

Final Motions
New England Fishery Management Council Meeting
December 3-5, 2024
Hotel Viking, Newport, RI
Hybrid meeting with remote participants

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Spiny Dogfish Committee Report

1. Mr. Salerno moved and Ms. Griffin seconded:
that the New England Fishery Council recommends that Fishing Year 2025 OFL=ABC for spiny dogfish at 7,626mt, and follow Table 2 from the November 21, 2024 MAFMC Staff Memo for all other specifications.

Rationale:

The New England Council recommends following the Mid-Atlantic SSC's revised OFL and ABC for fishing year 2025 and the Spiny Dogfish Committee's recommendations for calculating discards.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Whelan

No:

Abstain:

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (17/0/0).

Transboundary Management Committee Report

2. Mr. Salerno moved and Ms. Patterson seconded:
that the Council approve the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee's recommendations for United States/Canada total allowable catches (TACs) for 2025 as:
 - Eastern Georges Bank haddock at a TAC of 7,410 mt, and
 - Georges Bank yellowtail flounder at a TAC of 200 mt.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Odell, Ms. Ware, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Salerno, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Tracy, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony and Mr. Platz

No:

Abstain:

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (17/0/0).

Groundfish Committee Report

Framework Adjustment 69/Specifications and Management Measures

Action 3 – Fishery Program Administration

3. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to selected as the preferred alternative of removing the requirement for sectors to submit federal and state permit information (Option 2 under Action 3: Alternative 1 – Sector Reporting).

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

4. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred under Action 3, Alternative 2: Option 2 (4.3.2.2) – Remove Regional Administrator Authority to Adjust Common Pool Differential Days-At-Sea.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 4 – Commercial Fishery Management Measures – Atlantic Sea Scallop AM Implementation Policy

5. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred Alternative 4.4.2 – Modification to the trigger for the Atlantic Sea scallop accountability measure implementation policy for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder and/or northern windowpane flounder, Option A – Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, and Option B – Northern windowpane flounder.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony.

Action 2 – Revised Specifications

6. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred alternative under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications.
- 6a. Mr. Salerno moved to amend and Ms. Griffin seconded:
to select as preferred alternative under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications, except for the cod specifications (EGOM cod, GB cod, WGOM cod, SNE cod).

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Odell, Ms. Ware, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Salerno, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Tracy, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Smith, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony and Mr. Platz

No:

Abstain:

The motion to amend *carried* on a roll call vote (17/0/0).

- 6b. The main motion as amended:
to select as preferred alternative under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications, except for the cod specifications (EGOM cod, GB cod, WGOM cod, SNE cod).

Roll Call:

Yes Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Ware, Mr. Salerno and Mr. Whelan

No:

Abstain: Ms. Odell, and Mr. Hansen

The main motion as amended *carried* on a roll call vote (15/0/2).

Action 1 – Atlantic Cod Stock Status Determination Criteria

7. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred under Action 1: Alternative 2 (4.1.2) – New Status Determination Criteria for Cod Stocks.

- 7a. Ms. Odell moved to substitute and Ms. Patterson seconded:
to select as preferred under Action 1: Alternative 1 (4.1.1) - New Status Determination Criteria for Cod Stocks, no action.

Roll Call:

Yes: Ms. Odell,

No: Mr. Aarrestad, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Whelan

Abstain: Ms. Brawn,

The substituted motion *failed* on a roll call vote (1/15/1).

- 7b. The main motion:
to select as preferred under Action 1: Alternative 2 (4.1.2) – New Status Determination Criteria for Cod Stocks.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Smith, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Ware, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Lucey and Mr. Aarrestad

No: Mr. Tracy, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Odell and Ms. Brawn

Abstain:

The main motion *carried* on a roll call vote (13/4/0).

Action 2 – Revised Specifications

8. Ms. Ware moved and Ms. Patterson seconded:
to select as preferred under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications,
specifications for EGOM cod as follows:
- Overfishing Limits (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) for the Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod stock:

Fishing Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)
2025	63	48
2026	50	39
2027	39	30

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Hansen and Mr. Tracy

No:

Abstain: Ms. Odell

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1).

9. Mr. Salerno moved and Ms. Ware seconded:
to select as preferred under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications,
specifications for GB cod as follows:
- Overfishing Limit (OFL) and Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for the Georges Bank (GB) cod stock:

Fishing Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)	TAC (mt)
2025	518	397	82

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Ware, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Brawn and Mr. Aarrestad

No:

Abstain: Ms. Odell

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1).

10. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Salerno seconded:
to select as preferred under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications,
specifications for WGOM cod as follows:
- Overfishing Limits (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) for the Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod stock:

Fishing Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)
2025	507	387
2026	603	460
2027	769	586

- Apportioning the WGOM cod ABC to the commercial groundfish fishery as proposed in Alternative 4.2.2 (GOM PSCs are applied to northern statistical areas 513, 514, and 515; and Georges Bank PSCs are applied to southern statistical areas 521, 526, and 541) with a 68%/32% split of the commercial sub-ABC in the northern and southern portions, respectively, of the WGOM. The resulting pounds are combined to create a WGOM sector sub-ACL (and subsequent ACEs), and common pool sub-ACL as indicated in Table 5, which will apply to the whole of the WGOM stock area.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Whelan

No:

Abstain: Ms. Odell

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1)

Action 5 – Commercial Fishery Management Measures – Atlantic Cod (slide

11. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to adopt the PDT's recommendations for trimester TAC distributions and trimester TAC closures for the new cod stock units, and select as the preferred alternative (Option 2 under Action 5: Alternative 1).

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

12. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative under Action 5, Alternative 1: Option 3 – Common Pool Baseline Trip Limits for the Cod Stocks.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 2 – Revised Specifications

13. Mr. Pappalardo moved and Mr. Smith seconded:
to select as preferred under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications, specifications for SNE cod as follows:
 - Overfishing Limits (OFLs) and Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs) for the Southern New England (SNE) cod stock:

Fishing Year	OFL (mt)	ABC (mt)
2025	29	22
2026	47	36
2027	65	36

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Smith, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Ware, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen and Ms. Brawn

No:

Abstain: Mr. Tracy, Ms. Odell and Mr. Aarrestad

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (14/0/3).

14. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative under Action 2, Alternative 3: Option 2 – Set SNE cod recreational sub-ACL.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware and Ms. Griffin

No:

Abstain: Mr. Tracy

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1).

15. Mr. Salerno moved and Ms. Patterson seconded:
that the Council select as preferred under Action 2: Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications to set the management uncertainty buffer (MUB) for the four Atlantic cod stock units as the following:

- Recreational sub-ACLs for Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod and Southern New England (SNE) cod at 7%
- Commercial (sector and common pool) sub-ACLs for all four cod stocks (WGOM, SNE, Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod, and Georges Bank (GB) cod) at 5%
- For GB cod, a 5% MUB should be for FY2025 only and will be reevaluated for FY2026 and beyond, and
- The sector MUB for SNE cod remain in place and not be removed even under 100% monitoring coverage target for FY2025.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 6 – Recreational Fishery Management Measures – Atlantic Cod

16. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as preferred under Action 6, Alternative 1: Option 2 – SNE cod recreational fishing measures.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Aarrestad, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith and Mr. Whelan

No:

Abstain: Mr. Tracy

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1).

17. Mr. Bellavance moved on behalf of the Committee:
to select as the preferred alternative under Action 6, Alternative 2: Option 2 - Establish Regulatory Process for Regional Administrator to Adjust Recreational Measures for Cod Stocks.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

18. Mr. Bellavance moved Mr. Salerno seconded:
to submit Framework Adjustment 69 to GARFO, as amended today.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Whelan, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Smith, Mr. Platz, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Olszewski, Ms. Griffin, Ms. Ware, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Patterson, Mr. Lucey, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Brawn and Mr. Aarrestad

No:

Abstain: Mr. Pentony and Ms. Odell

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (15/0/2).

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Scallop Committee Report

Framework 39

Action 1: Overfishing Limit and Acceptable Biological Catch

1. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.1, Alternative 4.1.2, Updated OFL (Over Fishing Limit) and ABC (Acceptable Biological Catch) for FY 2025 and FY 2026, as the preferred alternative.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 2.1 – Northern Gulf of Maine Management and Total Allowable Landing (TAL) Setting

2. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.2.1, Alternative 2, Option 1, Set NGOM (Northern Gulf of Maine) TAL, with set-asides to support research, monitoring, and a directed LAGC fishery. Set NGOM TAL at $F=0.18$ using Stellwagen, Ipswich, Jeffreys Ledge, and Machias Seal Island, as the preferred alternative.
 - 2025 NGOM TAL would be set at 712,093 lb.
 - 2025 NGOM set-aside would be set at 675,563 lb.
 - 2026 NGOM set-aside would be set at 506,672 lb.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 2.2 – Northern Gulf of Maine Possession Restriction

3. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.2.2, Alternative 2 (4.2.2.2), Allow NGOM-permitted vessels on a declared NGOM trip to possess scallops and transit outside of the NGOM scallop management area, as the preferred alternative.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 3 – Fishery Specifications

4. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
That the Council adopt in Section 4.3, Alternative 6, 24 days-at-sea, two access area trips with 12,000-pound trip limit, as the preferred alternative. This would allocate the following access area trips and days at sea to full-time Limited Access permit holders:
 - One trip to Area I and one trip to Area II, 12,000 lb trip limit
 - 24 days-at-sea (Average Open Bottom $F=0.27$).

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Pentony, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Whelan, Mr. Tracy, Mr. Gates, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey and Ms. Zobel

No: Ms. Brawn

Abstain:

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/1/0).

Action 4 – LAGC IFQ Access Area fishing in 2025

5. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.4, Alternative 2 (4.4.2) Update LAGC IFQ Access Area Trip Allocations, Distribute LAGC IFQ Access Area Allocation to Area I and Area

II as the preferred alternative. The total access area trip allocations for the LAGC IFQ for FY 2025 would be 571 trips.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 5 – Scallop RSA Compensation Fishing

6. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
that the Council adopt in Section 4.5, Alternative 2 (4.5.2), Allow up to 50% of RSA Compensation fishing in Area I and Area II Access Areas, as the preferred alternative.

RSA compensation fishing would be permitted only in Area I and Area II Access Areas, areas open to LA DAS fishing, and up to 25,000 pounds of RSA harvest from the NGOM. Up to 50% of the total RSA compensation pounds available outside of the NGOM (625,000 pounds) would be available between both Area I and Area II Access Areas. Unlike the access areas, there would not be a limit on the amount of RSA compensation pounds that can be harvested from the open bottom.

- 6a. Ms. Griffin moved to amend and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
that the Council modify the language of Section 4.5, Alternative 2 (4.5.2), Allow up to 50% of RSA Compensation fishing in Area I and Area II Access Areas, and adopt as the preferred alternative.

RSA compensation fishing for pounds allocated in FY 2025 would be permitted only in Area I and Area II Access Areas, areas open to LA DAS fishing, and up to 25,000 pounds of RSA harvest from the NGOM. Up to 50% of the FY 2025 RSA compensation pounds available outside of the NGOM (625,000 pounds) would be available between both Area I and Area II Access Areas. Unlike the access areas, there would not be a limit on the amount of RSA compensation pounds that can be harvested from the open bottom.

RSA compensation pounds are restricted to being harvest from the areas specified in the fishing year they were allocated. For example, 2024 RSA allocations being fished in FY 2025 would only be available in Area II, areas open to LA DAS fishing, and up to 25,000 pounds from the NGOM. Vessels would not be allowed to fish any 2024 RSA compensation pounds in Area I.

***Rationale:** Avoids unintended impacts of previous year's RSA pounds being fished from access areas other than what the Council had specified based on the best available science informing the appropriate level of harvest from an access area in a given fishing year.*

The motion to amend *carried* by unanimous consent

- 6b. The main motion as amended:

that the Council modify the language of Section 4.5, Alternative 2 (4.5.2), Allow up to 50% of RSA Compensation fishing in Area I and Area II Access Areas, and adopt as the preferred alternative.

RSA compensation fishing for pounds allocated in FY 2025 would be permitted only in Area I and Area II Access Areas, areas open to LA DAS fishing, and up to 25,000 pounds of RSA harvest from the NGOM. Up to 50% of the FY 2025 RSA compensation pounds available outside of the NGOM (625,000 pounds) would be available between both Area I and Area II Access Areas. Unlike the access areas, there would not be a limit on the amount of RSA compensation pounds that can be harvested from the open bottom.

RSA compensation pounds are restricted to being harvest from the areas specified in the fishing year they were allocated. For example, 2024 RSA allocations being fished in FY 2025 would only be available in Area II, areas open to LA DAS fishing, and up to 25,000 pounds from the NGOM. Vessels would not be allowed to fish any 2024 RSA compensation pounds in Area I.

The main motion, as amended, *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 6 – Delayed Opening of Access Areas

7. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.6, Alternative 2 (4.6.2), May 15 opening of Area I and Area II Access Areas, as the preferred alternative. Vessels would have 60-days after May 15 to harvest access area allocations from the previous fishing year.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

Action 7 – Area II Seasonal Closure

8. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:
to recommend that the Council adopt in Section 4.7, Alternative 2, Option 3 (4.7.3), Seasonal closure of Area II from November 15 to May 15, as the preferred alternative. Vessels would have 60-days after May 15 to harvest access area allocations from the previous fishing year.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.

9. Ms. Griffin moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:
to submit Framework 39 to the Scallop FMP to NMFS, as modified and recommended by the Council today.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mr. Gates, Ms. Brawn, Ms. Odell, Mr. Hansen, Mr. Lucey, Ms. Zobel, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Ware, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Olszewski, Mr. Pappalardo, Mr. Pierdinock, Mr. Platz, Mr. Smith, Mr. Whelan and Mr. Tracy

No:

Abstain: Mr. Pentony

The motion *carried* on a roll call vote (16/0/1).

Scallop Research Track Assessment

10. Ms. Griffin moved on behalf of the Committee:

to recommend that the Council send a letter to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center expressing concern about progress made on the Atlantic Sea Scallop Research Track stock assessment and ensure that a community outreach meeting occurs.

The NEFSC should prioritize the development and review of the SAMS model, 3 CASA models (MA, GB-Open, and GB-Closed), and the 2 SYM models as these models are integral to the management of the Atlantic Sea Scallop. Development and review of the GeoSAMS model should be done as time allows.

The motion *carried* with one abstention, Mr. Pentony,

Council Priorities

11. Mr. Salerno moved and Mr. Pappalardo seconded:

that the Council adopts the Executive Committee's recommendations for 2025 Council Priorities.

The motion *carried* by unanimous consent.