

# Groundfish Advisory Panel Meeting

Webinar

June 2, 2022



# Draft Framework Adjustment 65

# Framework Adjustment 65

- **Goal:** Discuss development of draft specifications and measures
- **Key discussion question:** What management measures should be examined for Gulf of Maine cod and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder to promote stock rebuilding?
- **Outcome:** Motions to recommend alternatives to develop.



# Scope

Fishing year (FY) 2023- FY2025 Specifications/Management Measures, to:

- Revise status determination criteria, as appropriate,
- Revise rebuilding plans for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder,
- Set FY2023-FY2024 total allowable catches for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2023-FY2024 specifications for GB cod, including a catch target for the recreational fishery
- Set FY2023-FY2025 specifications for GB haddock, GOM haddock, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, white hake, Atlantic halibut, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish,
- Adopt additional measures to promote stock rebuilding for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder,
- Revise acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules, in consultation with the SSC.

# Objectives

To meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the commercial and recreational groundfish fishery.



# Range of Alternatives

## Range of Alternatives:

1. Revisions to status determination criteria
2. Revisions to formal rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder
3. Updates to annual catch limits
  - Specifications for sixteen groundfish stocks (GB cod, GB haddock, GOM haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, white hake, Atlantic halibut, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish)
  - Total allowable catches for transboundary stocks (EGB cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder)
  - Recreational fishery catch target for GB cod
  - Sub-annual catch limits for Atlantic Sea scallop, small-mesh multispecies, and herring fisheries
  - Review and possibly adjust sub-components (other fisheries and state)
4. Revisions to ABC control rules
5. Additional commercial and recreational management measures to promote stock rebuilding for GOM cod
6. Additional commercial and recreational management measures to promote stock rebuilding SNE/MA winter flounder

# Timeline

2022	
JAN 25-27	Peer review - Gulf of Maine haddock Research Track assessment
FEB 24	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (SNE/MA winter flounder)
MAR 16	Groundfish Committee meets
MAR 28-31	Peer review - Georges Bank /Eastern Georges Bank Research Track assessment
<b>APR 12-14</b>	<b>Council initiates framework</b>
APR 20	TRAC Intercessional
MAY 23-24	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (13 groundfish stocks)
JUN 1	Recreational Advisory Panel meets
JUN 2	Groundfish Advisory Panel meets
JUN 14	Groundfish Committee meets
JUN 27-30	Peer review - SNE/MA winter flounder Management Track assessment
<b>JUN 28-30</b>	<b>Council receives update on development of draft alternatives</b>

JUL 12-14	TRAC assesses US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock
JUL 18-22	Peer review – American plaice Research Track assessment
AUG 3	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (American plaice)
AUG/SEP TBD	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB yellowtail flounder, GB cod, and SNE/MA winter flounder, discusses rebuilding plans for GOM cod and SNE/MA winter flounder, discusses possible ABC control rule revisions
SEP 12-14	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units/stock
SEP 19-23	Peer review - 13 groundfish stocks Management Track Assessments
<b>SEP 27-29</b>	<b>Council receives TMGC recommendations and reviews progress on developing draft alternatives</b>
OCT/NOV TBD	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for 13 groundfish stocks
<b>DEC 6-8</b>	<b>Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action</b>
2023	
JAN	Preliminary submission of framework document to NMFS
FEB	Final submission of framework document to NMFS
MAY	Target implementation



# GF PDT Memo August 3, 2021

The PDT requests guidance from the Committee on developing additional measures to promote stock rebuilding. Specifically,

1. Which stock(s) to focus on?
  - a. Individual stocks
  - b. Groupings of stocks (e.g., species, area-based, stock assessment type, other approach)
2. What types of management measures?
  - a. Fisheries – identify the fishery components to focus on
  - b. Time/Area – establish additional closures to protect spawning or habitat
  - c. Gear – develop restrictions or modification requirements
  - d. Landings – change minimum legal-sizes or develop slot limits
  - e. Catches – increase management uncertainty buffers on sub-ACLs
  - f. Other types?



# Groundfish PDT- Meeting Summary 3/9/22

## Rebuilding Plans for GOM Cod and SNE/MA Winter Flounder:

- GOM cod:
  - Work to begin in the spring
  - Given that stock structure might change, perhaps consider another set of protections - more of a focus on spawning protections rather than a focus on the percent of  $F_{MSY}$  alone
- SNE/MA winter flounder:
  - Work to begin after spring peer review of the management track assessment
  - The rebuilding plan and management measures changes should focus on improving the probability of spawning and recruitment success.

# Groundfish PDT- Meeting Summary 3/9/22

## Annual Catch Limits:

- The majority of stock assessments will be done in the fall management track, but SNE/MA winter flounder, GB cod and GB yellowtail flounder will be available sooner.
- Update the risk policy matrix for all stocks with the most recent assessment results and an additional update with the assessments done later this year
- Sub-component reviews - skipped in FW63 but appropriate to include in this FW since most stocks are included
- Review of the GB haddock sub-ACL for the herring fishery
- Examination of management uncertainty buffers as part of the specifications process – specifically for sectors post-implementation of A23



# Groundfish PDT- Meeting Summary 3/9/22

## ABC Control Rules:

- A sub-group of PDT and SSC members will start with the current control rule and look at a range of options with input from the PDT and the Committee.
  - Consider the control rule policies summarized in the GMRI report
- The subgroup will present a summary white paper in July/August to the full PDT.

# Groundfish PDT- Meeting Summary 3/9/22

## **Additional Measures to Promote Stock Rebuilding for GOM Cod and SNE/MA Winter Flounder:**

- The PDT asks the Groundfish Committee - Should the focus in this section be on spawning protections or ways to promote spawning? Or some other aspect of rebuilding these stocks?
- As an initial step, the PDT could summarize spawning based on recent reports, publications, and potentially a new PDT analysis to identify times/areas.



# Groundfish Committee - Meeting 3/16/22

## *Committee Consensus Statement:*

Task the Groundfish Plan Development Team with conducting a preliminary analysis of other federal fisheries catches of Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder and present this at the April 2022 Council meeting.

# Recent Total Catches and Specifications

## SNE/MA Winter Flounder Utilization

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>Total ACL (mt)</b>	<b>Total Catch (mt)</b>	<b>Percent of Total ACL Caught (%)</b>
2016	749	597.2	79.7
2017	749	550.5	73.5
2018	700	398.0	56.9
2019	700	295.4	42.2
2020	699	233.4	33.4

**FYs 2021-2023**

<b>OFL</b>	<b>ABC</b>	<b>ACL</b>
1,438	456	441



# Groundfish PDT Report 4/1/22

## SNE/MA Winter Flounder Other Fisheries Catches

SNE/MA winter flounder other sub-component catch (mt). Total catch and groundfish fishery catch shown for comparison.

	Catch (mt)						
Fishing Year	Total	Groundfish Fishery	SCALLOP <sup>1</sup>	FLUKE	SCUP	SQUID	SQUID/WHITING
2010	370.1	47.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2011	298.7	93.9	60.3	16.4	8.3	19.5	6.8
2012	315.9	106.0	68.9	15.0	10.7	17.3	6.6
2013	1025.9	788.6	78.2	10.8	9.7	14.5	11.2
2014	703.2	545.8	33.3	6.4	5.7	6.6	3.2
2015	886.7	688.0	65.9	7.6	6.5	3.1	2.2
2016	597.2	453.3	40.4	3.6	3.7	19.6	8.5
2017	550.5	409.3	48.6	5.5	5.6	35.2	2.9
2018	398.0	250.7	52.5	3.8	3.5	47.9	3.2
2019	295.4	143.8	39.0	5.4	3.4	66.4	4.8
2020	233.4	103.2	34.6	6.3	3.3	57.2	4.8

FY2021 YTD  
Groundfish  
Commercial  
(Sector +  
Common Pool)  
Catches  
**80.2 mt**  
April 5, 2022,  
GARFO



<sup>1</sup>Based on scallop fishing year; all other columns are based on groundfish fishing year

# Groundfish PDT Report 4/1/22

## SNE/MA Winter Flounder Other Fisheries Catches

SNE/MA winter flounder other sub-components percentage of total catch (%). Groundfish fishery shown for comparison. Years in which catches exceeded 5% of total catch indicated by yellow cells.

*For the category described as “other non-specified”, catches will be monitored and if the catch rises above five percent accountability measures will be developed to prevent the overall ACL from being exceeded. A16*

	Percentage of Total Catch (%)					
<b>Fishing Year</b>	Groundfish Fishery	SCALLOP <sup>1</sup>	FLUKE	SCUP	SQUID	SQUID/WHITING
2010	12.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2011	31.4	20.2	5.5	2.8	6.5	2.3
2012	33.5	21.8	4.7	3.4	5.5	2.1
2013	76.9	7.6	1.1	0.9	1.4	1.1
2014	77.6	4.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.5
2015	77.6	7.4	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.2
2016	75.9	6.8	0.6	0.6	3.3	1.4
2017	74.3	8.8	1.0	1.0	6.4	0.5
2018	63.0	13.2	0.9	0.9	12.0	0.8
2019	48.7	13.2	1.8	1.1	22.5	1.6
2020	44.2	14.8	2.7	1.4	24.5	2.1

<sup>1</sup>Based on scallop fishing year; all other columns are based on groundfish fishing year



# Groundfish PDT Report 4/1/22

## SNE/MA Winter Flounder Other Fisheries Catches

- The increased percentage of SNE/MA winter flounder catches in non-groundfish fisheries in recent years is most likely explained by the dramatic decline in groundfish fishery catch (landings in particular) since this stock was allocated to the fishery in 2013.
- Catches from the scallop fishery sub-component have exceeded 5% of total catches in all but one year from FY2011-2020, though catches have declined slightly in recent years.
- Catches from the squid fishery sub-component have exceeded 5% of total catches in recent years from FY2017-2020, and catches have also increased over this time period.
- This preliminary analysis raised several questions by the PDT, mainly on squid fishery catches, that could be explored in future analyses depending on the Committee's direction.

# Framework Adjustment 65

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- **Outcome:** Motions to recommend alternatives to develop.



# Amendment 23 Review Metrics

# A23 Review Metrics

- **Goal:** Discuss progress on development of metrics
- **Key discussion question:** What additional metrics should be considered?
- **Outcome:** Discussion



# PDT Progress Report – A23 Review Metrics

**Purpose:** evaluate the efficacy of sector monitoring coverage rates, including establishing metrics and indicators of how well the monitoring program improved accuracy while maximizing value and minimizing costs

## Possible timeline:

2022	PDT develops possible review metrics and indicators for the Committee/Council to consider
2023	SSC input on possible metrics and indicators, complete preliminary analysis, Committee/Council determines metrics
2024	Review occurs (after two full years of data, assuming May 2022 implementation)

# PDT Progress Report – A23 Review Metrics

## Initial discussion questions for PDT:

- The review is to be done following the first two full fishing years once A23 is implemented. The PDT should determine a “before A23” range of years for comparison. What years should those be?
- Start to brainstorm an initial list of metrics and indicators. These may be different for the proposed higher coverage up to 100% vs. a lower coverage rate (i.e., the proposed default minimum coverage of 40%).
- Consider issues raised in the A23 proposed rule regarding measures that affect coverage rates (e.g., exclusions from monitoring coverage). How do these factor into development of the review metrics?



# PDT Discussion Notes 5/26/22

- Discussed whether the review should be conducted for FY2022-2023, since A23 is not yet implemented
  - FY2022 coverage target is 99% so still allows for review of comprehensive coverage target (purpose of the review)
- Discussed which years to use for pre-A23 comparison
  - FY2016 should be the earliest
  - Still include FY2020 despite COVID impacts/low observer coverage
- Brainstormed initial ideas for possible metrics and indicators (to be refined over the course of this work)

# Draft Discussion Document Outline

## Overview

### 1. Background

Important Reference Documents

Glossary of Terms

Goals and Objectives of Amendment 23

Goals and Objectives of Groundfish  
Monitoring Program

### 2. Objectives of the Review

### 3. Summary of Groundfish Fishery Conditions

### 4. Possible Review Metrics and Indicators

**DRAFT** Amendment 23 Review Metrics  
Discussion Paper

Groundfish Plan Development Team

May XX, 2022





# A23 Review Metrics

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# Atlantic Cod Management



New England  
Fishery Management Council

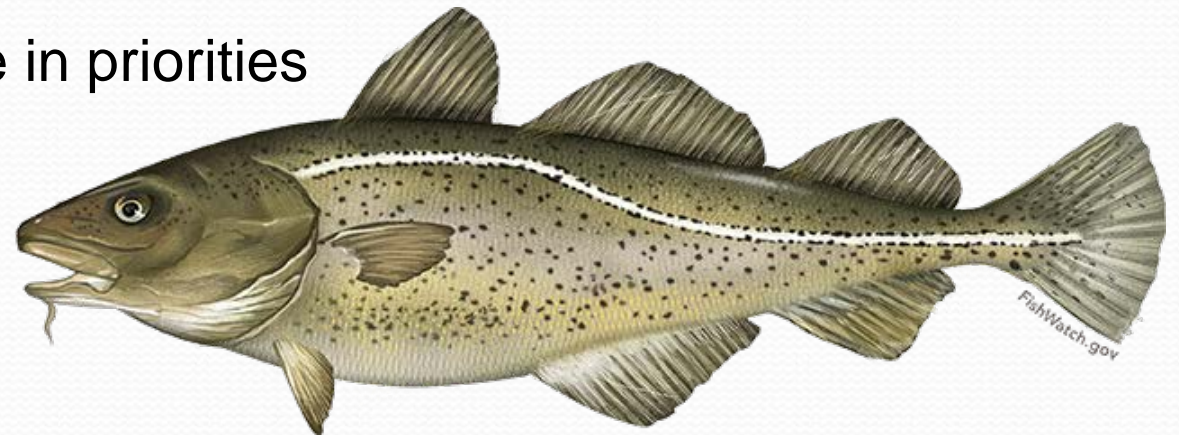


# Atlantic Cod Management

- **Goal:** Discuss a Council priority to develop a transition plan for Atlantic cod management from the current two management unit to up to five management units (multi-year priority). As a part of the transition plan, there will be a white paper on potential approaches to allocate “Georges Bank cod” to the recreational fishery delivered in 2022 to inform the 2023 priorities discussion.
- **Key discussion question:** What should be considered in the white paper when developing draft approaches to allocate GB cod?
- **Outcome:** Discussion.

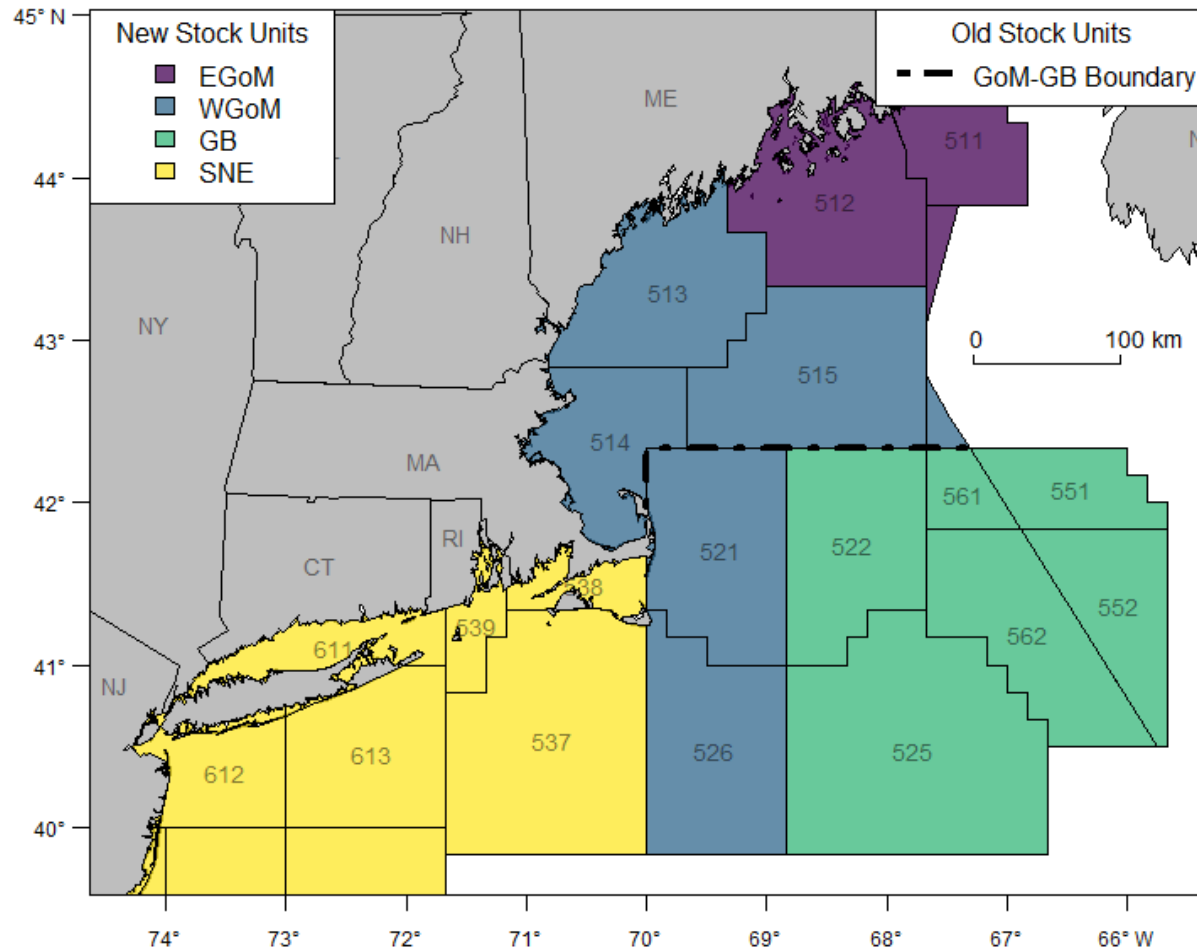
# February 2022 Council Meeting Recap

- Received the final report on the 2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure workshops
- Received an update from the Atlantic Cod Research Track Working Group
- Discussed management implications:
  - February 2022 – held a preliminary discussion and discussed next steps
  - For April 2022 – will consider a change in priorities

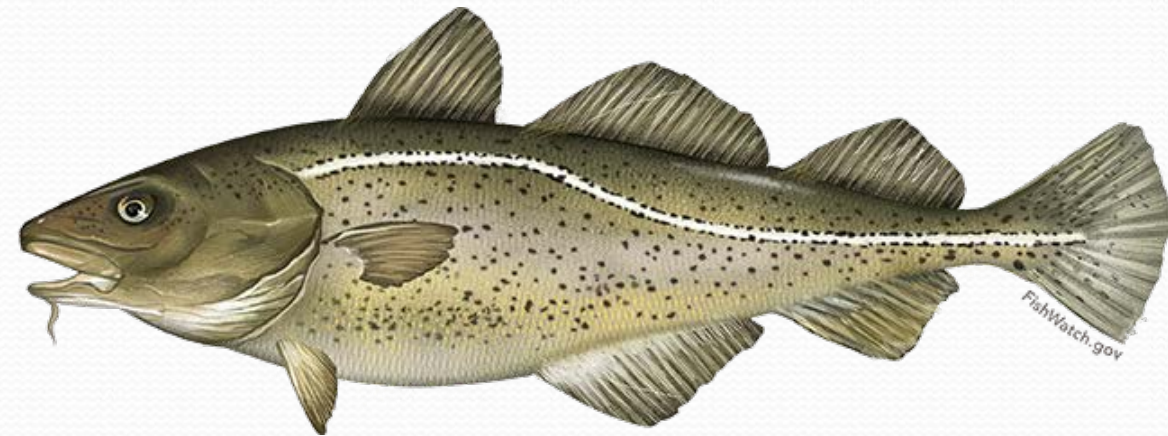




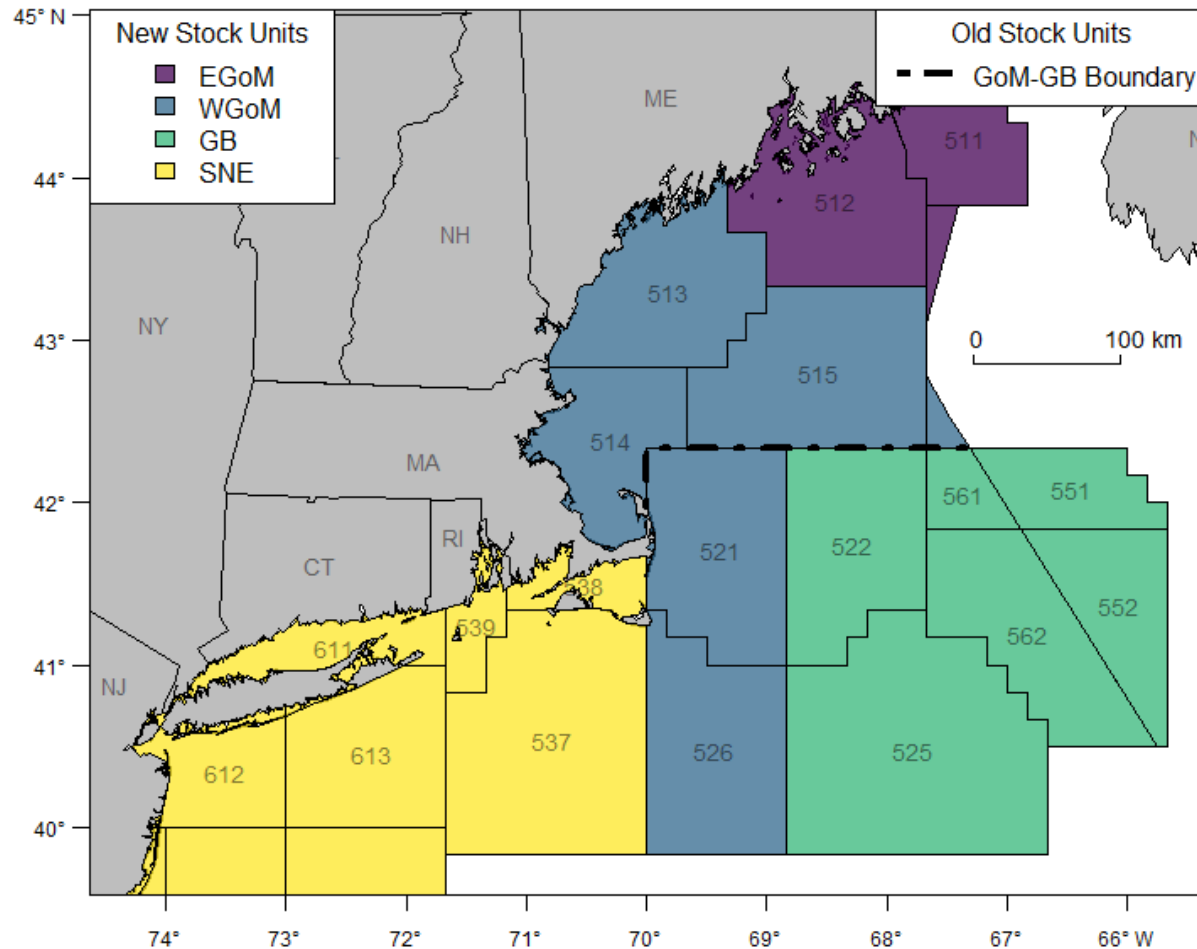
# Preliminary Discussion: Main Question



Does the Council support the Atlantic Cod Research Track Working Group's initial proposal for 4 biological units as the new paradigm for management units?



# Preliminary Discussion Questions



1. Given the information, what makes this difficult to discuss at present?
2. What needs to be clarified at this point? Elaborate.
3. Is there a maximum number of management units the Council should consider?
4. Are there combinations of biological units the Council cannot support?
5. Do you prefer fewer stocks with analytic assessments, or more stocks even if that means several have empirical assessments?



# February 2022 Council Motion

That the Groundfish Committee consider whether priorities should be changed to develop a plan for transitioning from the current two cod management units to from 2 to 5 revised management units.

# Groundfish PDT- Meeting Summary 3/9/22

## When is the transition?

Current/Anticipated Specifications for FY2022- FY2024:

- GOM cod – FY2022-FY2024 (FW63)
- GB cod – FY2022 (FW63)
- GB cod – FY 2023-FY2024 (would be though FW65)

Next Stock Assessments for use in FY2024—FY2026 specifications:

- Atlantic Cod Research Track peer review – March 2023
- Management Track peer review – September 2023



# Groundfish PDT- Meeting Summary 3/9/22

## Groundfish PDT Recommendation

PDT recommends a change in priorities this year in 2022 – to start developing a transition plan from management of Atlantic cod from 2 management units to up to 5 management units. This would be a multi-year priority.

# March 16, 2022 Committee Motion

To recommend to the Council a change in priorities for 2022, adding a transition plan for Atlantic cod management from the current two management unit to up to five management units (multi-year priority). As a part of the transition plan, there will be a white paper on potential approaches to allocate “Georges Bank cod” to the recreational fishery delivered in 2022 to inform the 2023 priorities discussion. The Committee supports the use of contractors to complete part of this work, including work on the white paper.



# April 2022 Council Motion

To change priorities for 2022, adding a transition plan for Atlantic cod management from the current two management unit to up to five management units (multi-year priority). As a part of the transition plan, there will be a white paper on potential approaches to allocate “Georges Bank cod” to the recreational fishery delivered in 2022 to inform the 2023 priorities discussion. The Council supports the use of contractors to complete part of this work, including work on the white paper.

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