

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
September 23-26, 2019
Beauport Hotel, Gloucester, MA

FINAL MOTIONS

Monday, September 23, 2019

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Kendall seconded:
Because Council members Dr. Michael Sissenwine and Eric Reid will be attending the annual NAFO meeting at the same time as the September Council meeting, the Council will allow them to vote in the election of officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Executive Committee) via remote access. They will not be allowed to vote remotely on other issues before the Council at this meeting.

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

Officers

Chairman: John Quinn selected by affirmation.

Vice-Chairman: Eric Reid selected by ballot.

Executive Committee members selected by affirmation: Libby Etrie, Terry Alexander and Matt McKenzie.

ATLANTIC HERRING COMMITTEE REPORT

2. Mr. Kendall moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council initiate a framework action to protect spawning herring in herring management areas 3, 2, and 1B. The Council suggests the following range of alternatives be developed and analyzed, at a minimum:
 - Spawning closure area
 - Consensus spawning areas identified in fig. 3.3. of Herring Spawning Review paper around the Northern Flank of GB;
 - Consensus spawning areas identified in fig. 3.3. of Herring Spawning Review paper west of the Great South Channel;
 - A rectangular box around all sources of data along the northern edge of GB and around the GSC identified in Fig. 3.1 of the Herring Spawning Review paper.
 - Spawning closure durations during September and October
 - 4 weeks
 - 6 weeks
 - 8 weeks
 - Gear/Fisheries that would be restricted by these spawning measures

- All gear types fishing for herring
- All vessels possessing more than 2,000 pounds of herring

- 2b. Dr. Pierce moved to amend and Ms. Etrie seconded:
that the Council initiate a framework action to protect spawning herring in herring management areas 3, 2, and 1B.

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

Main motion:

that the Council initiate a framework action to protect spawning herring in herring management areas 3, 2, and 1B.

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

COMMERCIAL ELECTRONIC VESSEL TRIP REPORTS (eVTRs)

1. Mr. Stockwell moved and Ms. Patterson seconded:
that the Council approve the range of alternatives for the Commercial Electronic Vessel Trip Report Omnibus Framework as described in Document 9b (Tab 9) for NEFMC-managed species.

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (12/0/0).

MONKFISH COMMITTEE REPORT

2. Ms. Etrie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council modify Alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 only and select as preferred.
- 2a. Dr. Pierce moved to amend and Mr. Alexander seconded:
that the Council approve Alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 - FY2022 only and select as preferred.

The motion to amend *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

Main motion:

that the Council approve Alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 - FY2022 only and select as preferred.

The main motion as amended *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

3. Ms. Etrie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council support recommendation of Alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications) for FY 2020 only for the NFMA as preferred.

- 3a. Dr. Pierce moved to amend and Mr. Kendall seconded:
that the Council support recommendation of Alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications)
for FY 2020-FY2022 only for the NFMA as preferred.

The motion to amend *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

Main motion:

that the Council support recommendation of Alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications)
for FY 2020-FY2022 only for the NFMA as preferred.

The main motion as amended *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (15/0/0).

The Council agreed by consensus:

that the Council endorse the Plan Development Team recommendations that no changes in
effort controls are needed in either management area.

RED CRAB DISCUSSION

4. Mr. Stockwell moved and Mr. Balzano seconded:
that the Council approves the proposed Red Crab specifications for 2020-2023 and change
in specifications frequency to four years. Staff is directed to submit the specifications for
approval with the appropriate analyses and supporting documents.

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

SKATE COMMITTEE REPORT

5. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council select as preferred Alternative 2 (4.1.2) Revised Annual Catch Limit
Specifications.

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

6. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council select as the preferred Alternative 4.2.2.2 to increase season 3 bait
possession limit.

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

7. Dr. McKenzie moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the council select as the preferred Alternative 4.2.1.2 to increase season 1 and 2 wing
possession limits.

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

ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT (EBFM)

8. Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Aarrestad seconded:
the MSE Steering Committee should examine the eFEP document and how the Council should 1) develop a less technical and publicly digestible document with examples that focuses on a core EBFM approach, 2) structure and conduct public information workshops that will illustrate this core approach, answer questions and receive feedback from stakeholders, identify more detailed EBFM goals and objectives that relate to the authority of the Council to managed fisheries, and identify key stakeholders that are willing to engage in an MSE process, and 3) conduct an MSE to test EBFM management procedures that could become viable management alternatives in a Fishery Ecosystem Plan.
- 8a. Mr. Kendall moved to amend and Mr. Stockwell seconded:
the MSE Steering Committee should examine the eFEP document and advise how the Council should 1) develop a less technical and publicly digestible document with examples that focuses on a core EBFM approach, 2) structure and conduct public information workshops that will illustrate this core approach, answer questions and receive feedback from stakeholders, identify more detailed EBFM goals and objectives that relate to the authority of the Council to managed fisheries, and identify key stakeholders that are willing to engage in an MSE process.

The motion to amend *carried* on a show of hands (11/0/2).

Main motion:

the MSE Steering Committee should examine the eFEP document and advise how the Council should 1) develop a less technical and publicly digestible document with examples that focuses on a core EBFM approach, 2) structure and conduct public information workshops that will illustrate this core approach, answer questions and receive feedback from stakeholders, identify more detailed EBFM goals and objectives that relate to the authority of the Council to managed fisheries, and identify key stakeholders that are willing to engage in an MSE process.

The main motion as amended *carried* on a show of hands (11/1/1).

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

NMFS DRAFT POLICY DIRECTIVE ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM) VIDEO RETENTION PERIODS

The Council agreed by consensus:
to send the NMFS Draft Policy Directive on Electronic Monitoring minimum video retention period comment letter as modified.

TRANSBOUNDARY MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMITTEE (TMGC)

1. Mr. Stockwell moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council accept the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) recommendations for US/CA 2020 total allowable catches for Georges Bank yellowtail

flounder (162mt), Eastern Georges Bank cod (650mt), and Eastern Georges Bank haddock (30,000mt).

The motion *carried* unanimously on a show of hands (13/0/0).

GROUND FISH COMMITTEE – PART ONE

Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications and Management Measures

2. Mr. Stockwell moved and Ms. Etrie seconded:
that the Council add Option 2: Revise the Georges Bank Cod Incidental Catch TAC to remove the allocation for the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Program (SAP) under the draft options for Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP.

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

3. Mr. Godfroy moved and Mr. Bellavance seconded:
that the Council direct staff to continue working on and include alternatives in FW 59 to update GOM cod and GOM haddock commercial/recreational allocations raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.

- 3a. Ms. Etrie moved and Mr. Alexander seconded:
to recommit the previous motion to the Groundfish Committee and Groundfish and Recreational Advisory Panels for discussion and consideration.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (9/5/0).

GROUND FISH COMMITTEE REPORT – PART TWO

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

4. Mr. Stockwell moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council move Section 4.4.2 Option 2: Revised Management Uncertainty Buffers for Allocated Groundfish Stocks to Considered but Rejected.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (11/3/0).

5. Mr. Alexander moved and Ms. Etrie seconded:
to add a sub-Option to Section 4.2.2.1.2 for coverage levels based on trips of the vessel (e.g., if the coverage level is 25% of trips taken by the vessel, then the vessel takes four trips, it would get covered once). These would be vessel specific coverage rates.

- 5a. Mr. Alexander moved and Ms. Patterson seconded:
to remand this motion back to the Groundfish Committee for further analysis.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (10/3/1).

6. Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Bellavance seconded:
to remove 4.1.2.1.3 Option 3: Dockside Monitoring as an Optional Program for Sectors.

The motion *carried* on a show of hands (13/0/1).

Thursday, September 26, 2019

SMALL-MESH MULTISPECIES (WHITING) REPORT

1. Mr. Alexander moved and Mr. Aarrestad seconded:
that the Council initiate an action to rebuild the southern stock of red hake.

The motion carried *unanimously* on a show of hands (13/0/0).

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT

Developing policies on non-fishing impacts on EFH

Committee recommendations:

- Develop two new policies related to the habitat impacts associated with aquaculture and submarine cables
- Consider whether the offshore wind energy policy should be updated given the potential for floating wind farms
- Convene a work team or teams to begin scoping these issues and developing expertise, drawing from PDT, AP, Committee membership

The Council agreed by consensus with the Habitat Committee's policy recommendations.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council agreed by consensus.

that the Council send the approved letter to NOAA regarding the sale of Mr. Rafael's assets.