

Recreational Groundfish Fishery

Fishing Year 2020 Measures

Council Staff

Groundfish Committee

January 23, 2020

Wakefield, MA



For Today

Provide recommendations to the Council
on fishing year 2020
proactive recreational measures
for Gulf of Maine cod and
Gulf of Maine haddock

Framework Adjustment 59: Summary of Council's Final Action

Recreational Fishery Items:

- Revised specifications for 15 groundfish stocks for FY2020-FY2022
- Revised allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries for Gulf of Maine cod and Gulf of Maine haddock

Stock	Years	Recreational Allocation
GOM cod	2001-2006	37.5%
GOM haddock	2001-2006	33.9%

- Maintain the Georges Bank cod recreational catch target of 138 mt for FY2020- FY2022 and no changes to the recreational measures
- Proposed recreational ACLs for FY2020
 - GOM cod 193 mt
 - GOM haddock 6,210 mt

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.

Recent Catches (mt) and Three-Year Averages

Stock	Fishing Year	Recreational Catch				
		Catch	Landings	Discard	Recreational sub-ACL	Percent of Catch Limit Taken
		A + B	A	B		
GOM Cod	2016	280.9	94.5	186.4	157	178.9
	2017	245.4	26.6	218.8	157	156.3
	2018	146.9	4.3	142.6	220	66.8
	Average	224.4	41.8	182.6	178	126.1
GOM Haddock	2016	887.0	560.2	326.8	928	95.6
	2017	795.0	533.7	261.3	1,160	68.5
	2018	595.0	423.9	171.1	3,358	17.7
	Average	759.0	505.9	253.1	1,815	41.8

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.

Status Quo

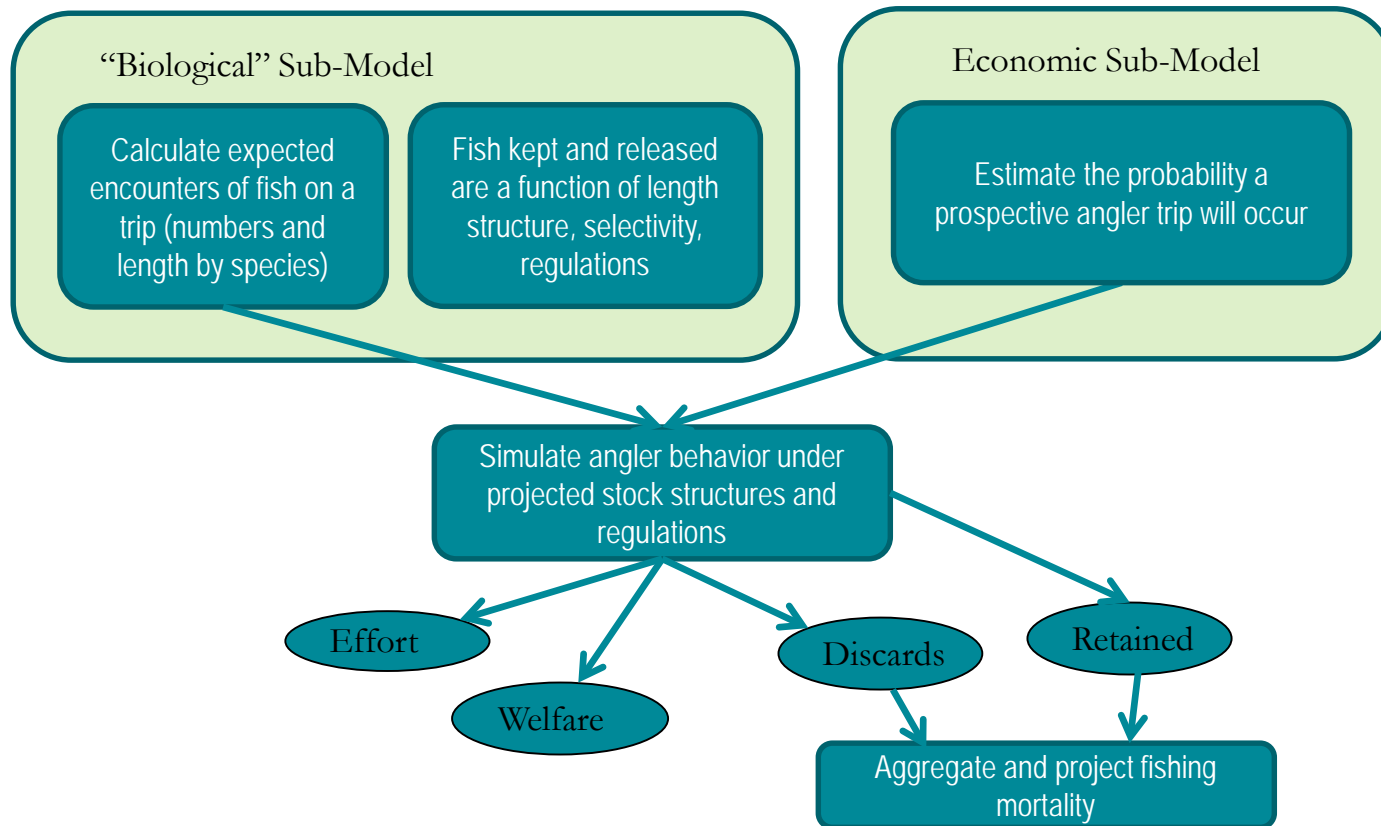
- Gulf of Maine cod
 - Open Season: September 15-30
 - Bag Limit: 1 fish
 - Minimum Size: 21 inches
- Gulf of Maine haddock
 - Open Season: May 1 – February 28 and April 15-30
 - Bag Limit: 15 fish
 - Minimum Size: 17 inches

Preliminary
FY 2019 catch estimate

77 mt
of
220 mt sub-ACL

398 mt
of
3,914 mt sub-ACL

Bioeconomic Model Overview



How Accurate is the Model?

GOM Cod	ACL (mt)	Actual	Model
FY 2013	486	639	409 (36% lower)
FY 2014	486	623	422 (32% lower)
FY 2015	121	85	132 (55% higher)
FY 2016	157	286	132 (54% lower)
FY 2017	157	246	147 (40% lower)
FY 2018	220	147	193 (31% higher)
FY 2019	220	77*	~120 (56% higher)

*Preliminary

How Accurate is the Model?

GOM Had	ACL (mt)	Actual	Model
FY 2013	74	232	57 (407% lower)
FY 2014	87	659	80 (824% lower)
FY 2015	372	382	323 (13% lower)
FY 2016	928	1,031	709 (32% lower)
FY 2017	1,160	795	1,160 (46% higher)
FY 2018	3,358	595	916 (54% higher)
FY 2019	3,194	398*	~990 (149% higher)

*Preliminary

FY 2020 Mortality Projections

Option	Cod				Haddock				Angler Trips (Median)	% Under Cod ACL (out of 100 Simulations)	% Under Had ACL (out of 100 Simulations)
	Cod Limit	Cod Size	Cod Open Season	Cod Total Mortality mt (Median)	Had Limit	Had Size	Had Open Season	Had Total Mortality mt (Median)			
1 (Status Quo)	1	21"	Sep 15-Sep 30	185	15	17"	May-Feb 28, Apr 15-Apr 30	1,092	273,930	67	100
2 (Open Cod Apr 15-30)	1	21"	Sep 15-Sep 30 Apr 15-30	187	15	17"	May-Feb 28, Apr 15-Apr 30	1,094	273,998	65	100

FY 2020 rec sub-ACLs:

cod = 193 mt
haddock = 6,210 mt

Options considered, but rejected because % under cod sub-ACL < 50%:

- 3) Increase cod limit (from 1 to 2 fish)
- 4) Open cod Sep 1-Sep 30 (1 fish, 21")
- 5) Open cod Sep 1-Sep 30 (1 fish, slot limit of 21" - 24")
- 6) Open cod Sep 1 -Sept 30 (1 fish, slot limit of 22" - 25")
- 7) Close cod Sep 15-Sep 30, open cod May 1-May 15 (1 fish, 21")
- 8) Close cod Sep 15-Sep 30, open cod May 16-May 31 (1 fish, 21")
- 9) Close cod Sep 15-Sep 30, open cod Aug 16-Aug 31 (1 fish, 21")
- 10) Close cod Sep 15-Sep 30, open cod Sep 1-Sep 14 (1 fish, 21")
- 11) Open cod May 1-May 15 and Sept 15-Sep 30 (1 fish, slot limit of 22" - 25")

Recreational Advisory Panel – Jan 21

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee for fishing year 2020 recreational measures:

- Gulf of Maine cod
 - Open Season: September 15-30 and April 1-14
 - Bag Limit: 1 fish
 - Minimum Size: 21 inches
- Gulf of Maine haddock
 - Open Season: May 1 – February 28 and April 1-30
 - Bag Limit: 15 fish
 - Minimum Size: 17 inches

Motion carried 7/4/0.

Recreational Advisory Panel – Jan 21

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee for fishing year 2020 recreational measures an additional model run for possible consideration/recommendation and to be brought in time for the Groundfish Committee meeting: an opening of Gulf of Maine cod in August for as many consecutive dates as possible (rather than the proposed September opening).

Motion carried 11/0/0.

Recreational Advisory Panel – Jan 21

The Recreational Advisory Panel recommends to the Groundfish Committee for fishing year 2020 recreational measures an additional model run for possible consideration/recommendation and to be brought in time for the Groundfish Committee meeting: an opening of Gulf of Maine cod in mid-August through the end of September for as many weekends (Friday-Sunday) as possible (rather than the proposed September opening for cod), which would be up to 21 days open.

Motion carried 7/3/1.

Recreational Advisory Panel – Jan 21

The Recreational Advisory Panel ranks, in order of priority, the following options for an open season for Gulf of Maine cod:

- September 15-30 and April 1-14
- August for as many consecutive days as possible
- Mid-August to September, for as many weekends (Friday-Sunday) as possible
- Status Quo: September 15-30

By *consensus* and without *objection*.

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