

Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock Fishery: Potential FY 2015 Proactive Accountability Measures

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**NEFMC Meeting
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Proactive Accountability Measures

Framework Adjustment 48 revised the proactive recreational accountability measures (AMs)

- Regional Administrator (RA) may adjust measures to ensure the fishery will achieve, but not exceed, its sub-ACL.
- To the extent possible, changes would be made before the fishing year begins.
- The RA would consult with the Council (or Council's designee) to tell what measures are under consideration.



Proactive Accountability Measures

- The Council provided guidance on its preference of measures that NMFS should consider if additional recreational effort controls are necessary to reduce GOM cod or GOM haddock catches:
 - Cod: increases to minimum fish sizes, then adjustments to seasons, followed by changes to bag limits.
 - Haddock: increases to minimum size limits, then changes to bag limits, and adjustments to seasons last.
- The Council's guidance does not restrict NMFS's discretion in selecting management measures that would best achieve, but not exceed, the recreational sub-ACL.



Proactive Accountability Measures

- The Council would provide its Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) an opportunity to meet and discuss the proposed management measures, if time allows.
- These AMs require development in consultation with the Council, because the appropriate suite of measures (e.g., bag limit, minimum fish size, season) depends on the ACL specified.



Process Overview

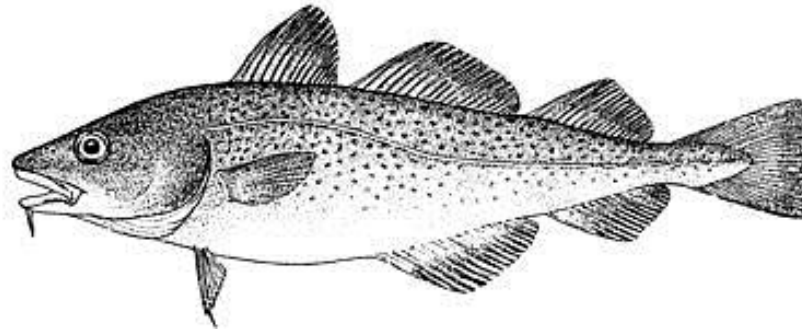
- Council took Final Action on Framework Adjustments 53 in November 2014 which included in its Preferred Alternatives: ACLs for GOM cod and haddock and no possession of GOM cod for the recreational fishery.
- The Recreational Advisory Panel (RAP) met on January 22 and reviewed the possible proactive AMs for FY 2015 and made recommendations.
- A summary of the RAP recommendations regarding GOM cod and GOM haddock AMs for FY 2015 is being provided directly to the Council today, since due to time constraints, the Groundfish Committee did not meet between the RAP and Council meetings.
- Today, the Council will review the RAP recommendations, and develop Council recommendations to NMFS for proactive AMs for GOM cod and GOM haddock for FY 2015.



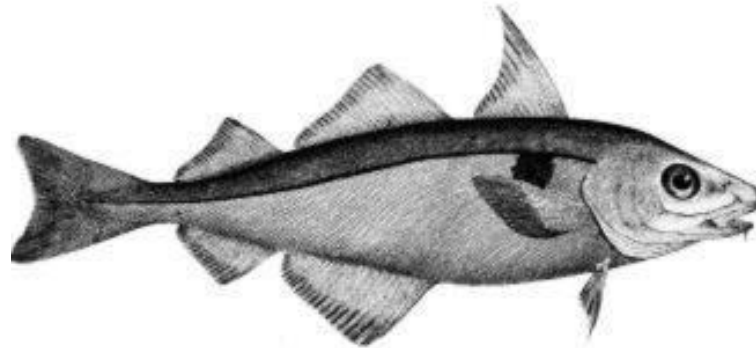
Proposed FY 2015 Recreational Sub-ACLs

If Framework Adjustment 53 ACLs are implemented:

121 mt for Gulf of Maine cod



372 mt for Gulf of Maine haddock



Bioeconomic Model: FY 2015 Simulation Projections

Cod discard mortality rate = 0.30

Haddock discard mortality rate = 0.50

50% or more for both

Option	Cod Bag	Had Bag	Had Size	Had Open Season	Cod Kept mt (Median)	Cod Release Mortality mt (Median)	Had Kept mt (Median)	Had Release Mortality mt (Median)	% Under Cod ACL (out of 100 trials)	% Under Had ACL (out of 100 trials)	Angler Trips (Median)
1	0	3	21"	May – Aug	52	197	183	247	0	0	169,898
2	0	2	21"	May – Aug	52	195	151	216	0	93	168,320
3	0	3	19"	May – Aug	52	196	275	117	0	0	173,358
4	0	3	17"	May – Aug	54	204	300	41	0	100	173,534

GOM cod FY 2015 Rec sub-ACL = 121mt

GOM haddock FY 2015 Rec sub-ACL = 372mt

Courtesy NEFSC/SSB Jan. 22, 2015



Possible FY 2015 Proactive AMs

Based on the simulation projections, none of the combinations of measures would achieve, but not exceed the sub-ACLs for Gulf of Maine cod and haddock.

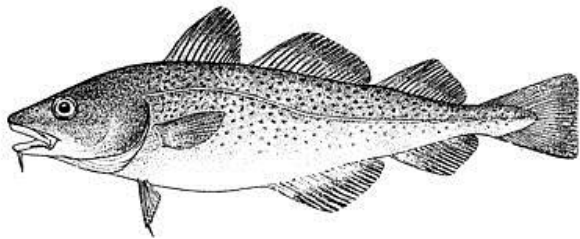


Possible FY 2015 Proactive AMs

However if discard mortality is reduced and compliance increases:

Gulf of Maine Cod

No possession



Gulf of Maine Haddock

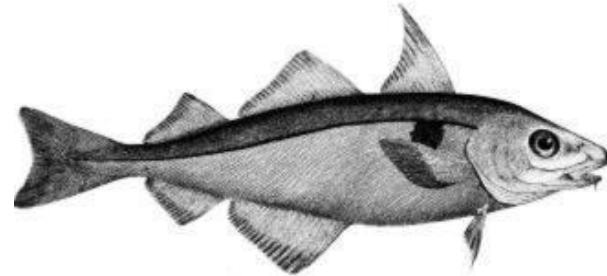
Bag Limit: 3-4 fish

Closed Seasons:

Wave 2: Mar 1-Apr 31

Wave 5: Sept 1-Oct 31

Minimum Fish Size: 17 inches



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

MOTION 1

The RAP recommends that the outreach component to recreational anglers regarding changes to the Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and haddock management measures, currently underway by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, continue and its impact on reducing non-compliance be considered when predicting recreational catches for FY 2015.

The motion passed by consensus without objection.



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

MOTION 2

For the purposes of reducing discard mortality on GOM cod and haddock, the RAP recommends prohibiting the use of more than two hooks per line while fishing for groundfish in the GOM. Only inline circle hooks may be baited. When using a jig or artificial lure, only single point j-hooks may be used (e.g., no treble hooks). Teasers, feathers, flies etc. may be used but count toward the use of no more than two hooks per line.

The motion passed by a show of hands (12/0/0).



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

CONSENSUS STATEMENT 1

The RAP feels that directed GOM angler trips will decline substantially in FY 2015 under no possession for GOM cod and the anticipated low bag limit for GOM haddock for the recreational fishery. The RAP feels that the change in effort between FY 2014 and FY 2015 would be at least a 50% decline. Data provided in Table 12 (*Document # 4b, NEFSC/SSB, Recreational Catch and Effort Tables, dated January 14, 2015*) supports this concern as declines in effort between FY 2013 to FY 2014 from the GOM cod and GOM haddock wave 5 (September 1 to October 31) closure were estimated to be a 85% decline overall.



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

CONSENSUS STATEMENT 2

The RAP feels that under no possession of GOM cod that party, charter, and private vessels will be much less likely to fish in areas known to have aggregations of cod and less likely to use equipment to target cod. The ability of anglers to avoid cod is not taken into account in FY 2015 recreational catch projections. Therefore, the RAP feels that cod bycatch would be greatly reduced from what is projected for FY 2015.



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

CONSENSUS STATEMENT 3

Recreational discards were not considered in the allocation of GOM cod and haddock. Discard mortality estimates are being used in recreational catch projections to determine potential accountability measures (AMs). The RAP recommends that this concern be considered when implementing AMs.



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

MOTION 3

In light of no possession on cod and expected declines in effort (including consideration of Motions 1 and 2 and Consensus Statements 1, 2, and 3), the RAP recommends that proactive AMs for GOM haddock in FY 2015 be a bag limit of at least 4 fish, a 17 inch minimum fish size, and closed seasons during wave 2 (March 1 to April 30) and wave 5 (September 1 to October 31).

The motion passed by a show of hands (11/1/0).



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

MOTION 4

The RAP recommends exploration of conservation equivalent proactive AMs to separate party/charter from the private modes in FY 2015 (e.g., Letter of Authorization (LOA) for charter boats to have a reduced season in exchange for an increased bag limit).

The motion passed by a show of hands (6/5/1).



RAP Meeting

January 22, 2015

MOTION 5

The RAP requests that limited access in the party/charter fleet be addressed in the next available Groundfish action.

The motion passed by a show of hands (9/3/0).



For Today's Council Discussion

- 1) Do you wish to forward the RAP recommendations to NMFS?
- 2) Do you wish to suggest that NMFS looks at different approaches? If so, what might those be?

