

Recreational Groundfish Fishery Fishing Year 2023 Measures

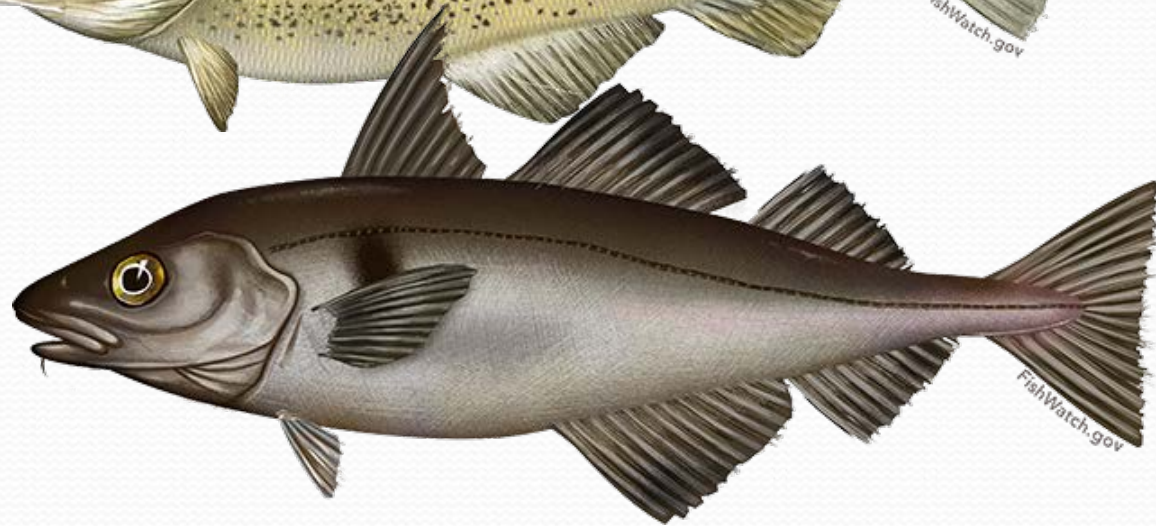
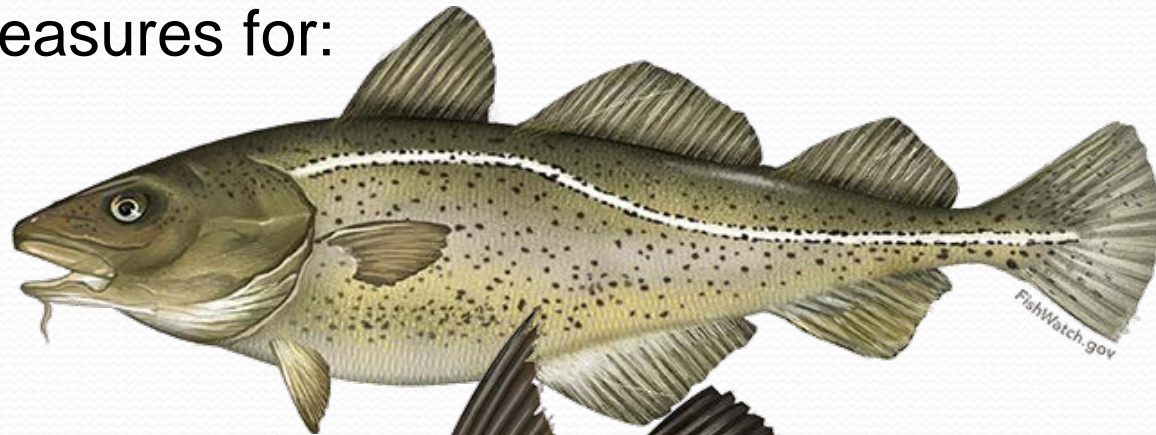
Recreational Advisory Panel

January 18, 2023

Meeting Goal

Develop recommendations to the Groundfish Committee on fishing year 2023 recreational measures for:

- Georges Bank cod,
- Gulf of Maine cod and
- Gulf of Maine haddock



Current Measures

Gulf of Maine Cod

Open season: September 1 - October 7; April 1 - 14

Minimum size: 22 inches

Possession limit: 1 fish per day

Georges Bank Cod

Open season: August 1 - April 30

Slot size: 22 inches minimum and 28 in maximum

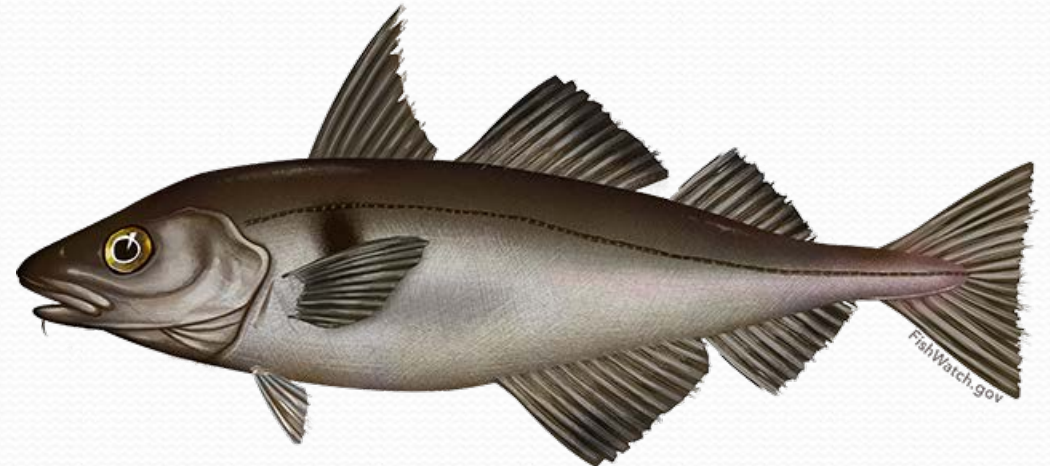
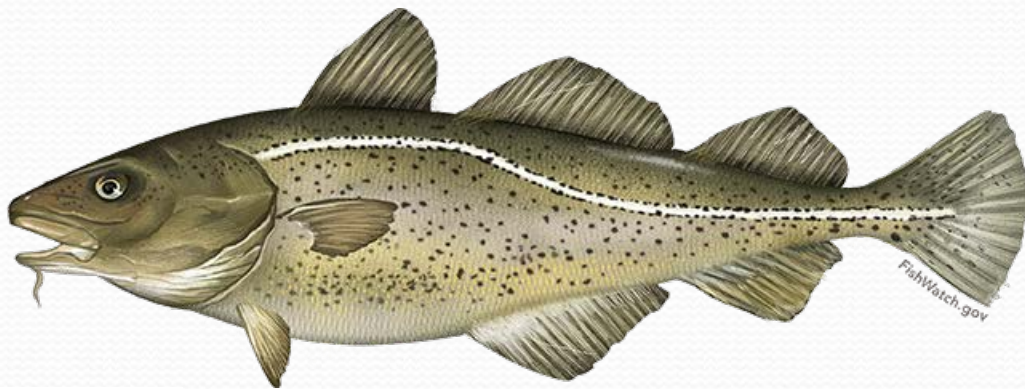
Possession limit: 5 fish per day

Gulf of Maine Haddock

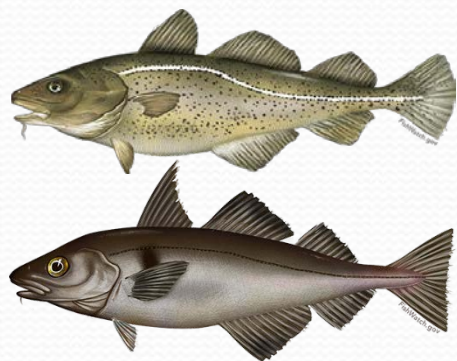
Open season: May 1 – February 28; April 1–30

Minimum size: 17 inches

Possession limit: 20 fish per day



Recent Catches



Stock	Fishing Year	Recreational Catch				
		Catch	Landings	Discard	Recreational sub-ACL	Percent of Catch Limit Taken
		A + B	A	B		
GOM Cod	2019	79.8	23.3	56.5	220	36.3
	2020	184.0	41.5	142.4	193	95.3
	2021	146.2	58.6	87.6	193	75.8
	Average	136.6	41.1	95.5	202	67.6
GOM Haddock	2019	423.2	301.6	121.6	3,194	13.3
	2020	1,202.3	913.7	288.5	6,210	19.4
	2021	901.5	772.8	128.7	5,295	17.0
	Average	842.3	662.7	179.6	4,900	17.2

Recreational estimates based on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.

FY 2020+ GOM cod and GOM haddock recreational catch estimates are based on the Fishing Effort Survey (FES). FY 2019 GOM cod and GOM haddock estimates are back calibrated from the FES to the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) metrics.

Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

September 12, 2022

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Current and Proposed Catch Limits

<i>Stock</i>	<i>FY2022 sub-ACL (mt)</i>	<i>Council's Proposal FY2023 sub-ACL (mt)</i>	<i>% Change</i>
GOM Cod	192	192	0%
GOM Haddock	3,634	610	-83%

Accountability Measures

Reactive

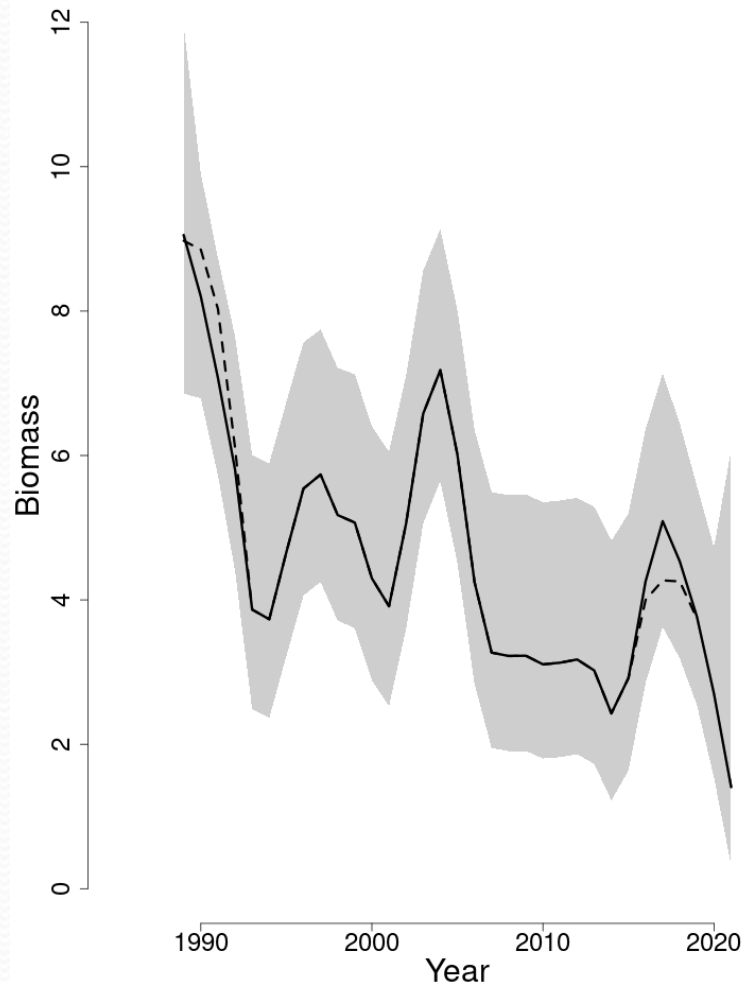
- If catches exceed the sub-ACL, NMFS determines the measures necessary to prevent exceeding the sub-ACL in future years following consultation with the Council
- Final measures are to be published no later than January.
- The three-year average of recreational harvest is compared to the three-year average of the recreational sub-ACL and if necessary, AMs are to be implemented in the year immediately following.
- The recreational AM is either/or adjustments to season, adjustments to minimum size, or adjustments to bag limits.
- Separate AMs can be determined for the private boat and party/charter components of the recreational fishery – that is, the AMs may be different for these two components.

Accountability Measures

Proactive

- Can be adjusted by the Regional Administrator to ensure the recreational fishery will achieve, but not exceed, its sub-ACL.
- Changes are typically made prior to the start of the fishing year.
- The Regional Administrator consults with the Council, or the Council's designee, and tells the Council, or its designee, what recreational measures are under consideration for the upcoming fishing year.
- If time allows, the Council also provides the RAP an opportunity to meet and discuss the proposed management measures.
- These AMs require development in consultation with the Council, because the appropriate suite of measures (e.g., bag limit, minimum fish size, and season) depends on the sub-ACL specified.

2021 Georges Bank Cod Stock Assessment



Stock Status

- Overfished
- Overfishing is occurring
- Rebuilding plan with rebuild by date of 2026

Figure 1: Trends in smoothed survey biomass (kg/tow) of Georges Bank Atlantic cod between 1989 and 2021 from the current (solid line) and previous (dashed line) assessment. The approximate 90% log-normal confidence intervals are shown. The 2020 value is based only on the 2019 fall survey while the 2021 value is based only on spring 2021.

Measures in place

The measures currently in place aim to reduce recreational mortality of Georges Bank cod by 68% from recent levels. The Council set a recreational Georges Bank cod catch target of 75 mt for fishing year 2022 and the measures were designed to stay within that target. The action was effective July 15, 2022.

The recreational measures include:

Slot Limit- The minimum size for George Bank cod is 22 inches (55.88 cm.) and the maximum size is 28 inches (71.12 cm) total length for the recreational fishery (private, party, and charter).

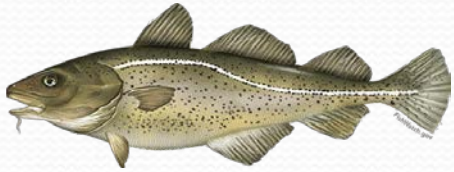
Possession Limit- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery are permitted to land 5 legal sized GB cod per angler, per day.

Season- Party, charter, and private vessels in the recreational fishery are prohibited from retaining GB cod from May 1 to July 31. No possession is in place during this time.

Federal recreational management changes

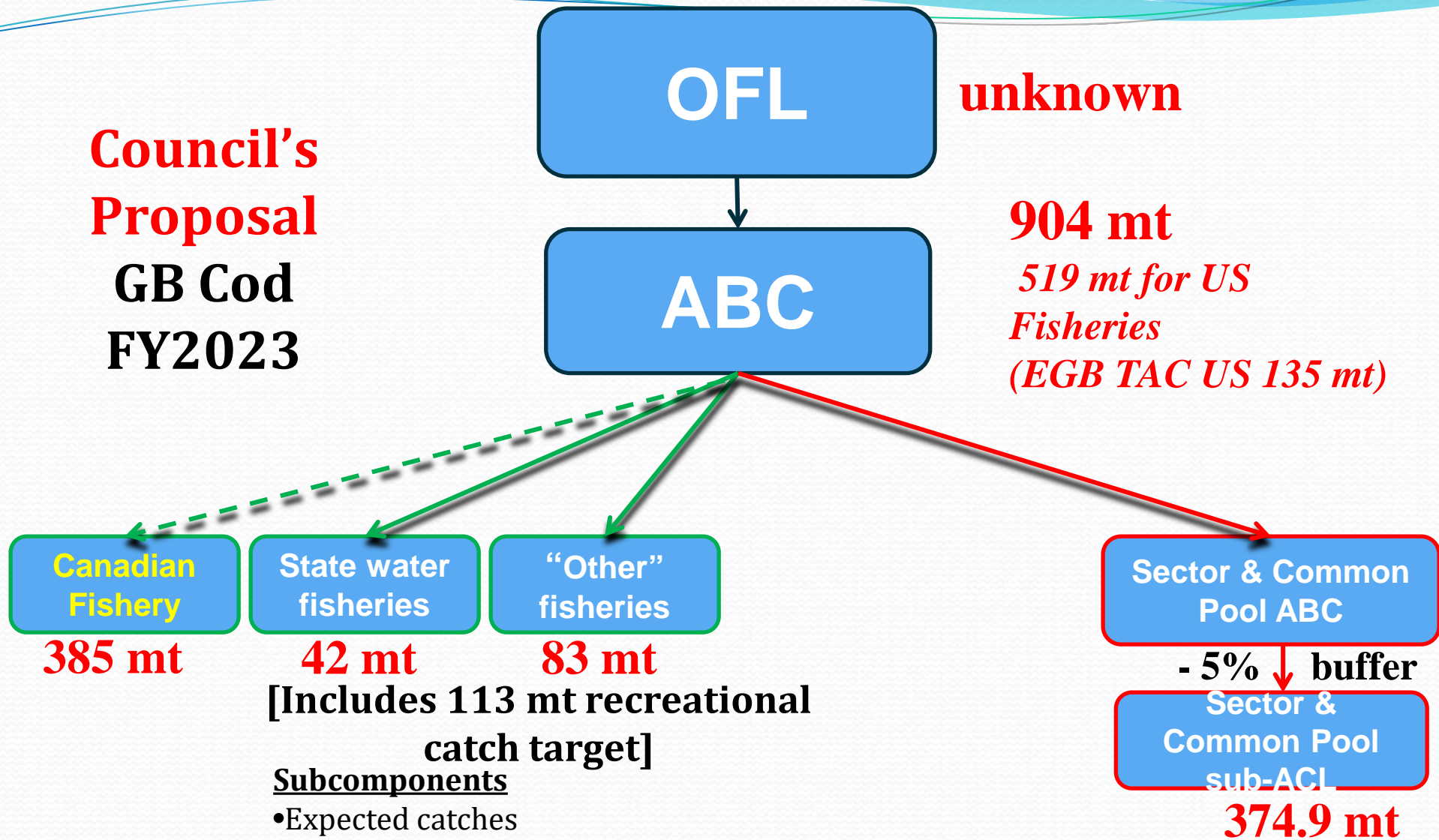
- Prior to Framework Adjustment 57,
 - 10 fish bag limit for private anglers
 - No bag limit for-hire (party/charter)
 - 22" minimum fish size
- May 1, 2018 - Framework 57
 - Set 138 mt GB cod recreational fishery catch target for FY2018-FY2020, and
 - Granted the Regional Administrator the authority to adjust measures following consultation with the Council for FY2018 and FY2019
- May 1, 2018 - FY2018 Recreational Groundfish Rule
 - 10 fish limit for private angler and for-hire (party/charter), and
 - 23" minimum fish size
- July 9, 2019 - FY2019 Recreational Groundfish Rule
 - 10 fish limit for private angler and for-hire (party/charter),
 - 21" minimum size
- July 30, 2020 - Framework Adjustment 59
 - Extended the 138 mt GB cod recreational fishery catch target for FY2020-FY2022 and made no changes to the management measures from FY2019
- July 15, 2022 - Framework Adjustment 63
 - Revised the GB cod recreational catch target for FY2022 to 75 mt, and
 - 5 fish limit for private angler and for-hire (party/charter), and
 - Slot limit – 22" minimum size and 28" maximum size, and
 - Closed season May 1 – July 31

Recent Catches



Fishing Year	<i><u>Recreational Fishery – Georges Bank Cod</u></i>					
	Federal Waters Recreational Catch	State Waters Recreational Catch	All Recreational Catch	Recreational Catch Target	Total US Catch	Recreational Portion of Total US Catch (Percent)
2015	132.1	33.0	165.1	n/a	1,835.4	9.0%
2016	419.7	57.8	477.5	n/a	1,125.5	42.4%
2017	50.1	2.8	52.9	n/a	522.5	10.1%
2018	31.6	5.5	37.1	138	887.3	4.2%
2019	88.9	11.0	99.9	138	641.7	15.6%
2020	152.6	141.8	294.4	138	731.2	40.3%
2021	191.8	44.2	236.0	138	718.6	32.8%
*2022			*83	75		

**Council's
Proposal
GB Cod
FY2023**



**[Includes 113 mt recreational
catch target]**

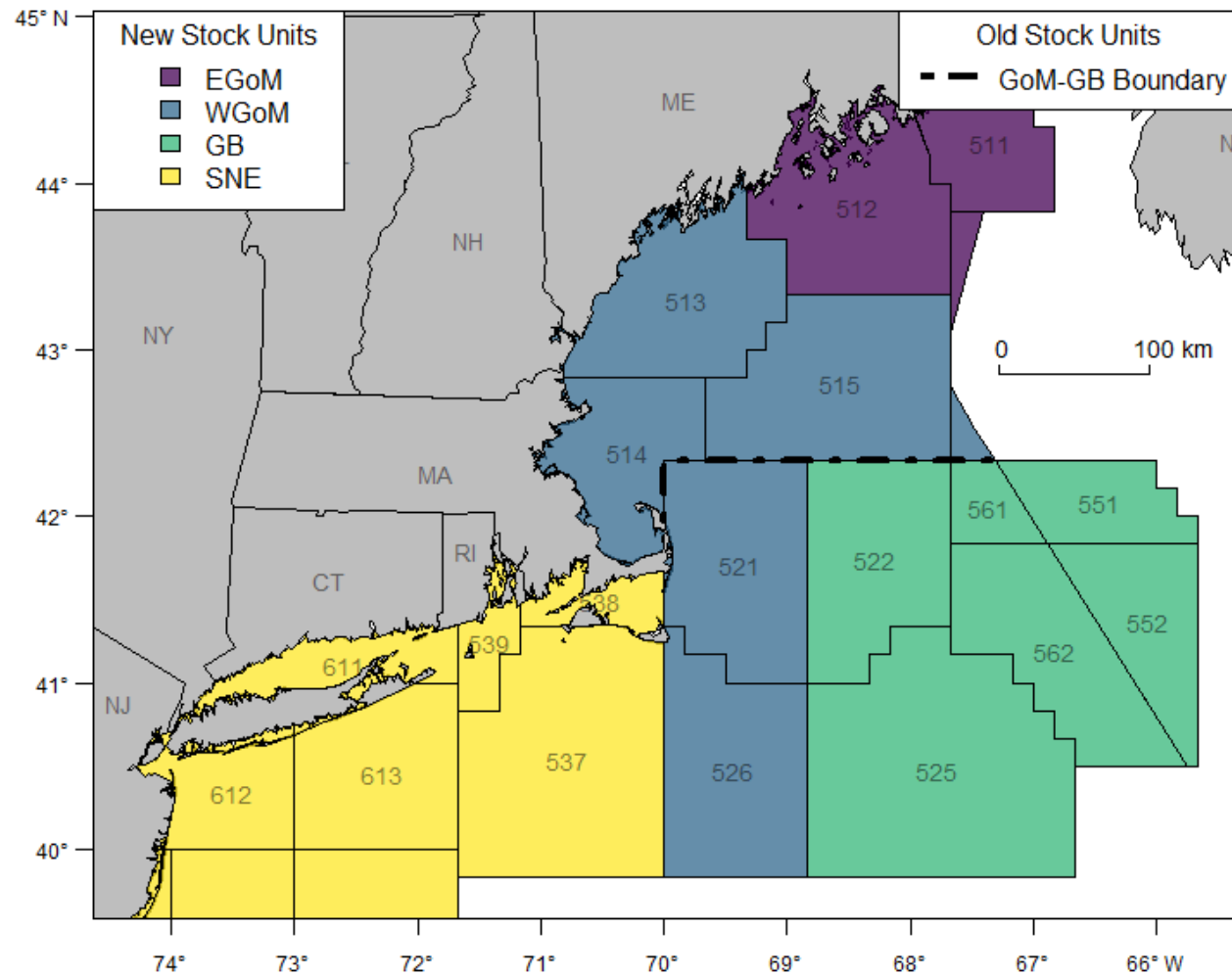
Subcomponents

- Expected catches
- No AM's
- No adjustment for management uncertainty

Sub-ACL's

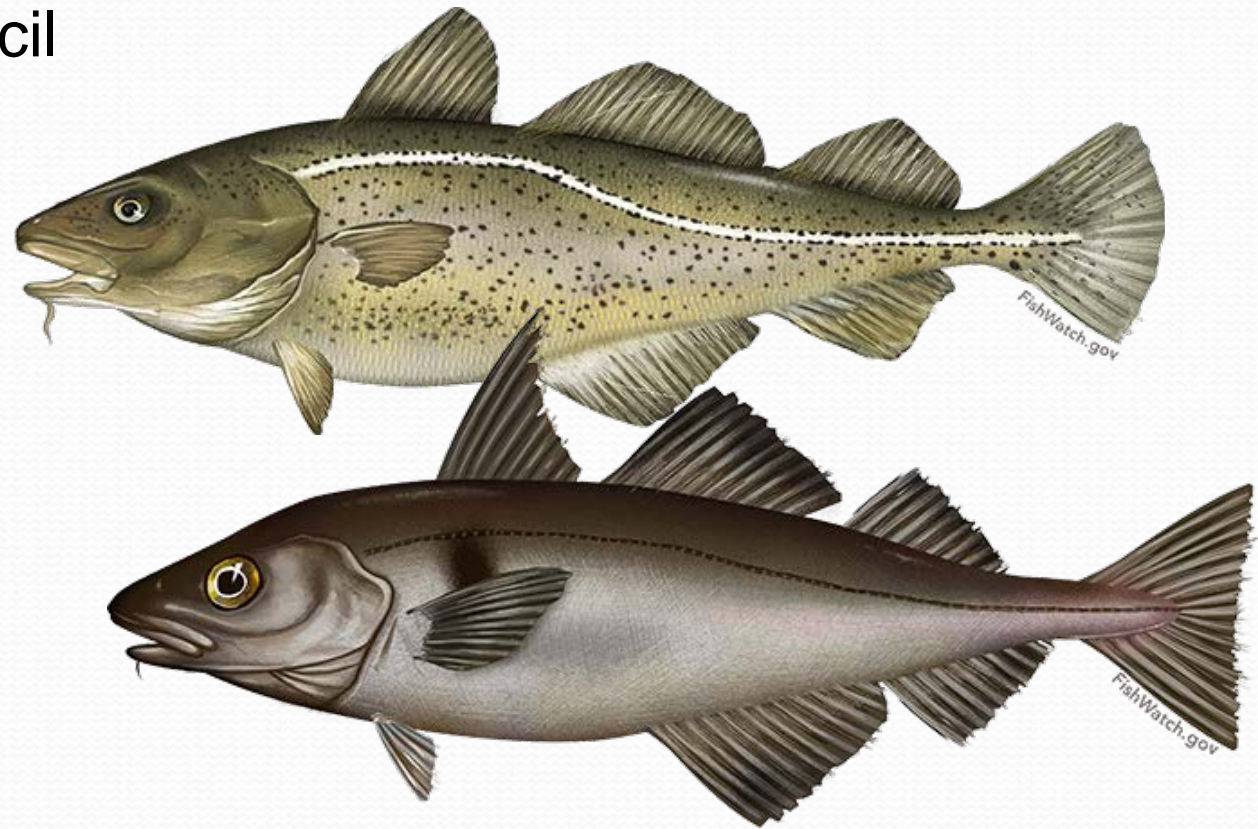
- Subject to AM's
- Management uncertainty adjustment₁₂

Stock Structure Uncertainty



Next Steps

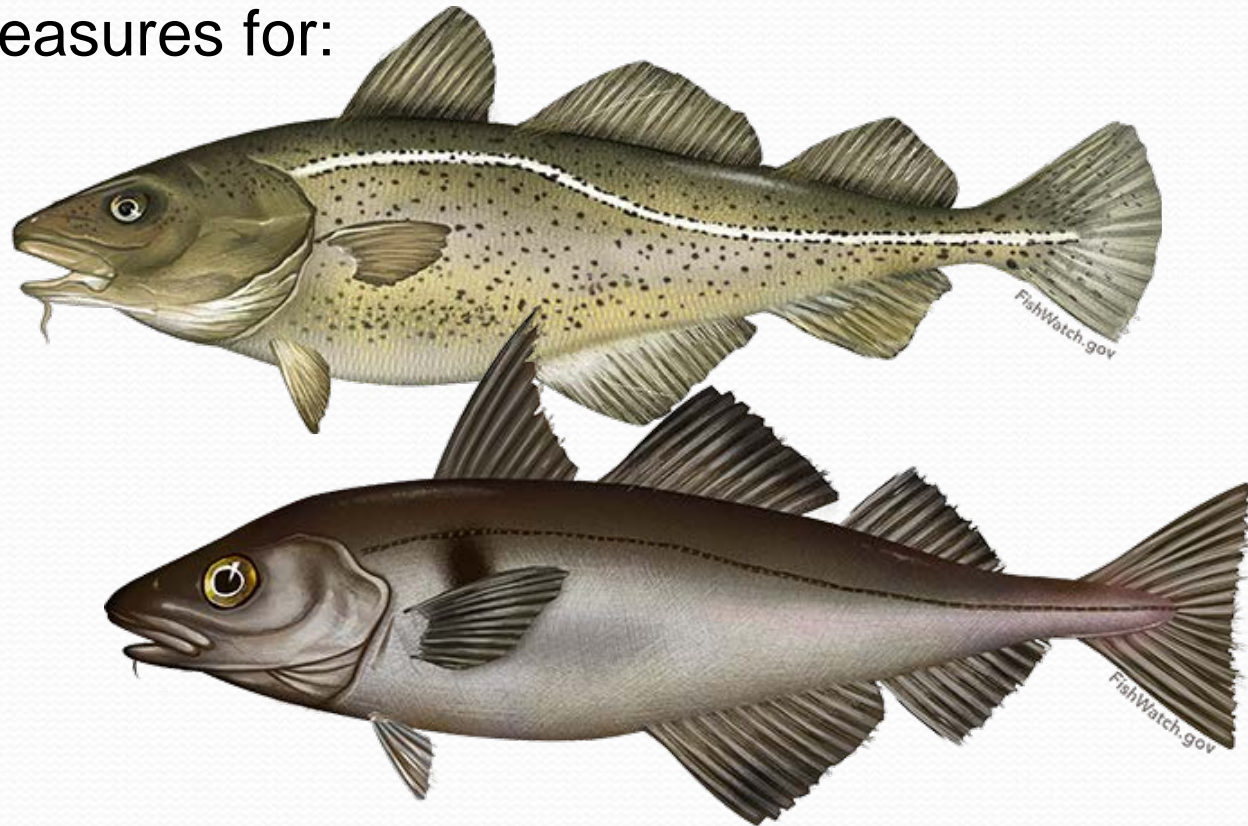
Thursday, January 19 – Groundfish Committee
Wednesday, January 25 – Council



Meeting Goal

Develop recommendations to the Groundfish Committee on fishing year 2023 recreational measures for:

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2023 Council Priorities

Single-Year

- Set ABCs/ACLs as necessary for groundfish stocks for FY2024-FY2026 and US/CA stocks for FY2024-FY2025; white hake rebuilding
- Develop measures to reduce gillnet interactions with protected species (sturgeon, large whales).
- Develop alternatives on how to address impacts of large swings in Canadian halibut catch in US halibut management
- Groundfish management track assessments
- Research track assessment (working group participation) - Atlantic cod, yellowtail flounder
- TRAC/TMGC

Multi-Year

- Complete development of metrics to be used in the review process that will evaluate the monitoring system, as per Amendment 23, and have SSC review
- In consultation with the SSC, continue work to revise ABC control rules for Northeast Multispecies stocks - modify the existing controls (Approach 2) or replace the existing control rules/conduct MSE (Approach 3). This is the highest groundfish priority, and will include a facilitated process between the SSC, Groundfish Committee, and Groundfish Plan Development Team with anticipated work occurring in early 2023.
- Develop a transition plan for Atlantic cod management from the current two management units to up to five management units. This will include addressing allocation issues and considering potential new measures to protect Atlantic cod spawning.