



[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [News](#) | [Columns](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Documents](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Search:

GO

[Home](#) | [News](#) | Summary of Council Groundfish Actions, June 24/25, 2009

Summary of Council Groundfish Actions, June 24/25, 2009

This is a summary of Council actions on groundfish at the June 24 – 25 meeting in Portland, ME as prepared by Tom Nies. As always, the brief summary does not capture the entire discussion. This is even more the case in this summary given the number of actions taken and complexity of the discussions.

Audio files should be available on our web page in a few days. Motions will be available in about a week. Please contact me if there are any questions or corrections.

1. Approval of Amendment 16: The Council reviewed public comments and selected a proposed action for the measures in Amendment 16. Key elements of their decisions are:

a. Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) were adopted. Included in this decision was the adoption of a Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommendation for modifying groundfish control rules. Actual ACLs will be set this fall, based on Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) that will be set by the SSC in early August.

b. The Council adopted extensive revisions to policies applicable to sectors. In addition to clarifying administrative requirements for sectors (how they are formed, what reports are needed, enforcement provisions, etc.), the Council modified how the potential sector contribution (i.e. PSC or permit history) is calculated for each permit. For almost all stocks, PSC will be based on landings history alone for the years FY 96-2006. For permits committed to the two existing sectors, the GB cod PSC will be as allocated when the sectors formed (history alone, 96-01). Dockside and at-sea monitoring requirements were established. The levels of dockside monitoring required begin at 50 pct of trips in FY 2010 and declines to 20 pct of trips in future years. Less than 100 pct at-sea monitoring is proposed with details to be coordinated between sectors and NMFS (NERO and NEFSC). Sectors will be allowed to transfer their annual catch entitlement, or ACE. Sector members will also be granted universal exemptions from some of the rolling closures in the inshore Gulf of Maine (but not all).

c. Seventeen new sectors were authorized, and modifications were made to the two existing sectors.

d. For vessels not entering sectors, effort control option 3A was selected. This option counts days-at-sea in 24 hour increments, reduces allocated Category A DAS by 50 percent from FW 42 allocations, removes differential DAS counting areas, and increases trip limits for many stocks.

e. GOM cod and GOM haddock will be allocated to the commercial and recreational components of the groundfish fishery. The allocation will be based on years 2001-2006.

f. For rec fishermen, the prohibition on the retention of GOM cod will be extended to April 15, two weeks (this may be modified after PDT review). This was required even though the allocation is based on 2001-2006 because the SSC advice on ABC control rules almost doubles the mortality reduction needed for GOM cod that was targeted in the draft amendment. Fillets from legal-sized fish can be landed with skin-off (a small amount of skin is kept on for ID purposes), and the limit on hooks is removed.

g. Accountability measures (AMs) were adopted for the commercial fishery. For non-sector vessels, the differential DAS option will be used in FY 2010 and FY 2011, but will be replaced by the hard TAC option in FY 2012. For sector vessels, the AM is the hard TAC components of the sector policies.

h. AMs were adopted for the recreational fishery. NMFS NERO will consult with the Council when selecting AMs (this is Option 3 for those familiar with the draft amendment document).

i. Atlantic wolffish was added to the management unit.

j. For both commercial and recreational vessels, the minimum size for haddock is reduced to 18 inches; the minimum size for halibut is increased to 41 inches; and the retention of wolffish is prohibited.

Another Perspective - By Nils Stolpe

Our friends in Washington are catching on

"Fortunately, we have some people in Washington who see what's really going on. Senator Schumer is as concerned about his fishing constituents as he is about the fish, just as Congressmen Pallone, Frank, Jones, LoBiondo, Kennedy, Adler and others in the House of Representatives are."

More Featured Columns >

MANAGEMENT & REGULATION

+ Catch shares system approved for New England fishermen

[More Management >](#)

IN CONGRESS

+ Snowe, Collins Announce Grant for Maine Department of Marine Resources

[More Congress >](#)

ENFORCEMENT

+ Gloucester Auction seeks restraining order to block NOAA action

[More Enforcement >](#)

LEGAL

+ 'NOVA' gone wrong: NMFS would fine fisherman who sold boat, left business

[More Legal >](#)

STATE CAPITALS

+ OPINION: Catch-share fishing needs work by Mass. State Rep. William Straus

[More State Capitals >](#)

INTERNATIONAL & TRADE

+ Public Library of Science Biology: How can the world's fisheries be sustainable?

[More International >](#)

SAFETY

+ Plymouth scalloper fatally injured aboard vessel

[More Safety >](#)

ECONOMIC IMPACT

+ A day's catch: Trip on the Sasquatch spotlights fishermen's plight

Get Daily News Updates
Via Email



Sign Up Here

Ads by Google

Fisheries Management Cert

Online graduate certificate/courses at Oregon State University.
ecampus.oregonstate.edu

Preventing Overfishing

New report reveals sound approach to managing nation's fisheries

www.PewTrusts.org

Energy Conservation Inst

Hands-on Energy Auditor/Rater and Building Performance Courses in CA

www.EnergyConservationInstitute

Cape Cod Fishing Charter

Buzzards Bay, Striped Bass, Blues, Fluke, Sea Bass, Scup

www.phillylou.com

Fisheries

Texas Lake Stocking and Management Fish, Fertilizer, Feed, Fountains

LochowRanch.com/fish

There were numerous other decisions. I should emphasize that none of these decisions will change regulations until reviewed, approved, and implemented by NMFS. The expectation is that the draft amendment will be submitted later this summer, a proposed rule will be published in fall or winter, and a final rule will be published in time for implementation on May 1, 2010.

2. The Council received a report from the SSC on setting groundfish ABCs. The SSC will set ABCs based on 75 pct of FMSY or Frebuild (if lower than 75 pct of FMSY). The SSC also provided advice on setting ABCs when these values are unknown or projections are not recommended. As noted above, this advice was incorporated into Amendment 16.

3. In another action that may be of interest to groundfish industry members, the Council directed the Interspecies Committee to draft a proposal to combine and consolidate, to the extent possible, all current FMPs.

Please contact Tom Nies tnies@nefmc.org with any questions or corrections.

[Share this Page](#) [Print this Page](#)

[More Economic Impact »](#)

CONSERVATION & ENVIRONMENT

[+ Portland joins in fishing gear disposal program](#)

[More Conservation »](#)

SCIENCE

[+ Avoid early closing of CAII: Read scallop and yellowtail survey results](#)

[More Science »](#)

NUTRITION

[+ Mercury in fish: not just a government plot to promote catch and release](#)

[More Nutrition »](#)

OTHER NEWS

[+ California coastal herring fishery to close](#)

[More Other News »](#)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [News](#) | [Columns](#) | [Press Releases](#) | [Documents](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright © 2009. All Rights Reserved.