to NMFS Option 1 (Status Quo with no MA GOM Cod Possession) unless the retention of 1 GOM cod by private recreational anglers in Massachusetts waters is retained for FY 2018, in which case the Council recommends Option 7 (Split Measures by Mode).

Option 1: Status quo recreational measures:

1) Cod: no possession year-round

2) Haddock: 12 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed season March-April 14 and September 17-October 31.

Option 7: Split Measures by Mode:

1) Cod: no possession year-round

2) Haddock:

For-Hire: 10 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed season March-April 14 and September 17-October 31

Private: 12 fish, 17 in minimum size, and closed season March-April 14, May, and September 17-October 31.

The main motion as substituted *carried* on a show of hands (14/0/2).

2. Ms. Libby Etrie moved and Mr. Terry Alexander seconded:
to recommend that the Agency consider adopting the following Georges Bank Cod recreational management measures for Fishing Year 2018: a 10 fish bag limit for all modes (private, charter and party) and increase the minimum fish size for 22 inches up to 24 inches.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (10/5/1).

Control Date

3. Mr. Terry Stockwell moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council recommends a revised control date for the charter/party groundfish fishery as the date of publication of the notice in the Federal Register.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (15/0/1).