

# Herring Framework 5 Final Action

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**NEFMC Meeting**  
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# Doc #3 – Section 1.2 (p.17)

## Draft Purpose and Need

Purpose	Need
Propose measures that would incentivize the midwater trawl fleet to minimize the incidental catch of haddock in the herring fishery while providing the opportunity to fully harvest the sub-ACL of herring for Herring Management Areas 3 and 1B	Reduce the potential for negative impacts on the herring fishery from reducing the opportunity to fish the TAC in Area 3 and 1B, and avoid potential impacts to the supply of herring used as bait for the lobster fishery.
	Reduce the potential for negative impacts on the mackerel fishery since those vessels are also impacted by the GB haddock AM.



# Alternatives under consideration (p.18-23)

- **Section 2.1 - GB Haddock AMs**

**2.1.1 No Action** – *in-season closure for herring vessels using MWT gear, and a pound for pound payback for any overage (Figure 2 on p. 11)*

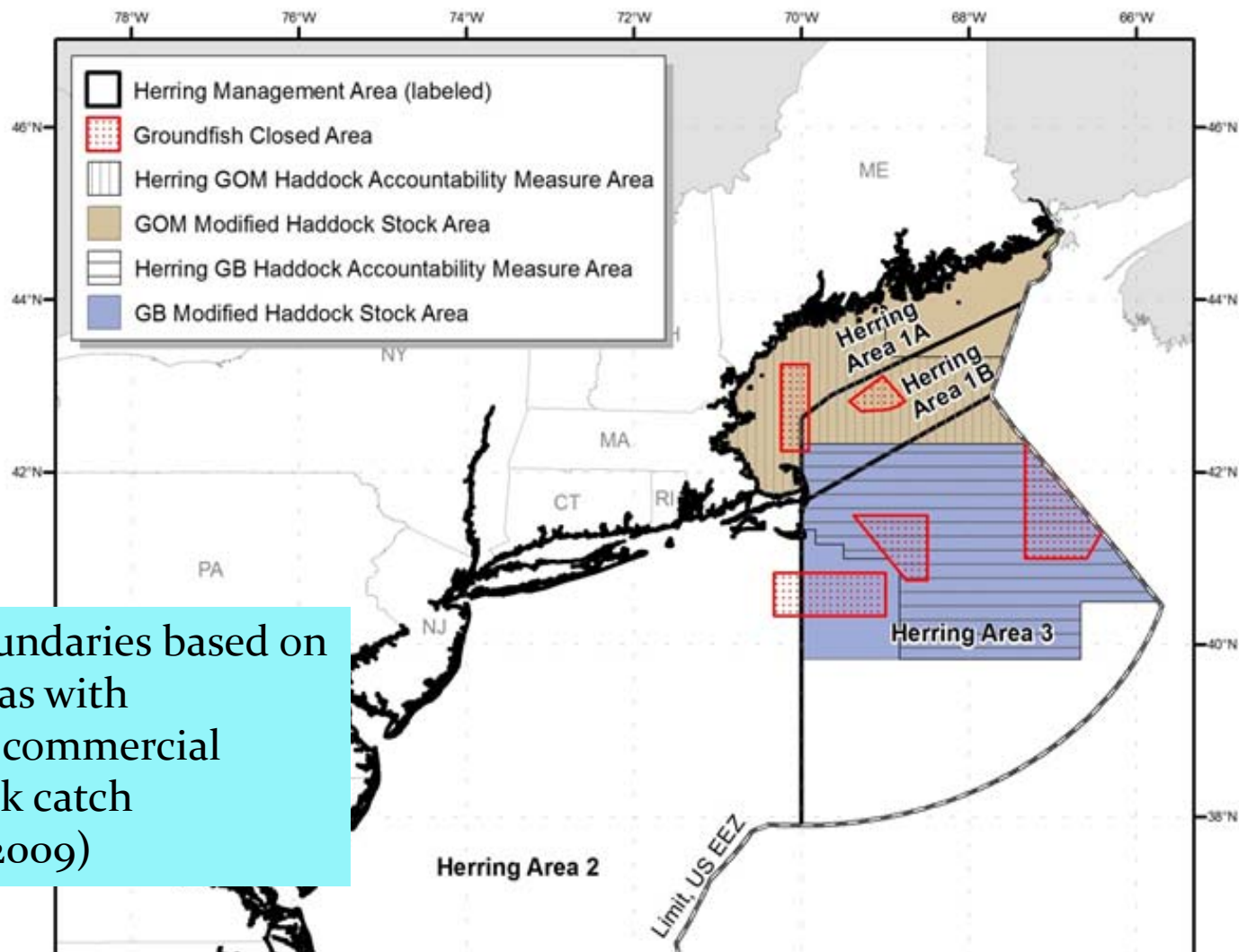
Intent: *close area that encompasses 90% of commercial haddock fishery so herring fishery does not exceed their sub-ACL*

**2.1.2 Proactive AM with current reactive AM** – *automatic closure of areas coupled with current reactive AM when sub-ACL is harvested.*

Intent: *close areas with highest haddock bycatch rates to hopefully slow haddock catch during the season and help prevent larger closure of GB, with negative impacts on herring, mackerel, and lobster fisheries.*



# No Action Haddock AM areas

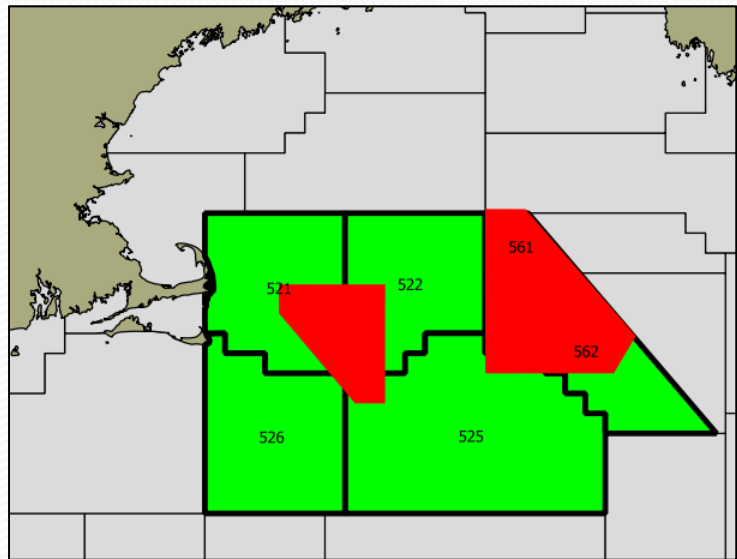
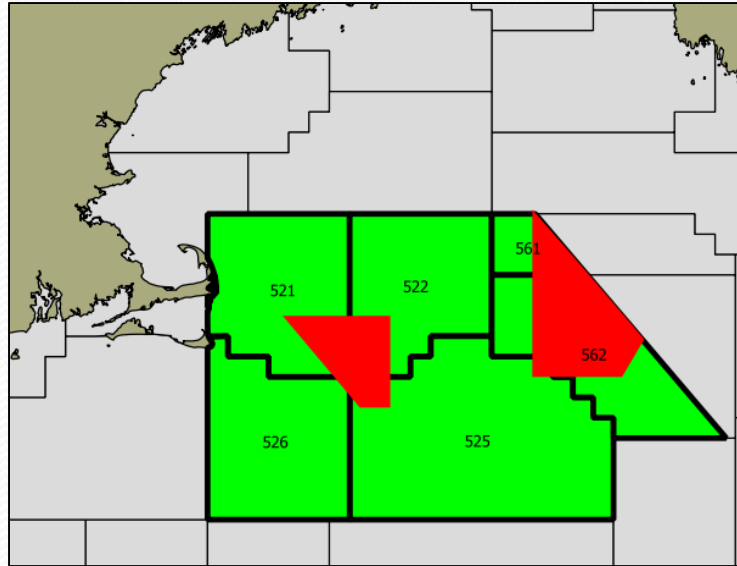


AM Boundaries based on  
stat areas with  
90% of commercial  
haddock catch  
(2006-2009)



## 2.1.2 – Proactive AMs

- Alt. 2 Option 1 (Fig.4)
  - Year-round
  - May-Oct
  - June-Aug
- Alt 2. Option 2 (Fig. 5)
  - Year-round
  - May-Oct
  - June-Aug



## Section 2.2 – Implementation of GB Haddock AMs

- 2.2.1 No Action – AM is triggered in-season based on an extrapolation of observed catch to the entire fishery using the cumulative method.
- 2.2.2 Seasonal split of sub-ACL – 80% of sub-ACL would be available on May 1 and the remaining 20% would be added on Nov 1. AM area would close when fishery catches 80% and reopened on Nov 1 if TAC remaining. This split would not be automatic – set by specs process
  - 2.2.2.1 Seasonal split for FY2017 and FY2018

*Intent: reduce negative impacts by reserving portion of haddock sub-ACL for winter herring/mackerel fishing. Could increase risk of triggering reactive AM, but some costs could be outweighed by winter access.*



## Section 2.2 – Implementation of GB Haddock AMs

- 2.2.3 Amend how estimated catch is calculated – *incorporate state portside sampling NEFMC awaiting response from GARFO*

*Update at Jan Herring meeting: GARFO received extrapolated catch composition data from the Maine and Massachusetts portside sampling programs and has loaded the raw data into a database and merged the two data sources. The data have been matched to GARFO VTR systems to facilitate integration into existing catch cap quota monitoring methodologies. GARFO is currently in the process of integrating the data into monitoring procedures. This process is ongoing and will provide a comparison with existing catch cap methodology that only uses NEFOP observer data.*





## Section 2.3 – Considered and rejected alternatives

- 2.3.1 Alt. 2 Option 3 – proactive closures of stat areas 521, 561, 562, and 525.
- 2.3.2 Alt. 2 Option 4 – proactive closures of 561, 562, and 525.  
Other options would afford similar protections for haddock more efficiently.
- 2.3.3 Alternative 3 – Establish an AM season  
Not practical with in-season AM (seasons incorporated in proactive AMs instead)
- 2.3.4 Modify the pound for pound payback – no payback unless the total GB haddock sub-ACL was exceeded  
Could reduce incentive to avoid haddock and sub-ACL was just increased to 1.5%





# Groundfish Framework 56 update

## November 2016 Council mtg preferred alternatives:

- Increase the sub-ACL for GB haddock in the midwater trawl Atlantic herring from 1% of the US ABC to 1.5%.

	FY2017	FY2018
No Action	450	724
Alternative 2 (1%)	534	724
Alternative 2 (1.5%)	801	1,087*

*\* Preliminary – subject to change from US/Canada Agreement*

- Following a GB haddock stock assessment, review the sub-ACL to recommend to the Council a sub-ACL for the midwater trawl Atlantic herring fishery of up to 2% of the US ABC, considering: catch performance, stock status, recruitment, etc.



# Section 3.0 Affected Environment

- Pages 27 – 104
- Some tables and text still being developed
- Some highlights since last specs package
  - observer coverage by gear and month (through 2015)
  - EFH consistent with recent Omnibus action
  - PR section pared down and updated
  - Herring catch and % of ACL by area
  - Other fisheries (lobster, tuna, gf, striped bass) and whale watching



## Table 7 - Page 37

FY	Georges Bank			Gulf of Maine		
	Haddock cap (mt)	Haddock catch (mt)	% caught	Haddock cap (mt)	Haddock catch (mt)	% caught
2011	318	101	32%	11	3	23%
2012	286	285	100%	9	0	0%
2013	273	285	105%	3	0.1	2%
2014	162	114	70%	3	0	0%
2015	227	235.54*	104%*	14	0*	0%*

*Note:* Catch Caps are based on groundfish fishing year (May 1 – April 30).

*Source:* NOAA/NMFS

([http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports\\_frame.htm](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm))

\*Preliminary totals





## Section 4.0 Potential Impacts (p.105-141)

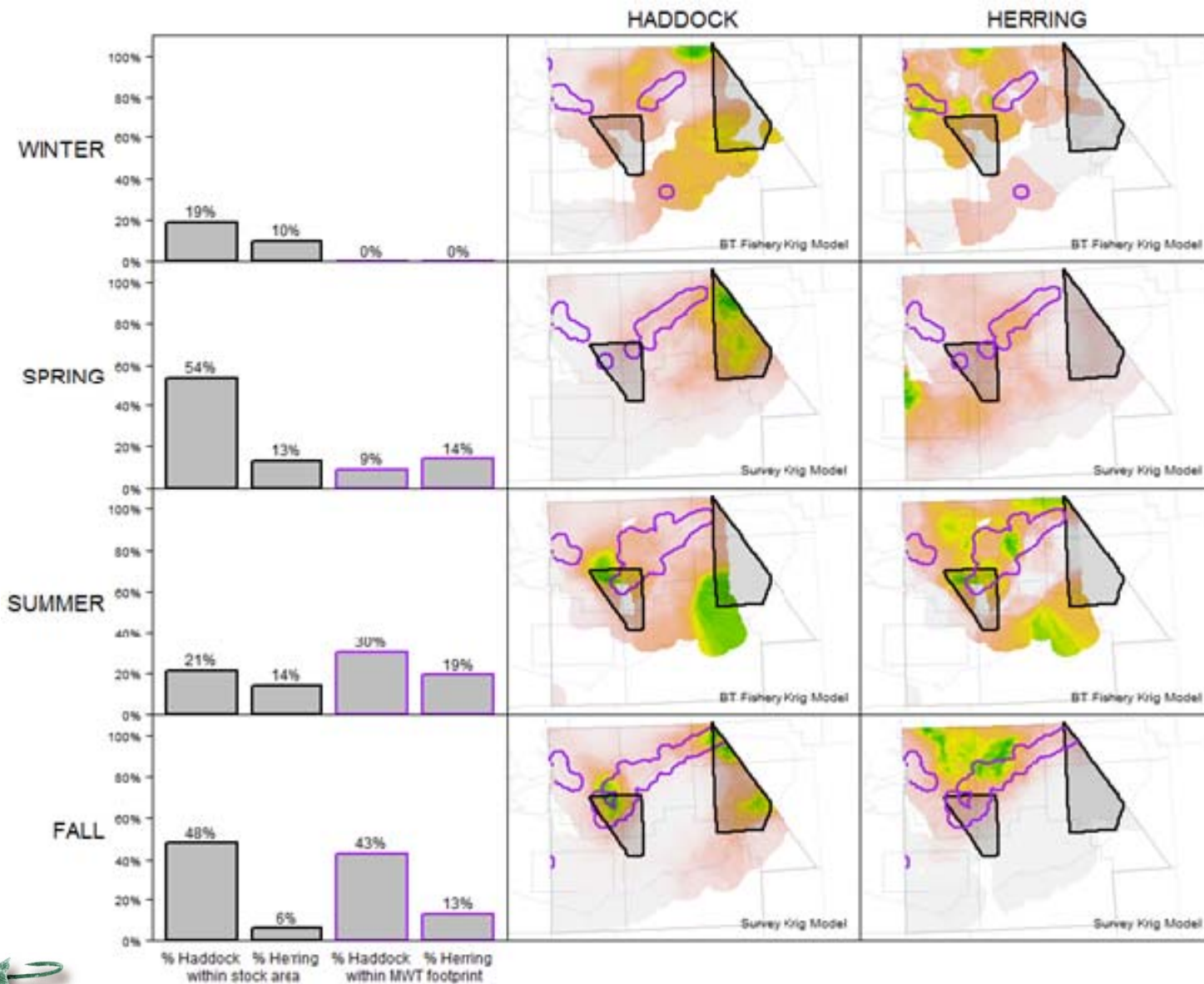
- PDT has met numerous times over the summer and fall to develop analyses for FW5.
- Sub-group of PDT members developed a model of haddock and herring distribution from NEFSC survey and NEFOP observer datasets to develop and analyze alts (App I, p.151).
- AP and Cmte reviewed draft impacts in January 2017
- Focus on biological, non-target and economic impacts since overall neutral impacts on EFH and protected resources.



# Biological and Non-target impacts

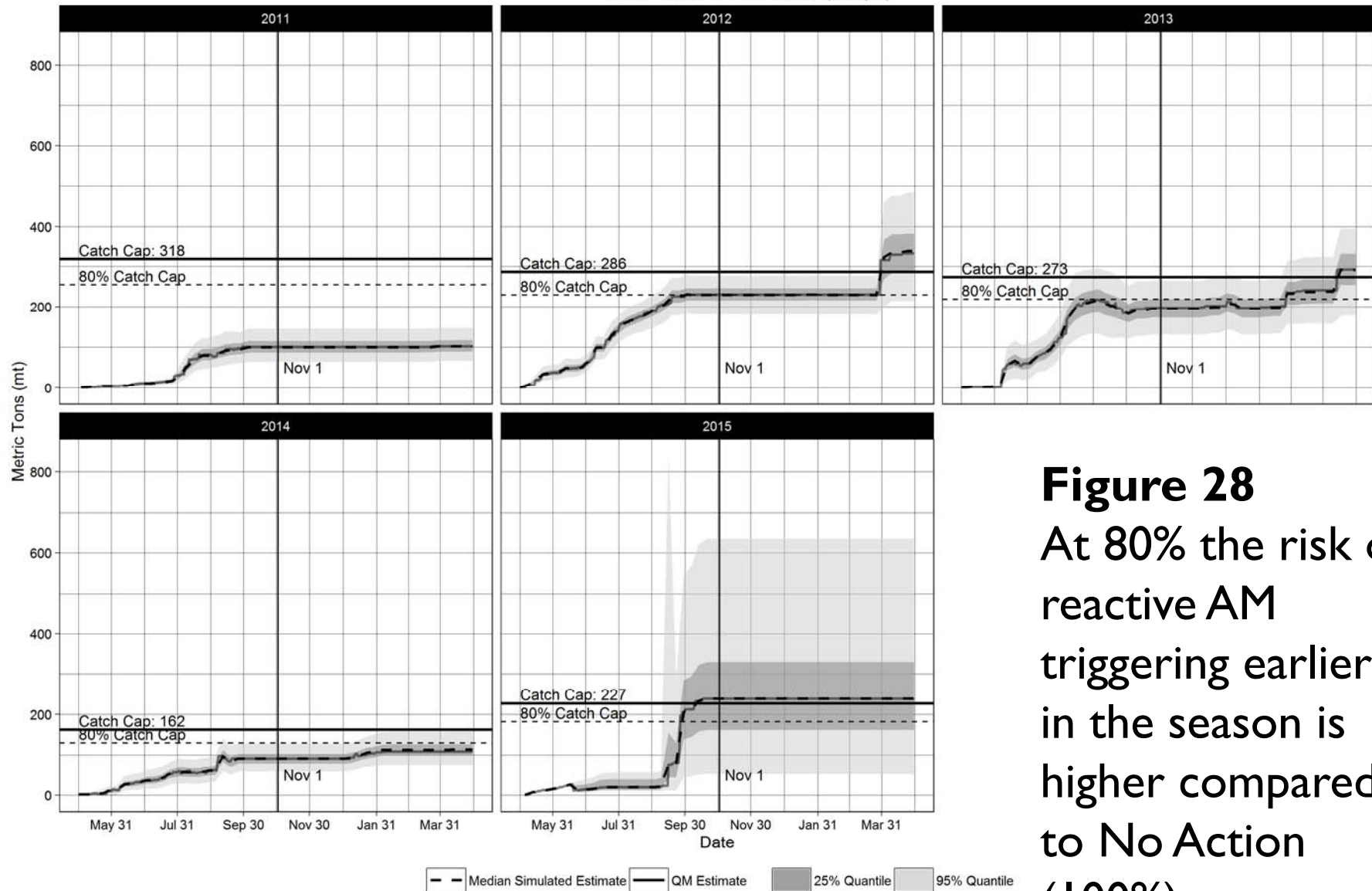
	HERRING RESOURCE	NON-TARGET
No Action	Low positive to neutral.	Positive. If effort shifts there could be increased impacts on other bycatch species, i.e. river herring bycatch rates are higher in Area 2 and inshore compared to offshore areas in Area 3.
Proactive AM (CA <sub>1</sub> and CA <sub>2</sub> ) Proactive AM (CA <sub>1</sub> and CA <sub>2</sub> extended)	Low positive to neutral. Longer closure options may have more potential for low positive impacts; shorter seasons expected to have more neutral impacts.	Low positive to neutral. Total haddock catch could be lower if proactive AMs reduce haddock catch, but the same reactive AM in place so mostly neutral impacts compared to No Action.
Subdivide sub-ACL (80% / 20%)	Neutral. Some concerns about monitoring.	Neutral. No substantial impact on haddock resource or fishery at these low levels (1% or 1.5%).

# GF Closed Areas I and II – Figure 25





GB Haddock Catch Cap: Simulated Performance  
Stratification: May-Oct | Nov-Apr  
Transition Rate: Baseline (5 trips)



**Figure 28**  
At 80% the risk of reactive AM triggering earlier in the season is higher compared to No Action (100%).

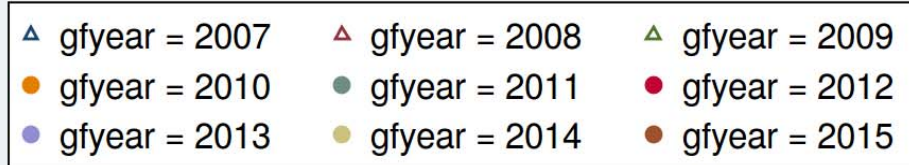
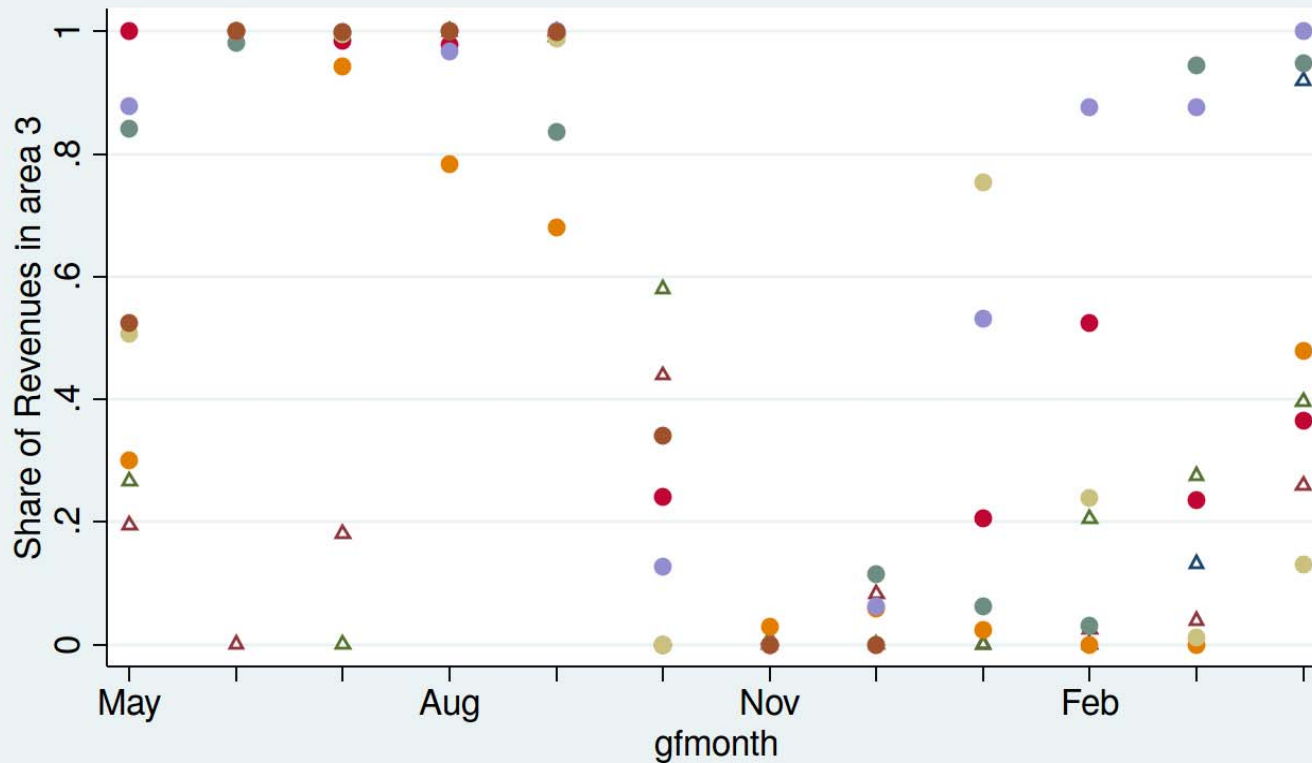


# Economic impacts

No Action	<b>Negative to neutral.</b> In years AM does not trigger more neutral impacts, but vessels do likely incur costs if they change behavior during the season to avoid haddock. In years the reactive AM does trigger there are potentially negative economic impacts for herring, mackerel and lobster fisheries.
Proactive AM (CA1 and CA2)	<b>Negative to low positive.</b> Proactive closures reduce areas open to fishery; high overlap in some years and low overlap in other years. If proactive closures prevent larger reactive AM, then positive impacts on herring, mackerel and lobster fisheries.
Proactive AM (CA1 and CA2 extended)	
Subdivide sub-ACL (80% / 20%)	<b>Negative to Positive.</b> Positive if it enables winter fishery, but not shared by all participants the same. Negative if AMs trigger earlier when lobster bait in highest demand (late summer/early fall).



# Figure 29 – Total revenue share from Area 3 compared to all areas (herring and mackerel combined)





# Economic impacts (cont.)

Table 44 – All Herring Landings, MWT Herring Landings, and Share of MWT Herring Landings from the CA1 and CA2 areas **in Jan - Dec** (landings in mt).

Year	All Areas		CA1 and CA2		CA1plus & CA2plus	
	All landings	MWT landings	All landings	MWT Share	All landings	MWT Share
2008	80,406	51,592	4,806	9%	6,469	13%
2009	96,750	70,452	13,832	20%	20,206	29%
2010	64,098	51,941	2,735	5%	5,894	11%
2011	79,549	58,669	2,568	4%	10,146	17%
2012	85,497	61,859	12,170	20%	16,650	27%
2013	93,665	62,039	3,596	6%	13,247	21%
2014	90,000	56,918	4,083	7%	6,512	11%
2015	77,582	51,281	1,234	2%	9,288	18%



# Council Charge

- Review draft analyses for Framework 5.
- Identify final preferred alternatives.
- AP and Committee recommend No Action (Doc.#2).
- If action taken today, potential implementation would be early summer 2017.

