Possible Limited Access Program for the Recreational Groundfish Party and Charter Fishery

Public Listening Sessions

Council Staff

Public comments accepted by 5pm on May 17, 2019
Public Listening Session Schedule
(2 hour duration each session)

**Seabrook, NH** – Thursday, April 4, Seabrook Public Library, 5:45pm

**Avalon, NJ** – Monday, April 8, ICONA Golden Inn (following MAFMC meeting), 6pm

**Wells, ME** – Thursday, April 18, Wells Public Library, 5:45pm

**Narragansett, RI** – Tuesday, April 23, University of Rhode Island, 6pm

**Chatham, MA** – Tuesday, May 7, Chatham Community Center, 6pm

**Plymouth, MA** – Wednesday, May 8, Hampton Inn, 6pm

**Gloucester, MA** – Thursday, May 9, Sawyer Free Library, 5:45pm

**Webinar** – Friday, May 10, 1 pm
Your comments are invited

The New England Fishery Management Council is considering the possibility of developing an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The Council seeks comments from the public on the management of the recreational groundfish fishery.
Why is the Council seeking public input?

The Council is seeking public input on the possibility of initiating an amendment to develop a limited access program for the recreational groundfish party and charter fishery.

The Council heard from some recreational fishery participants indicating interest in developing a program, while others in the fishery did not agree with pursuing a program.

Given this split in views, the Council seeks feedback from the public on interest in developing a program, in order to assist the Council in deciding how to proceed.
What actions have already been taken?

In January 2018 at its first meeting of the year, the Council recommend refreshing the control date in the party/charter fishery.

The control date in the party/charter fishery was refreshed to March 19, 2018.
What should my comments address?

- **Goals and Objectives**- What would the goals and objectives of a limited access program be?
- **Definitions**- Would limited entry apply to all or a portion of the fleet? How would groundfish recreational for-hire be defined?
- **Permits/Vessels**- What would happen to the permits? Should the for-hire fleet be all limited access, or should there be an open access component with other constraints? Should there be vessel upgrade restrictions?
- **Measures**- What range of management measures would be considered for limited entry?
- **History**- How will history be used – would it be simple or complex?
- **New Entrants**- What opportunities will there be for new entrants?
How to submit a public comment

- Today at the listening session
- In writing:
  - Fax: (978) 465-3116;
  - Email: comments@nefmc.org
  - Mail: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director
    New England Fishery Management Council
    50 Water Street, Mill #2
    Newburyport, MA 01950

- Please note on your correspondence; “Listening Sessions for Possible Limited Access Program for the Recreational Party/Charter Fishery.”
- Closing Date: Friday, May 17, 2019, by 5pm
What happens next?

After information is gathered through the listening sessions, the Groundfish Committee will consider possibly recommending to the Council an initiation of an amendment, with input from the Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Plan Development Team, through a series of public meetings during 2019.