RECREATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL

by Webinar

November 12, 2026

New England Fishery
Management Council

Groundfish Outlook by Quarter in 2026, updated November 12, 2026, NEFMC Staff

Council Priority*	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Amendment 25	Final Submission		GARFO implementation	
Recreational Measures	Develop recommendations for cod & haddock	GARFO implementation		Planning for development of FY2027 measures
Framework Adjustment 72	Preliminary & Final Submissions		GARFO implementation	
Amendment 23 Review	Conduct review analyses		Complete review	Consider recommendations for follow-up actions
Redfish Sector Exemption Review	Conduct review analyses	Complete review		Consider recommendations for follow-up actions
ABC Control Rules Framework (68)	Contract work conducted to evaluate integration of Council's new Risk Policy with revised ABC CRs			Develop revised ABC CRs from simulation testing; develop ABC stability tools
Framework Adjustment 74		Develop scope / Initiate action	Develop specifications & measures, conduct analysis	Final action
Atlantic Cod Management			Continue to develop transition plan; planning for IRA #2 groundfish management transition listening sessions (spring 2027)	
White Hake Rebuilding			Conduct rebuilding plan analyses & review biological reference points (align with 2027 MT assessment)	
Stock Assessments		MT- GB haddock (Jun.)	Updates for transboundary mgmt. (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder) (Jul.)	MT- GOM haddock, plaice Data updates- pollock, witch flounder, halibut (Sept.)

*Additional: Participate in TMGC, coordinate on EFH designation updates, and make recommendations for 2027 Council priorities

Recreational Measures

PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING YEAR 2027 MEASURES

For Today

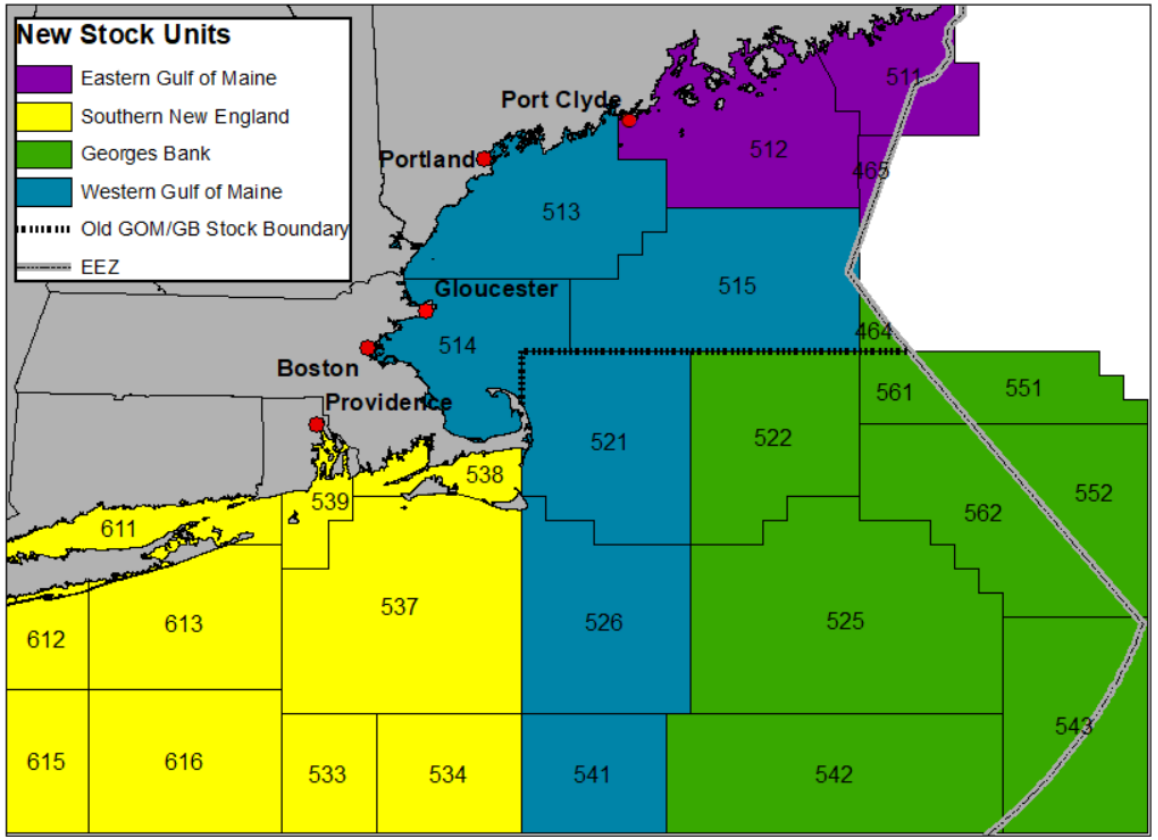
Process and tools for recreational measures development for fishing year 2027

- Receive an overview refresher from NEFSC staff of the recreational demand model (RDM) and decision support tool (DST) used to develop recreational measures for Western Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock.
- Opportunity to ask questions and prepare for development of recreational measures in January 2027.

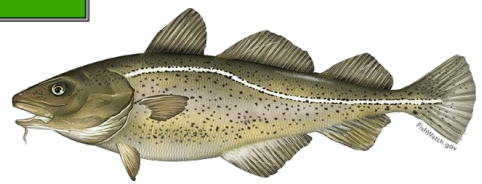
Recreational fishing data

- Receive an overview from NEFSC staff of recreational fishing data for fishing year 2025 and preliminary fishing year 2026 (*if available*).
- Preliminary data discussion to prepare for development of recreational measures in January 2027.

REVISED ATLANTIC COD STOCK STRUCTURE

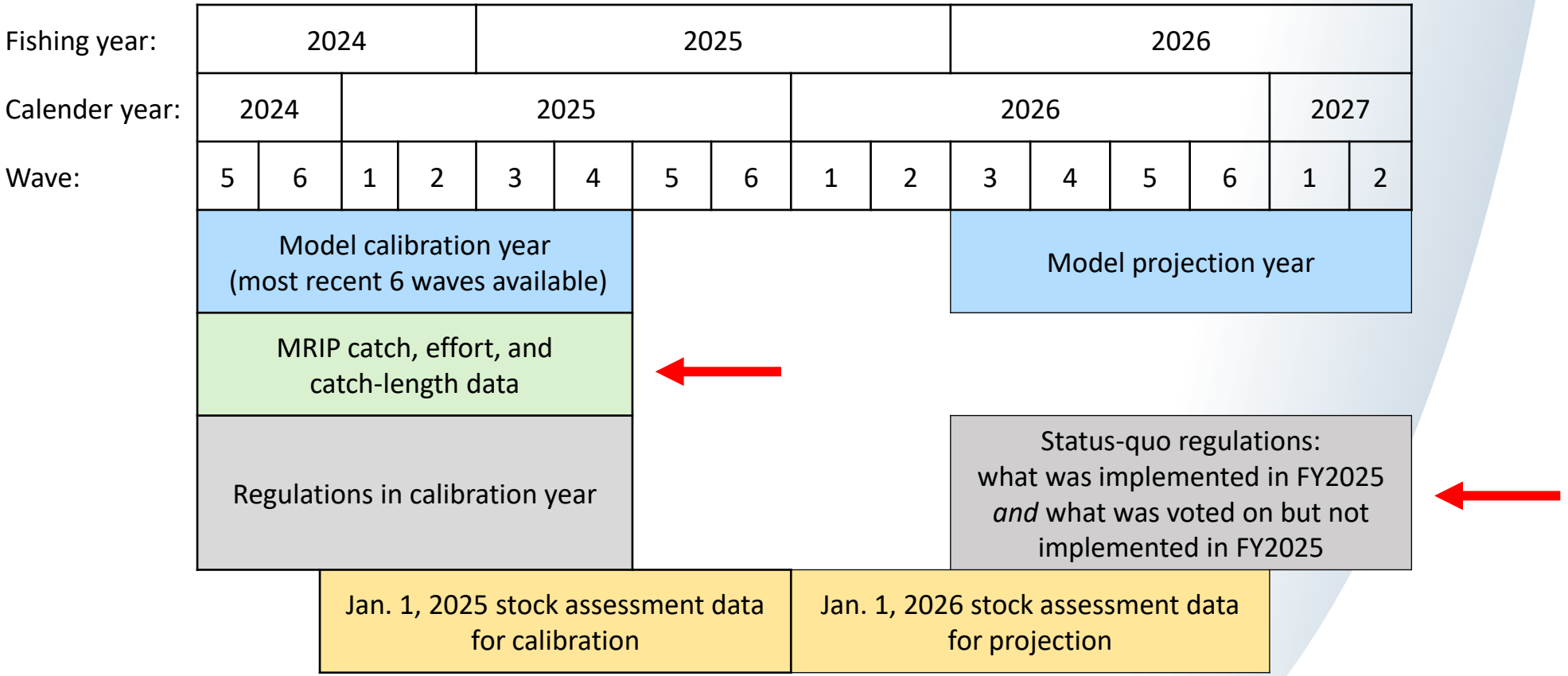


Amendment 25 - effective June 30, 2026

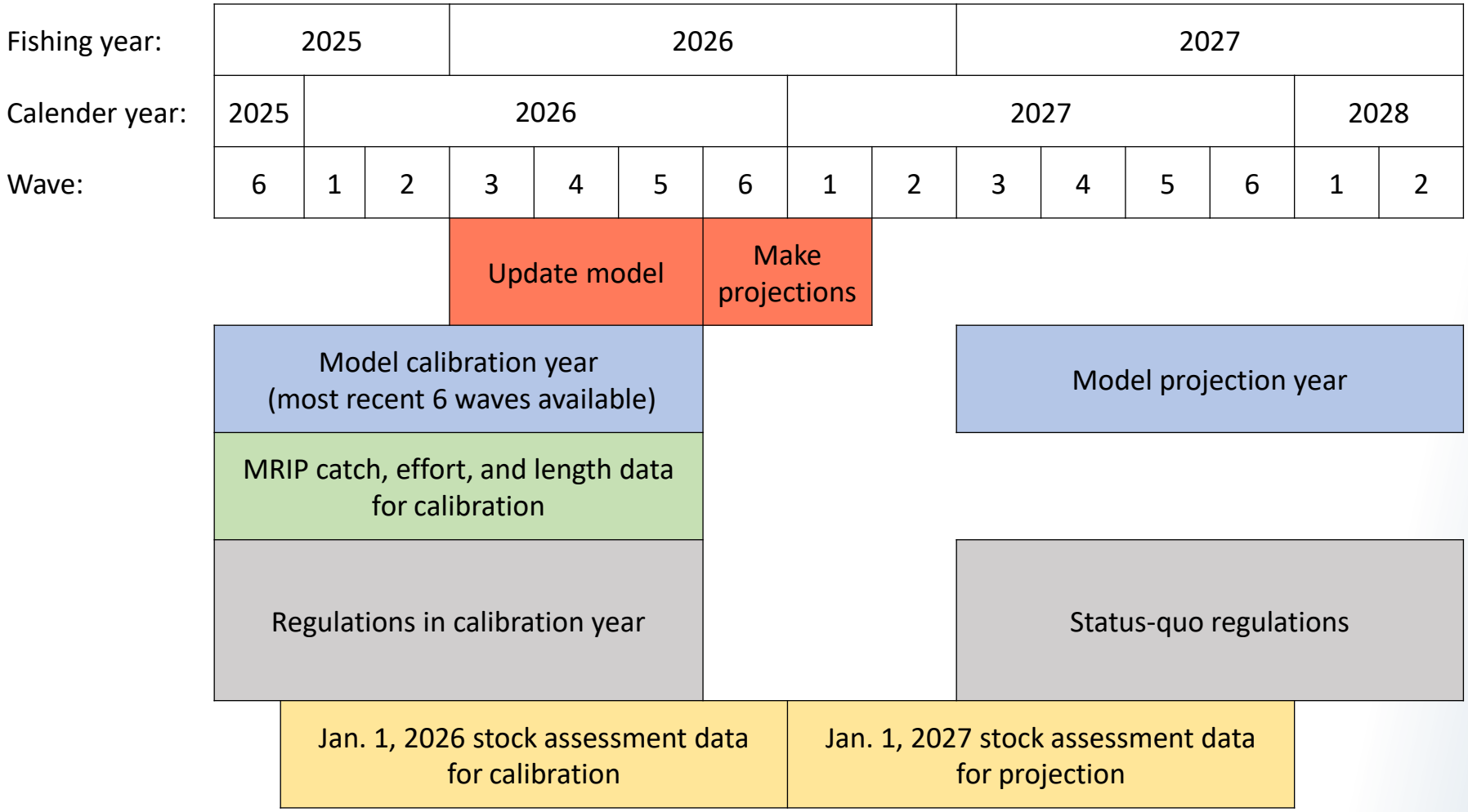


Fishing Year 2026 measures process – challenges

MRIP data delay – no Wave 5 data at time of RAP/Committee meeting



Fishing Year 2027 measures – data and work schedule



PLANNED TIMELINE FOR 2027 RECREATIONAL MEASURES PROCESS

Nov. 12	RAP meeting - RDM and DST refresher and updates
Dec. 15	MRIP Wave 5 data available, loaded into DST
Late Dec./Early Jan.	NEFSC DST training/refresher sessions
January	DST goes ‘live’, recreational advisors and committee members run possible measures in the DST
Week of Jan 25.	RAP and Committee meetings to recommend FY2027 recreational measures for WGOM cod and GOM haddock
Feb. 2-4	Council recommends FY2027 recreational measures for WGOM cod and GOM haddock

FISHERY PERFORMANCE OBSERVATIONS

- Opportunity to share perspectives/observations on recreational fishery catch and effort in fishing year 2025 and fishing year 2026 so far

- Observations by:
  - Region
  - Season
  - Mode

Framework 74 / Specifications and Management Measures

FOR TODAY

Framework 74 / Specifications and Management Measures

- Receive an update on the development of the action including the draft alternatives.
- Discussion/recommendations to the Committee on preferred alternatives.

DRAFT SCOPE

Fishing year (FY) 2027-2031 Specifications and Management Measures, to:

- Set FY2027 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and FY2027-FY2028 TACs for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2027 specifications for GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder,
- Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder,
- Set FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Atlantic halibut, exploring sources of best available science to support catch setting methods,
- Review sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, others as time permits,
- Review GB haddock sub-ACL in the mid-water trawl/herring fishery, set the sub-ACL at a fixed percentage amount, and discontinue the review requirement,
- Simplify the criteria for reducing the size of the windowpane flounder accountability measures area, and
- Streamline administration of the B DAS Program and Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock Special Access Program

DRAFT RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

1. Specifications
    - FY2027 TACs for US/Canada management units of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
    - FY2027 specifications for GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder,
    - FY2027-FY2031 specifications for GOM haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder, and Atlantic halibut
    - Sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, ~~others as time permits~~,
    - Review of GB haddock sub-ACL in the mid-water trawl/herring fishery, set the sub-ACL at a fixed percentage amount, and discontinue the review requirement

DRAFT RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

2. Fishery Program Administration
    - Streamline administration of the B DAS Program and Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock Special Access Program (SAP)

3. Commercial Fishery Measures
    - Simplify the criteria for reducing the size of the windowpane flounder accountability measures (AM) area

DRAFT TIMELINE

2026	
MAY-JUN	Committee/AP/PDT preliminary discussion
JUN 23-25	**Council initiates framework**
JUN 29	Peer Review – Management Track Assessment for GB haddock
JUL-SEP	Committee/AP/PDT develop draft alternatives
SEP 22-23	Peer review – Management Track Assessments for GOM haddock and American plaice
OCT 7	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for witch flounder* and windowpane flounder (northern and southern)*
OCT 14-16	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder stock
OCT 27-28	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GOM haddock, American plaice, pollock*, and Atlantic halibut*
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue developing draft alternatives and complete impact analysis
DEC 8-10	**Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action**
2027	
JAN	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAR	NMFS publishes proposed rule
MAY 1	Target Implementation

*Data update

FY2027-FY2031 Specifications for Groundfish Stocks

New England Fishery Management Council

SUMMARY OF OFLs AND ABCs FOR FY2027-FY2031

	Fishing Year									
	2027		2028		2029		2030		2031	
Stock	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC
Eastern Gulf of Maine cod	39	30								
Western Gulf of Maine cod	769	586								
Georges Bank cod	400	400								
Southern New England cod	65	36								
Georges Bank haddock	5,277	5,277								
Gulf of Maine haddock	2,099	1,634	1,730	1,342	1,640	1,268	1,711	1,268	1,815	1,268
Georges Bank yellowtail flounder	57	57								
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder	56	33	67	33	80	33	92	33		
Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder	2,638	1,736	3,086	1,736	3,505	1,736	3,860	1,736		
American plaice	4,219	3,298	3,880	3,020	4,053	3,020	4,311	3,020	4,533	3,020
Witch flounder	unknown	1,526	unknown	1,526	unknown	1,526	unknown	1,526	unknown	1,526
Georges Bank winter flounder	2,148	1,681	2,070	1,627	2,061	1,613	2,060	1,612		

SUMMARY OF OFLs AND ABCs FOR FY2027-FY2031

	Fishing Year									
	2027		2028		2029		2030		2031	
Stock	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC
Gulf of Maine winter flounder	1,064	798	1,064	798	1,064	798	1,064	798		
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder	1,009	532	1,055	556	1,101	556	1,148	556		
Redfish	7,203	5,427	6,999	5,273	6,723	5,065	6,513	4,907		
White hake	1,760	1,261	1,640	1,174	1,618	1,157	1,698	1,215		
Pollock	15,903	9,005	14,428	9,005	14,031	9,005	13,361	9,005	13,016	9,005
Northern windowpane flounder	unknown	202	unknown	202	unknown	202	unknown	202	unknown	202
Southern windowpane flounder	481	361	481	361	481	361	481	361	481	361
Ocean pout	125	87	125	87	125	87	125	87		
Atlantic halibut	unknown	125	unknown	125	unknown	125	unknown	125	unknown	125
Atlantic wolffish	124	93	124	93	124	93	124	93		

RECREATIONAL SUB-ACLS

	FY2026	Draft FY2027
WGOM Cod	118 mt	150 mt
GOM Haddock	1,146 mt	515 mt
SNE Cod	18 mt	18 mt

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – NOVEMBER 10, 2026

- The PDT confirmed its approach of using the 3-year recent average of year-end catch for determining state and other sub-components, in the absence of other information.
- The final year-end catch report for FY2025 is not yet available. The PDT used preliminary FY2025 catch data from GARFO in the calculations along with final year-end catch data from FY2023 and FY2024.
- The PDT compared the current other fisheries and/or state waters sub-component percentages (and associated values) to the updated 3-year average catch (FY2023-FY2025) to develop recommendations.

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Pollock

- FY2025 recreational catch is not yet available.
- The PDT used FY2022-FY2024 catch data for pollock.
- Pollock is the only stock with revised specifications and recreational catch that is affected by the delay in FY2025 data (GOM haddock is allocated a fixed percentage for recreational sub-ACL).

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Southern Windowpane Flounder

- Alternative option for both the state waters and other sub-components - ***using the recent 3-year average catch would result in no amount allocated to the groundfish fishery*** after accounting for the scallop fishery sub-ACL (fixed 36% of the total ABC) and state and other sub-components.
- Both the state waters and other sub-components catch show increasing trends in recent years (FY2023-FY2025).
- The PDT offers an option that seeks to split the difference in increasing both the state waters and other sub-component percentage values, while providing an amount allocated to the groundfish fishery that covers their recent 3-year average catch (29 mt).
- Recognizes the proposed percentage value for the other sub-component would leave ~120 mt unaccounted for – this balance may be addressed by expected potential underage of the scallop fishery sub-ACL (Note: pending scallop fishery bycatch projections for FY2027).

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Atlantic Halibut

- Interim approach developed by the PDT and recommended by the SSC sets the U.S. ABC as the total ABC and does not include Canadian catch.
- PDT recommends a state waters sub-component percentage of 20%, following the approach that had been used previously by the Committee.
    - FW57 established a precedent that the state-waters sub-component should not exceed 20%.
- The recent 3-year average is less than 20% but the PDT recommends 20%.
- The state of Maine has made concerted efforts to reduce their catch, and setting at the recent 3-year average may be unnecessarily constraining.

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – PDT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC					
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY26	Recommendation for FY27	Justification	FY26	Recommendation for FY27	Justification
GB cod	No state waters catch of this stock			8% 12mt	5% 7.3mt	Decrease to 5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 4.6mt.
GB haddock	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.3mt) that sub-component can remain at 0mt.	0.5% 22mt	0.5% 15mt	Maintain at 0.5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 12.0mt.
GOM haddock	1.5% 34mt	0.5% 5.4mt	Decrease to 0.5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 3.4mt.	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.6mt) that sub-component can remain 0mt.
GB yellowtail flounder	No state waters catch of this stock			0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Maintain 0%, as there has been no catch of GB yellowtail flounder by other fisheries in recent years.

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – PDT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC					
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY26	Recommendation for FY27	Justification	FY26	Recommendation for FY27	Justification
American plaice	0% 0mt	0.5% 17mt	Increase to 0.5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 7.2mt.	0.5% 29mt	0.5% 17mt	Maintain at 0.5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 16.8mt.
Witch flounder	0.5% 8mt	0.5% 7.6mt	Maintain at 0.5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 8.1mt.	2.5% 38mt	5% 76mt	Increase to 5% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 67.5mt. Provides a buffer in case increasing trend continues.
Pollock	6% 670mt	8% 720mt	Increase to 8% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 703.6mt.	5.5% 614mt	5.5% 495mt	Maintain at 5.5% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 496.0mt.
Northern windowpane flounder	0% 0mt	4% 8.1mt	Increase to 4% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 8.6mt.	5% 7mt	13% 26mt	Increase to 13% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 26.6mt.

SUB-COMPONENT ANALYSIS – PDT RECOMMENDATIONS

	Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC					
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY26	Recommendation for FY27	Justification	FY26	Recommendation for FY27	Justification
Southern windowpane flounder	3% 6.4mt	6% 22mt	Increase to 6%. Does not fully cover the FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 30.4mt but provides a balance with ensuring groundfish fishery allocation.	46% 98mt	50% 181mt	Increase to 50%. Does not cover the FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 300.5mt but provides a balance with ensuring groundfish fishery allocation.
Atlantic halibut	26% 9mt	20% 25mt	Decrease to 20%. The Committee previously established precedent for state waters not to exceed 20%. Recognizes the State of Maine's efforts to constrain catch. Average FY2023-FY2025 catch is 13.9mt.	4.5% 1.6mt	4% 5mt	Decrease to 4% to cover FY2023-FY2025 average catch of 4.7mt.

ACTION 1 - SPECIFICATIONS

Which alternatives do you recommend?

Alternative 1 – No Action

- Default specifications for several stocks

Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

- FY2027 TACs for US/Canada management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder stock
- FY2027 specifications for GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder
- FY2027-FY2031 specifications for GOM haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder, and Atlantic halibut,
- Sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications

ACTION 1 - SPECIFICATIONS

Which alternatives do you recommend?

Alternative 3 – Midwater Trawl Atlantic Herring Fishery Sub-ACL for GB Haddock

Option 1 - No Action

- Maintain requirement for the PDT to review the GB haddock sub-ACL in the MWT/Atlantic herring fishery when the full GB haddock stock is assessed
- Review of sub-ACL includes a range of 1% up to 2% of the U.S. ABC.

Option 2 – Set the Sub-ACL at a Fixed Percentage and Discontinue the Review

- Set the sub-ACL at a fixed percentage value of 2 percent of the GB haddock U.S. ABC
- PDT would continue to monitor catches and make recommendations to the Council consistent with how other fisheries (e.g., scallops, small-mesh) with groundfish catches are evaluated

FOR TODAY

Framework 74 / Specifications and Management Measures

- Receive an update on the development of the action including the draft alternatives.
- Discussion/recommendations to the Committee on preferred alternatives.

GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TRANSITION

- Planning for 2027 workshops/listening sessions
- Groundfish Committee to discuss on November 16th

Draft Proposed 2027 Council Groundfish Priorities

DRAFT PROPOSED: 2027 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List							
Ref #	**Plan/Topic**	**Category**	**Type**	**Priority/Task**	**Estimated Timing**	**Coordination**	**Staff Months**
G1	Groundfish	Required	Staff Task	Complete and submit FW74	Complete early 2027		2
G2	Groundfish	Required	Action	Action to set ABC/ACL for groundfish stocks for FY2028-FY2032; US/CA stocks for FY2028 - Including rebuilding plans for four cod stocks and white hake - MRIP recalibrated data and commercial/recreational sub-allocations of cod	2027		10
G3	Groundfish	Required	Support	Groundfish Management Track Assessments (June - GB cod; Sept - EGOM, WGOM, SNE Gulf of Maine cod, white hake, witch flounder)	2027		1
G4	Groundfish	Required	Action	FW68 to revise ABC Control Rules	2027	IRA1	6
G5	Groundfish	Paused	Contract/Project	Groundfish Management Transitioning - Listening Sessions	2027	IRA2	Coordinated with IRA2
G6	Groundfish	New	Action	Revisions to redfish sector exemption program	Single Year		4
G7	Groundfish	New	Action	Revisions to Amendment 23 monitoring system	Multi-Year		1 to 12
G8	Groundfish	New	Action	Define Ecosystem Component status for several groundfish stocks	Multi-Year	IRA3	12

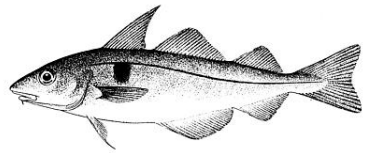
Draft Proposed 2027 Priorities - Related IRA Initiatives and Cross-FMP Priorities Under EO 14276

DRAFT PROPOSED: 2027 New England Fishery Management Council Priority List							
Ref #	**Plan/Topic**	**Category**	**Type**	**Priority/Task**	**Estimated Timing**	**Coordination**	**Staff Months**
IRA1	IRA	Required	Contract/Project	Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rules for Northeast Multispecies - UMaine contract - staff admin	Multiyear, completion 2027	G5	2
IRA2	IRA	Required	Contract/Project	Groundfish management transition - Contracted facilitator - staff admin	Multiyear, completion 2027	G6	1
IRA3	IRA	Required	Contract/Project	Operationalizing ecosystem approaches in NE fisheries management - UMass contract - staff admin; Compilation of information and report to Council - Maris contract - EC Species Guidance	Multiyear, completion 2027	G8	4

EO9	EO14274-NEFMC	Ongoing	Reiew or Action	Revisions to Accountability Measures - Holistic review and action identification with follow-on Omnibus - FMP-based multiple actions as time allows	Multi-Year	Cross-FMP	2 to 12
EO10	EO14274-NEFMC	Ongoing	Action	Fishery Management Plan revisions - FMP-based multiple actions as time allows	Multi-Year	Cross-FMP	2
EO11	EO14276-NEFMC	Ongoing	Review or Action	Revise exemption areas (e.g., seasons, boundaries, gear-specific) - Holistic review and action identification with follow-on Omnibus (Habitat, etc.) - FMP-based multiple actions as time allows	Multi-Year	Cross-FMP	6 to 18

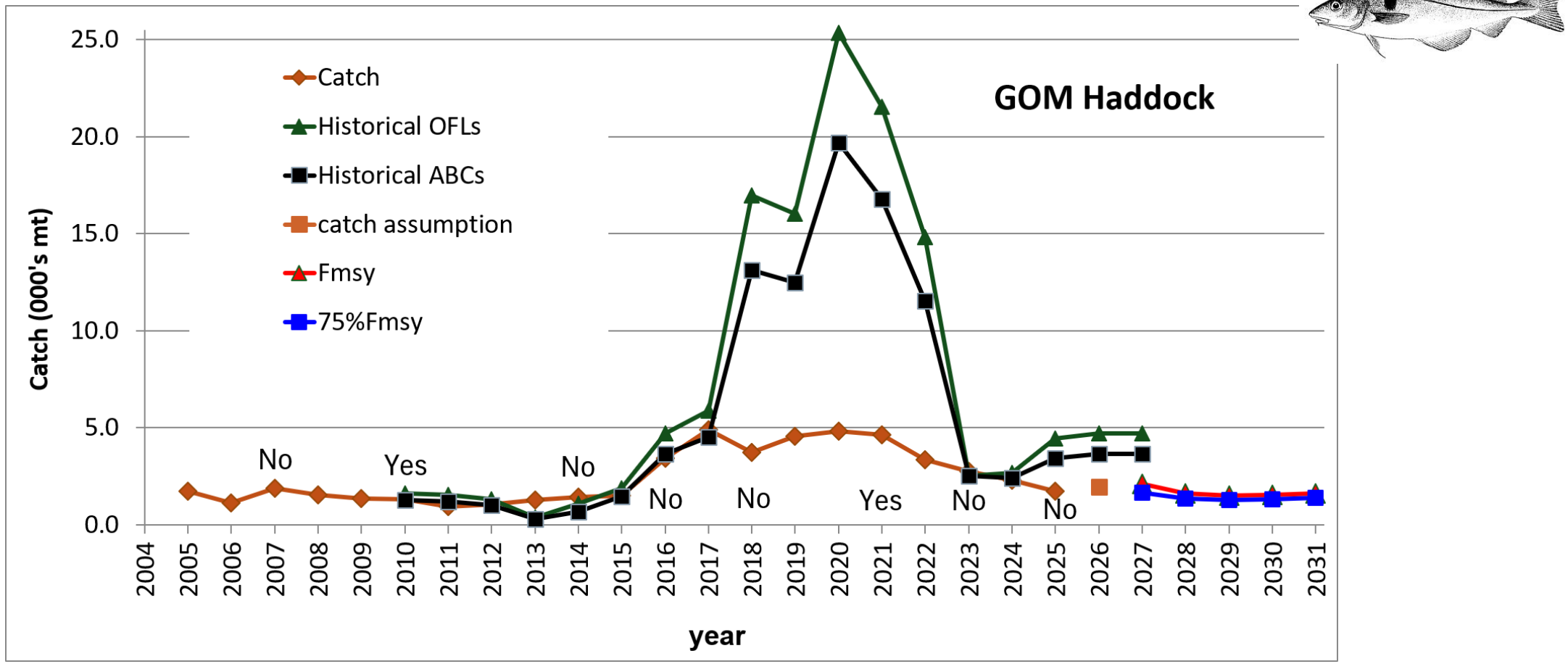
EXTRA SLIDES

GULF OF MAINE HADDOCK



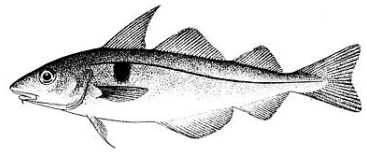
MODEL	WHAM
STOCK STATUS	Not Overfished, Overfishing is not occurring
REBUILDING	Rebuilt - Biomass = 145% of SSB_{target}
UNCERTAINTIES	Future recruitment - below-average recruitment since 2021. The fishery is heavily reliant on the 2020 and 2021 cohorts. Somatic growth in both cohorts has slowed recently. Without improved recruitment the population will continue to decline. Retrospective forecasting analysis indicates projections tend to be optimistic.
CHANGES	None other than adding new years of data.

CATCH PERFORMANCE



Overfishing status in the terminal year of the assessment indicated on the x-axis ("Yes" = overfishing; "No" = not overfishing).

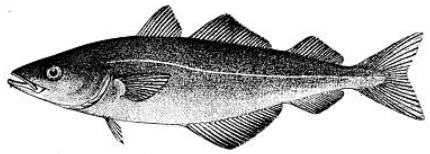
SSC RECOMMENDATIONS – GULF OF MAINE HADDOCK



Projection Uncertainty Option - 2029 ABC constant 75%F_{MSY}

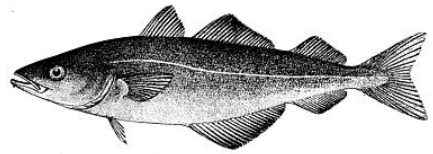
FY	OFL	ABC
2026	4,709	3,634
2027	2,099	1,634
2028	1,730	1,342
2029	1,640	1,268
2030	1,711	1,268
2031	1,815	1,268

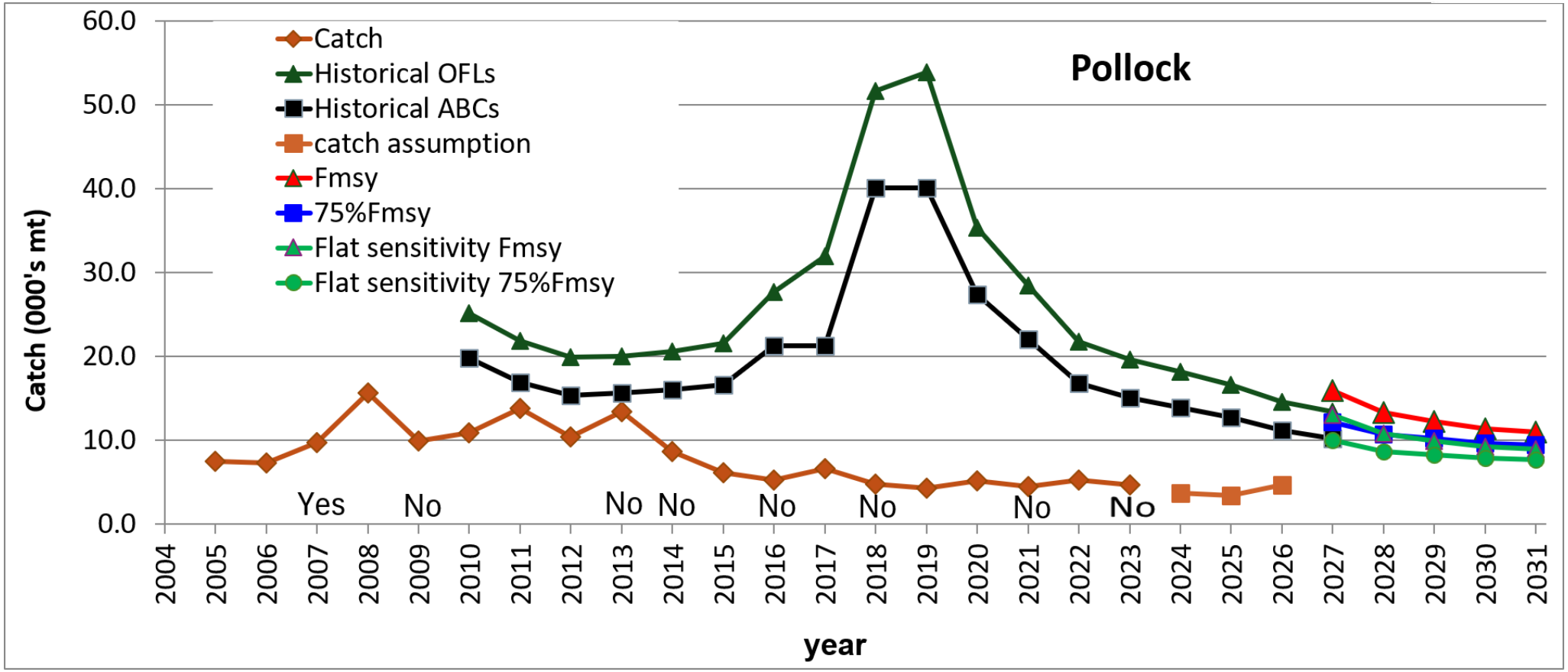
POLLOCK



MODEL	ASAP (2024), Data Update (2026)
STOCK STATUS	Not Overfished, and Overfishing is not occurring
REBUILDING	Rebuilt – SSB is 213% of SSB_{MSY} proxy
UNCERTAINTIES	The main source of uncertainty in the assessment is selectivity. The base model uses dome-shaped survey selectivity. A sensitivity model with flat-topped survey selectivity was conducted to demonstrate the sensitivity of the assessment results to survey selectivity assumptions.

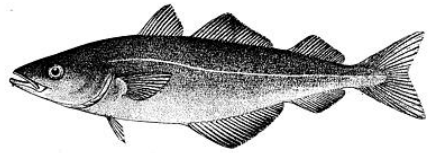
CATCH PERFORMANCE





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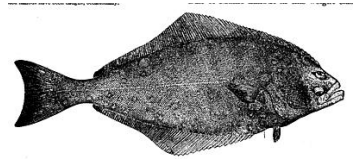
SSC RECOMMENDATIONS - POLLOCK



Projection Uncertainty Option – equilibrium long-term catch at 75%F_{MSY} constant

FY	OFL	ABC
2026	14,583	11,170
2027	15,903	9,005
2028	14,428	9,005
2029	14,031	9,005
2030	13,361	9,005
2031	13,016	9,005

SSC RECOMMENDATIONS – ATLANTIC HALIBUT



Maximum catch (2018-2025)

FY	OFL	ABC	U.S. ABC
2026	Unknown	106 mt	35 mt
2027	Unknown	125 mt	125 mt
2028	Unknown	125 mt	125 mt
2029	Unknown	125 mt	125 mt
2030	Unknown	125 mt	125 mt
2031	Unknown	125 mt	125 mt

GB HADDOCK MWT/HERRING FISHERY SUB-ACL REVIEW

The U.S. GB haddock ABC would decline 33% from fishing year (FY) 2026 to FY 2027

The mid-water trawl (MWT)/Atlantic herring fishery sub-ACL for GB haddock is currently set at 2% of the U.S. ABC.

A 7% management uncertainty buffer is applied to the sub-ABC to determine a sub-ACL.

If the haddock incidental catch cap is caught, any vessel issued a herring permit and using MWT gear may not fish for, possess, or land more than 2,000 lb of Atlantic herring in the Herring Haddock Accountability Measure Area.

Fishing Year	OFL	ABC	U.S. ABC	MWT sub-ABC %	MWT Sub-ACL
2026	8,177	8,177	4,425	2%	82
2027	5,277	5,277	2,973	2%	55
				1.5%	41
				1%	28

GB HADDOCK – COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH FISHERY UTILIZATION

Fishing Year	Sub-ACL	Landings	Discards	Catch	% Caught
2019	53,276	5,070.9	223.2	5,294.1	9.9%
2020	121,864	6,409.3	80.1	6,489.4	5.3%
2021	76,622	3,071.2	45.3	3,116.5	4.1%
2022	75,382	2,280.6	74.7	2,355.2	3.1%
2023	11,080	2,661.4	95.3	2,756.7	24.9%
2024	6,909	1,909.6	53.0	1,962.6	28.4%
Preliminary 2025	2,123.1	1,268.6	13.5	1,282.1	60.4%
In-season 2026	4,306.3	1,068.9	7.8	1,076.7	25.0%

Sources: Year-end multispecies catch reports, preliminary FY2025 catch report, and FY2026 in-season monitoring as of November 3, 2026, GARFO.

GB HADDOCK - MWT HERRING FISHERY UTILIZATION

Fishing Year	Sub-ACL	Landings	Discards	Catch	% Caught	CV on Catch	Observer Coverage % Trips
2019	811	0.15	0.00	0.15	0.02%	114%	7%
2020	2,447	10.0	0	10.0	0.41%	3%	5%
2021	1,539	0.2	0.01	0.21	0.01%	17%	42%
2022	1,514	0.1	0.0009	0.16	0.01%	0%	8%
2023	221	22.5	0	22.5	10.19%	95%	13%
2024	131	2.5	0	2.5	1.91%	0%	12%
Preliminary 2025	41	0.0	0	0.0	0.00%	0%	50%

Sources: *Year-end multispecies catch reports, preliminary FY2025 catch reporting as of October 5, 2026, GARFO.*

Note: Values include both Eastern and Western GB haddock estimates, combined; *initial quota monitoring estimates as of October 5, 2026.

Observer coverage indicates the percent coverage of midwater trawl trips that occurred in the GB haddock catch cap area.

PDT RECOMMENDATIONS

The PDT recommends maintaining the 2% of the U.S. ABC for GB haddock to the MWT Atlantic herring fishery:

- The GB haddock stock is rebuilt, not overfished and no overfishing is occurring. The reported scale of the population, and of the reference points as of the 2026 Management Track Assessment, are consistent with the last assessment in 2024.
- While utilization by the commercial groundfish fishery has increased in recent years with the decline in ABC, given the small range of sub-ACL values (28 mt to 55 mt) for the MWT Atlantic herring fishery, reducing the sub-ACL to 1% and shifting ~27 mt quota to the groundfish fishery would likely provide limited benefit to the groundfish fishery and could increase the potential for MWT Atlantic herring fishery AM to be triggered.
- In-season AMs would have negative impact on the MWT Atlantic fishery and maintaining the sub-ACL at 2% would allow more operational flexibility under low quotas in both fisheries.

PDT RECOMMENDATIONS

***The PDT recommends discontinuing the sub-ACL review in FW74*:**

- The GB haddock MWT Atlantic herring sub-ACL hasn't been exceeded since 2015, and catches are well below the sub-ACLs in recent years
- It is unlikely for MWT Atlantic herring fishery effort to increase in the near future on Georges Bank under low ACLs for Atlantic herring.
- The Council can still choose to modify the proportion of the ABC that is allocated to the MWT Atlantic herring fishery, if conditions change.

The Council may wish to consider in a future action if the sub-ACL continues to be needed.

- Also applies to the GOM haddock sub-ACL for the MWT/herring fishery, given catches are also very low.
- The PDT discussed that the Council may include consideration for removing the haddock catch caps and AMs through an upcoming herring action (Amendment 12).