



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

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Fishery Council Recommends Emergency Action for Cod in Response to Updated Scientific Information

HYANNIS, MA At a meeting this week to discuss the condition of Gulf of Maine cod, the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) voted to request that NOAA Fisheries take emergency action to help minimize the further decline of this stock.

After significant discussion of the science presented earlier in the day yesterday and lengthy testimony about the impacts of the action by both commercial and recreational fishermen, the Council approved the following:

To request an emergency action to reduce fishing mortality on Gulf of Maine cod for fishing year 2014. The fishing year will end on April 30, 2015. The expectation is to have more permanent rules in place for the next fishing year which begins on May 1, 2015.

This motion passed by 14 yes votes, and 3 no votes. The Council could not come to agreement on the specifics of a more specific motion that was discussed earlier in the day.

The Council's recommendation will be considered by NOAA Fisheries, acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce. The agency may act on the Council's recommendations, add or subtract from them, or substitute their own measures. Implementation is expected by November.

The Council will work on the more permanent measures during its morning session today, although a final vote will not take place until its November 18-20 meeting in Newport, RI.

The New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional organizations established by federal legislation in 1976, is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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