Groundfish Committee Meeting

Webinar

September 3, 2025

New England
Fishery Management Council

Groundfish Outlook by Quarter in 2025, updated September 2, 2025, NEFMC Staff

Council Priority*	Jan – Mar	Apr - Jun	July - Sept	Oct - Dec
Amendment 23 Review	Complete development of metrics and indicators		On pause given change in Council priorities	
Framework Adjustment 69	Preliminary & Final Submissions			GARFO implementation
Amendment 25	Final Submission	NOAA disapproval; Council priority change to revise and resubmit	Final action on resubmission	
Recreational Measures	Develop recommendations cod & haddock			GARFO implementation
Framework Adjustment 72		Initiate action	Develop specifications & measures, conduct analysis	Final action
Redfish Sector Exemption Review		Develop review	On pause given change in Council priorities	
ABC Control Rules Framework (68)	Staff tracks implementation strategy for revised Risk Policy, contract work conducted to evaluate integration of revised Risk Policy with revised ABC CRs			
Atlantic Cod Management	Continue to develop transition plan, planning for Phase 2			
Stock Assessments		Domestic updates for transboundary mgmt. (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder) (Jul.)	MT- yellowtail flounder (GB, CC/GOM, SNE/MA), winter flounder (GB, GOM, SNE/MA), redfish, white hake Data updates - windowpane flounder (N. and S.), ocean pout, wolffish (Sept.)	
2026 Priorities			Make additions to list of possible priorities	Final priorities

*Additional: Participate in TMGC, coordinate on EFH designation updates, consult on protected species actions, and provide input for EO 14276

For Today

- Revised Amendment 25
  - Receive an update on the repackaged and revised action

- Framework 72
  - Receive an update on development of the action

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Revised Amendment 25 / Atlantic Cod Specifications and Management

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For Today

- Receive an update on the repackaged and revised action.

- Discussion and consider making recommendations to the Council to submit the revised action.

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Amendment 25 Disapproval

Amendment 25 disapproved as of May 19, 2025

Rationale: "Amendment 25 and its supporting analyses do not adequately demonstrate how the proposed action is consistent with National Standard 1 or other required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act."

Response pathway:

Revise Amendment 25 to incorporate the elements necessary for the action to be consistent with the National Standards and required provisions of the MSA (i.e., the SDCs, distribution of ABCs, and accountability measures for the four cod stocks, as developed and included in Framework 69)

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Council Motion – June 25, 2025

To reinitiate A25 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan as advised by NOAA's May 19th letter to the Council, focusing only on reformatting the cod-specific management measures as previously submitted in Amendment 25 (Sept. 2024 Council final action) and Framework 69 (Dec. 2024 Council final action).

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Draft Timeline for Revised Amendment 25

- **June –** initiate the action
- **September** – take final action
- Implementation by **May 1, 2026,** NMFS

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Draft Scope of Revised Amendment 25

- Add the four Atlantic cod stock units of Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod, Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod, Georges Bank (GB) cod, and Southern New England (SNE) cod to the FMP
- Fishing year (FY) 2026-2027 Specifications and Management Measures for Atlantic cod, to:
  - Set Status Determination Criteria
  - Set FY2026-FY2027 specifications for EGOM cod, WGOM cod, and SNE cod,
  - Set FY2026 specifications for GB cod,
  - Review sub-component analysis for the four cod stocks
  - Establish recreational sub-ACL for WGOM cod and SNE cod
  - Establish management uncertainty buffers
  - Establish common pool accountability measures
  - Set recreational measures
  - Establish Regional Administrator authority to adjust recreational measures for EGOM cod and GB cod

Draft Alternatives for Revised Amendment 25

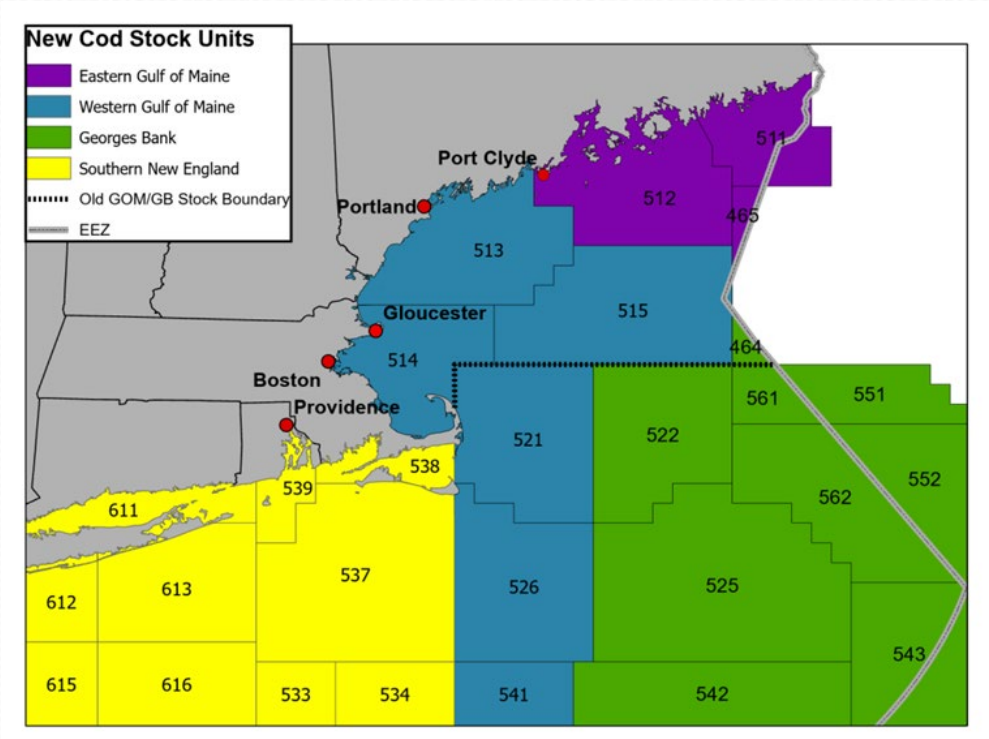
1. Incorporating Revised Atlantic Cod Stock Units into the Northeast Multispecies FMP
2. Atlantic Cod Status Determination Criteria
3. Revised Specifications for Atlantic Cod
   - FY2026-FY2027 specifications for EGOM cod, WGOM cod, and SNE cod,
   - FY2026 specifications for GB cod,
   - Sub-component analysis for the four cod stocks
   - Management uncertainty buffers for the four cod stocks
   - Recreational sub-ACL for WGOM cod and SNE cod
   - WGOM cod ABC apportionment
4. Commercial Fishery Measures – Atlantic Cod
   - Common pool accountability measures for the four cod stocks
5. Recreational Fishery Measures – Atlantic Cod
   - SNE cod recreational measures
   - Regional Administrator process to adjust recreational measures for EGOM cod and GB cod

Action 1 – Incorporating Revised Atlantic Cod Stock Units into the Northeast Multispecies FMP

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Status Quo

Alternative 3 – Revise Atlantic Cod Stock Units in the FMP (*Preferred*)



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Action 2 – Status Determination Criteria

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – New Status Determination Criteria for Cod Stocks (*Preferred*)

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Action 3 – Revised Specifications

Alternative 1 – No Action

- No specifications for Atlantic cod for FY2026

Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications for Atlantic Cod (*Preferred*)

- FY2026-FY2027 specifications for EGOM cod, WGOM cod, and SNE cod
- FY2026 specifications for GB cod [*placeholder*]
- Recreational sub-ACL for WGOM cod
- WGOM cod ABC apportionment to derive the WGOM cod commercial sub-ACL
- Sub-component analysis
- Management uncertainty buffers

Alternative 3 – Southern New England Cod Recreational Sub-ACL

- **Option 1** – No Action
- **Option 2** - Set Southern New England Cod Recreational Sub-ACL (*Preferred*)

Action 3 – Revised Specifications

Stock	FY	OFL	US ABC	State-Waters Sub-Component	Other sub-component	Scallops	Groundfish Sub-ACL	Comm. Ground-fish Sub-ACL	Rec Ground-fish Sub-ACL	Preliminary Sectors Sub-ACL	Preliminary Non-sector Groundfish Sub-ACL	MWT or Small mesh Sub-ACL	Total ACL
EGOM Cod	2026	50	39	0.2	0.4		37	36.5		35.1	1.4		37
	2027	39	30	0.2	0.3		28	28.1		27.0	1.1		29
WGOM Cod	2026	603	460	23	5.0		407	289.8	118	278.9	10.9		436
	2027	769	586	30	6.4		519	369.2	150	355.3	13.9		555
GB Cod	2026	433	106		8.5		93	92.6		89.4	3.2		101
	2027												
SNE Cod†	2026	47	36	6.1	3.2		25	6.7	18	6.5	0.2		34
	2027	65	36	6.1	3.2		25	6.7	18	6.5	0.2		34

GB cod FY2026 specifications placeholder value:

- Uses the FY2026 total ABC (331 mt), as recommended by the SSC in July 2024, as the U.S./Canada shared TAC and applies the 2026 country shares (68% Canada / 32% U.S.)
- Intend to be replaced with updated specifications incorporating 2026 recommendations of the TMGC in Framework 72

Action 4 – Commercial Fishery Management Measures

Alternative 1 – Common Pool Accountability Measures for Cod Stocks

- **Option 1** – No Action
- **Option 2** – Common Pool Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Distributions and Closure Areas (*Preferred*)
- **Option 3** – Common Pool Baseline Trip Limits (*Preferred*)
  - *No adjustments to the approaches for determining trip limits*

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Action 5 – Recreational Fishery Management Measures

Alternative 1 – Recreational Fishing Measures for Southern New England Cod

- **Option 1** – No Action
- **Option 2** - Recreational Fishing Measures for Southern New England Cod (*Preferred*)

Alternative 2 - Regulatory Process for Regional Administrator to Adjust Recreational Measures for Cod Stocks

- **Option 1** – No Action
- **Option 2** - Establish a Regulatory Process for the Regional Administrator to Adjust Recreational Measures for Eastern Gulf of Maine Cod and Georges Bank Cod (Preferred) *[placeholder]*
  - Framework 72 alternative to consider establishing this process permanently for cod and haddock

Draft Impact Analysis for Revised Amendment 25

- Added for Action 1 – Incorporating Revised Cod Stock Units into FMP
- Actions 2-5 - impact analyses from Framework 69
  - Not updated – same basis applies to measures for FY2026

See Draft Revised A25 Environmental Assessment

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Draft Revised Amendment 25 Appendices

Appendix I - Scientific and Statistical Committee Recommendations for Atlantic Cod FY2025– FY2027

Appendix II - Calculation of Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Limits FY2025– FY2027

Appendix III - Development of Phase 1 Measures for Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: Bridge Approach for Sector Allocation

Appendix IV - Development of Phase 1 Measures for Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan: Common Pool and Recreational Measures

Appendix V - Risk Policy Matrices for Atlantic Cod Stocks

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Appendix III – Development of Phase 1 Cod Sector Allocation Bridge Approach

- Summarizes the development of the Council's "bridge approach" for sector allocations for Phase 1 of the Atlantic cod management transition plan
  - Committee/Council intended the bridge approach as a short-term approach for Phase 1 in order to have necessary management measures in place by May 1, 2025 (now May 1, 2026)
  - Phase 2 will consider longer-term approaches
- References Committee tasking for the PDT, supporting PDT analyses, and Committee decision making throughout Framework 69 development
- Provides illustrative examples to demonstrate other approaches that were considered and how these informed the Council's final selected approach

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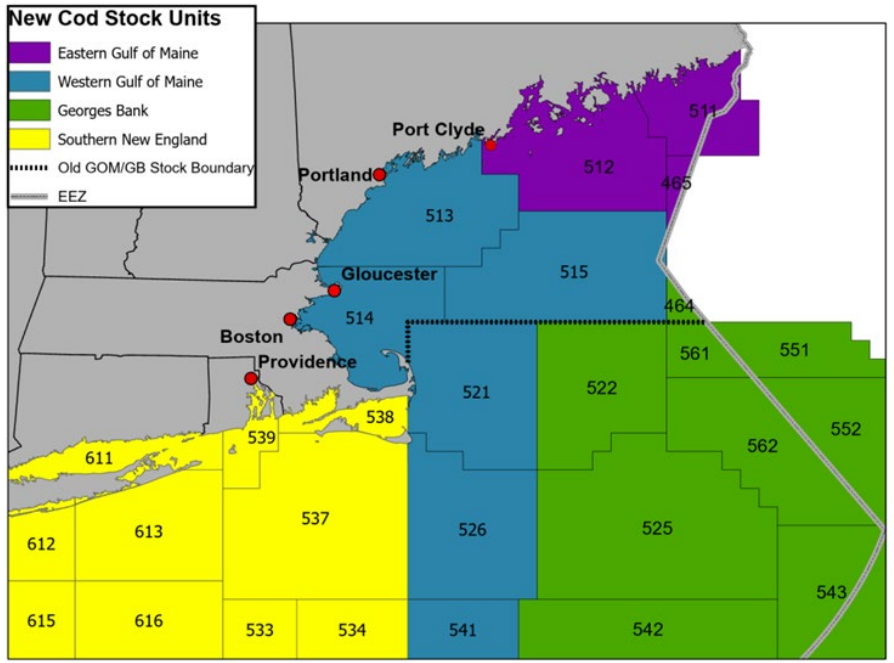
Council's proposed "bridge year" approach for sector allocation

- Maintains existing potential sector allocations (PSCs) for allocating to the commercial fishery
  - Applies 2 existing cod PSCs to 4 cod quotas
- Necessitates apportionment of the WGOM cod commercial sub-ABC to WGOM North and WGOM South
  - WGOM apportionment of 68:32 (North:South) – based on catch history from subset of years that account for large differences in quotas between the GOM and GB stocks



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Illustrative Examples of Sector Cod Allocation

- Provide a mechanism to isolate impacts from revised cod stock structure from impacts of the 2024 management track assessments
- Examples compare sector cod allocations under different approaches when applied to FY2024 quotas
  - "Status Quo": 2 PSCs and 2 actual commercial sub-ABCs
  - FW69 method: 2 PSCs and 4 hypothetical commercial sub-ABCs
    - WGOM apportionment: 68:32 and alternative splits
- Comparisons should be considered a snapshot in time – results change if applying a different "status quo" quota year (ex. FY2022)
  - Results would also change if proportions of the four stocks shift
  - Sector roster year doesn't change results
- Also an example that compares base case to FW69 method
  - Base case: 4 PSCs and 4 commercial sub-ABCs

See Draft Revised A25 Appendices – Appendix III

Development of Sector PSC Approach

- November 2023 –Committee tasked the PDT with conducting analyses to inform development of the Atlantic cod management transition plan
- PDT prepared a “base case” scenario, which uses the same sector PSC qualifying years originally used in Amendment 16 and applies permit landings history from the statistical areas that comprise the four new cod stock units to re-calculate each limited access permit’s PSC for the four new cod stock areas
- Committee decided not to pursue the base case for Phase 1 of the transition plan
  - Based on feedback from the public and industry, this was deemed too large of an allocation change at this time and warranted further consideration in the longer-term Phase 2.
  - Chose to move forward with an approach that maintains the existing two cod PSCs
- At the time the base case was introduced to the Committee, quotas for the new cod stocks were not yet available

Table 1: Illustrative example demonstrating the difference in the amount (mt) of cod that would have been allocated to each sector under the Base Case and FW 69 methods. The difference in the total cod allocated is shown as both actual and absolute values.

	Base Case: 4 PSCs and 4 commercial sub-ABC's				FW 69 Method: 2 PSCs and 4 commercial sub-ABC's				Base Case vs FW69: Change in total cod	
Sector Name	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**Difference**	**Absolute Difference**
Fixed Gear Sector	0.76	21.14	2.58	0.14	0.33	9.98	8.04	0.46	-5.81	5.81
Maine Coast Community Sector	15.91	21.52	2.04	0.10	7.46	29.31	1.62	0.09	-1.10	1.10
Maine Permit Bank	0.25	1.58	0.19	0.01	0.55	2.14	0.10	0.01	0.77	0.77
Mooncusser Sector	0.48	33.13	1.16	0.30	2.96	20.97	9.21	0.53	-1.40	1.40
NEFS 2	4.90	46.81	8.43	0.51	12.79	55.29	7.41	0.42	15.26	15.26
NEFS 4	3.34	29.25	3.41	0.04	5.29	26.62	6.51	0.37	2.75	2.75
NEFS 5	0.00	0.83	0.18	0.45	0.16	0.95	0.35	0.02	0.01	0.01
NEFS 6	0.00	0.72	0.60	0.00	0.08	0.73	0.40	0.02	-0.08	0.08
NEFS 8	6.79	41.40	31.79	1.00	3.03	37.58	24.21	1.38	-14.78	14.78
NEFS 10	0.12	2.71	0.02	0.02	0.85	3.29	0.13	0.01	1.41	1.41
NEFS 11	1.62	15.64	0.02	0.03	5.38	20.18	0.30	0.02	8.55	8.55
NEFS 12	0.86	6.12	0.15	0.01	1.75	7.01	0.50	0.03	2.16	2.16
NEFS 13	0.71	7.10	14.32	0.68	0.26	9.75	8.05	0.46	-4.30	4.30
NH Permit Bank	0.05	1.51	0.00	0.00	0.54	2.01	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Sustainable Harvest Sector 1	6.08	15.07	6.90	0.13	3.30	17.61	4.97	0.28	-2.02	2.02
Sustainable Harvest Sector 2	3.16	4.17	1.41	0.04	0.80	4.39	1.32	0.08	-2.19	2.19
Sustainable Harvest Sector 3	1.20	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.39	0.06	0.00	-0.97	0.97
Common Pool	1.06	7.79	2.21	0.83	1.68	8.61	2.21	0.13	0.73	0.73
Sum	47.3	256.8	75.4	4.3	47.3	256.8	75.4	4.3		65.29

Development of Commercial Allocation Approach

- March 2024 – Committee tasked the PDT with developing methods for "prorating commercial sub-ACLs from the four new stocks to the two existing stocks"
- PDT developed two possible methods for consideration:
  - Option 1 – 2 PSCs and quotas for GOM and GB cod
  - Option 2 – 2 PSCs and quotas for EGOM, WGOM, GB, and SNE cod (*PDT recommended*)
- June 2024 - Committee recommended moving forward with Option 2
  - Allocating 4 stocks of cod from the 2 existing PSCs was considered the best way to "minimize disruptions to the fishery" during the cod transition, while preventing overfishing
- Option 2 approach requires apportionment of WGOM cod
  - PDT identified several options for the basis of the apportionment - historical catch, survey biomass, or a combination
  - PDT discussed but did not further consider basing on historic quotas - given past quotas for the GOM and GB stock areas have not been directly reflective of past fishing activity within the two portions of the WGOM area

Table 2: Illustrative example demonstrating the difference in the amount (mt) of cod that was allocated to sectors for 2 stocks in 2024 to the amount of cod that would have been allocated to each sector in 2024 under the 4-stock scenario developed in FW69. Allocations are calculated using the Fishing Year 2024 quota and sector rosters. The difference in the total cod allocated is shown as both actual and absolute values.

	FW69 Method: 2 PSC and 4 hypothetical commercial sub-ABC's					"Status Quo" 2 PSC and 2 actual (2024) commercial sub-ABC's			FW69 vs 2024 "Status Quo": Change in total cod	
Sector Name	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**Total Cod**	**GOM**	**GB**	**Total Cod**	**Difference**	**Absolute Difference**
Fixed Gear Sector	0.60	18.27	14.72	0.84	34.43	2.06	43.34	45.40	-10.97	10.97
Maine Coast Community Sector	13.66	53.66	2.96	0.17	70.44	46.73	8.71	55.44	15.00	15.00
Maine Permit Bank	1.01	3.92	0.19	0.01	5.12	3.44	0.55	3.99	1.13	1.13
Mooncusser Sector	5.42	38.38	16.86	0.96	61.63	18.54	49.64	68.18	-6.56	6.56
NEFS 2	23.41	101.22	13.56	0.77	138.96	80.09	39.92	120.01	18.95	18.95
NEFS 4	9.68	48.72	11.91	0.68	71.00	33.12	35.07	68.19	2.81	2.81
NEFS 5	0.28	1.74	0.63	0.04	2.69	0.97	1.86	2.84	-0.14	0.14
NEFS 6	0.15	1.34	0.74	0.04	2.27	0.50	2.17	2.67	-0.40	0.40
NEFS 8	5.55	68.80	44.33	2.53	121.20	18.98	130.51	149.49	-28.29	28.29
NEFS 10	1.56	6.01	0.24	0.01	7.83	5.33	0.71	6.04	1.79	1.79
NEFS 11	9.84	36.94	0.55	0.03	47.36	33.67	1.62	35.29	12.07	12.07
NEFS 12	3.21	12.84	0.92	0.05	17.02	10.97	2.71	13.68	3.34	3.34
NEFS 13	0.48	17.85	14.74	0.84	33.91	1.65	43.39	45.05	-11.14	11.14
NH Permit Bank	1.00	3.68	0.00	0.00	4.68	3.41	0.00	3.41	1.27	1.27
Sustainable Harvest Sector 1	6.04	32.23	9.10	0.52	47.90	20.67	26.80	47.47	0.42	0.42
Sustainable Harvest Sector 2	1.46	8.03	2.42	0.14	12.06	5.00	7.14	12.13	-0.08	0.08
Sustainable Harvest Sector 3	0.16	0.72	0.11	0.01	1.00	0.56	0.33	0.88	0.12	0.12
Common Pool	3.07	15.76	4.05	0.23	23.11	10.51	11.93	22.44	0.67	0.67
Sum	86.6	470.1	138.0	7.9	702.6	296.2	406.4	702.6		115.15

Table 3: Illustrative example demonstrating the difference in the amount (mt) of cod that was allocated to sectors for 2 stocks in 2022 to the amount of cod that would have been allocated to each sector in 2022 under the 4-stock scenario developed in FW69. Allocations are calculated using the Fishing Year 2022 quota and Fishing Year 2024 rosters. The difference in the total cod allocated is shown as both actual and absolute values.

	FW69 Method: 2 PSC and 4 hypothetical commercial sub-ABC's					"Status Quo" 2 PSC and 2 actual (2022) commercial sub-ABC's			FW69 vs 2022 "Status Quo": Change in total cod	
Sector Name	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**Total Cod**	**GOM**	**GB**	**Total Cod**	**Difference**	**Absolute Difference**
Fixed Gear Sector	0.46	14.07	11.33	0.65	26.51	1.98	27.38	29.36	-2.86	2.86
Maine Coast Community Sector	10.52	41.31	2.28	0.13	54.23	44.82	5.50	50.32	3.91	3.91
Maine Permit Bank	0.77	3.01	0.14	0.01	3.94	3.30	0.35	3.64	0.29	0.29
Mooncusser Sector	4.17	29.55	12.98	0.74	47.44	17.78	31.37	49.15	-1.71	1.71
NEFS 2	18.03	77.92	10.44	0.60	106.98	76.82	25.22	102.05	4.94	4.94
NEFS 4	7.45	37.51	9.17	0.52	54.66	31.76	22.16	53.93	0.73	0.73
NEFS 5	0.22	1.34	0.49	0.03	2.07	0.93	1.18	2.11	-0.04	0.04
NEFS 6	0.11	1.03	0.57	0.03	1.74	0.48	1.37	1.85	-0.10	0.10
NEFS 8	4.27	52.96	34.12	1.95	93.31	18.21	82.47	100.67	-7.37	7.37
NEFS 10	1.20	4.63	0.19	0.01	6.03	5.11	0.45	5.56	0.47	0.47
NEFS 11	7.58	28.44	0.42	0.02	36.46	32.30	1.02	33.32	3.14	3.14
NEFS 12	2.47	9.88	0.71	0.04	13.10	10.52	1.71	12.23	0.87	0.87
NEFS 13	0.37	13.74	11.35	0.65	26.10	1.58	27.42	29.00	-2.90	2.90
NH Permit Bank	0.77	2.84	0.00	0.00	3.60	3.27	0.00	3.27	0.33	0.33
Sustainable Harvest Sector 1	4.65	24.81	7.01	0.40	36.87	19.83	16.94	36.76	0.11	0.11
Sustainable Harvest Sector 2	1.12	6.19	1.87	0.11	9.28	4.79	4.51	9.30	-0.02	0.02
Sustainable Harvest Sector 3	0.13	0.56	0.09	0.00	0.77	0.53	0.21	0.74	0.03	0.03
Common Pool	2.36	12.13	3.12	0.18	17.79	10.08	7.54	17.62	0.18	0.18
Sum	66.7	361.9	106.3	6.1	540.9	284.1	256.8	540.9		29.99

Development of WGOM Apportionment Approach

- June 2024 – Committee recommended basing WGOM apportionment on recent catch history
- PDT analysis demonstrated that the average percentage split of commercial catches from fishing years 2010-2023 results in an apportionment of 55% North: 45% South
- September 2024 – Committee interested in exploring an alternative apportionment based on catch that accounts for past quota differences, and tasked the PDT with analyzing a 75:25 (North:South) split compared to a 55:45 split
- PDT analysis showed how total cod allocations change by sector for a 55:45 vs 75:25 (North:South) apportionment split
- One of the additional options the PDT provided was a modification of the Committee's motion for 75:25 that bases the apportionment on a different subset of years to account for differences in quotas between GOM and GB. This option resulted in 68:32 (North:South) split
- Committee/Council selected 68:32 (North:South) split as preferred

Table 4: Illustrative example demonstrating the difference in the amount (mt) of cod that was allocated to sectors for 2 stocks in 2024 to the amount of cod that would have been allocated to each sector under the 4-stock scenario developed in FW69 using an apportionment ratio of 68:32 (North:South) for the WGOM stock. Allocations are calculated using the Fishing Year 2024 quota and sector rosters. The difference in the total cod allocated under each scenario is shown as both actual and absolute values.

	68:32 FW69 Method: 2 PSC and 4 hypothetical commercial sub-ABC's					"Status Quo" 2 PSC and 2 actual (2024) commercial sub-ABC's			68:32 FW69 vs "Status Quo": Change in total cod	
Sector Name	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**Total Cod**	**GOM**	**GB**	**Total Cod**	**Difference**	**Absolute Difference**
Fixed Gear Sector	0.60	18.27	14.72	0.84	34.43	2.06	43.34	45.40	-10.97	10.97
Maine Coast Community Sector	13.66	53.66	2.96	0.17	70.44	46.73	8.71	55.44	15.00	15.00
Maine Permit Bank	1.01	3.92	0.19	0.01	5.12	3.44	0.55	3.99	1.13	1.13
Mooncusser Sector	5.42	38.38	16.86	0.96	61.63	18.54	49.64	68.18	-6.56	6.56
NEFS 2	23.41	101.22	13.56	0.77	138.96	80.09	39.92	120.01	18.95	18.95
NEFS 4	9.68	48.72	11.91	0.68	71.00	33.12	35.07	68.19	2.81	2.81
NEFS 5	0.28	1.74	0.63	0.04	2.69	0.97	1.86	2.84	-0.14	0.14
NEFS 6	0.15	1.34	0.74	0.04	2.27	0.50	2.17	2.67	-0.40	0.40
NEFS 8	5.55	68.80	44.33	2.53	121.20	18.98	130.51	149.49	-28.29	28.29
NEFS 10	1.56	6.01	0.24	0.01	7.83	5.33	0.71	6.04	1.79	1.79
NEFS 11	9.84	36.94	0.55	0.03	47.36	33.67	1.62	35.29	12.07	12.07
NEFS 12	3.21	12.84	0.92	0.05	17.02	10.97	2.71	13.68	3.34	3.34
NEFS 13	0.48	17.85	14.74	0.84	33.91	1.65	43.39	45.05	-11.14	11.14
NH Permit Bank	1.00	3.68	0.00	0.00	4.68	3.41	0.00	3.41	1.27	1.27
Sustainable Harvest Sector 1	6.04	32.23	9.10	0.52	47.90	20.67	26.80	47.47	0.42	0.42
Sustainable Harvest Sector 2	1.46	8.03	2.42	0.14	12.06	5.00	7.14	12.13	-0.08	0.08
Sustainable Harvest Sector 3	0.16	0.72	0.11	0.01	1.00	0.56	0.33	0.88	0.12	0.12
Common Pool	3.07	15.76	4.05	0.23	23.11	10.51	11.93	22.44	0.67	0.67
Sum	86.6	470.1	138.0	7.9	702.6	296.2	406.4	702.6		115.15

Table 5: Illustrative example demonstrating the difference in the amount (mt) of cod that was allocated to sectors for 2 stocks in 2024 to the amount of cod that would have been allocated to each sector under the 4-stock scenario developed in FW69 using an apportionment ratio of 55:45 (North:South) for the WGOM stock. Allocations are calculated using the Fishing Year 2024 quota and sector rosters. The difference in the total cod allocated under each scenario is shown as both actual and absolute values.

	55:45 FW69 Method: 2 PSC and 4 hypothetical commercial sub-ABC's					"Status Quo" 2 PSC and 2 actual (2024) commercial sub-ABC's			55:45 FW69 vs "Status Quo": Change in total cod	
Sector Name	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**Total Cod**	**GOM**	**GB**	**Total Cod**	**Difference**	**Absolute Difference**
Fixed Gear Sector	0.60	24.36	14.72	0.84	40.52	2.06	43.34	45.40	-4.88	4.88
Maine Coast Community Sector	13.66	45.32	2.96	0.17	62.11	46.73	8.71	55.44	6.67	6.67
Maine Permit Bank	1.01	3.29	0.19	0.01	4.49	3.44	0.55	3.99	0.50	0.50
Mooncusser Sector	5.42	42.02	16.86	0.96	65.27	18.54	49.64	68.18	-2.92	2.92
NEFS 2	23.41	90.70	13.56	0.77	128.44	80.09	39.92	120.01	8.43	8.43
NEFS 4	9.68	47.17	11.91	0.68	69.44	33.12	35.07	68.19	1.25	1.25
NEFS 5	0.28	1.82	0.63	0.04	2.77	0.97	1.86	2.84	-0.06	0.06
NEFS 6	0.15	1.56	0.74	0.04	2.49	0.50	2.17	2.67	-0.18	0.18
NEFS 8	5.55	84.50	44.33	2.53	136.91	18.98	130.51	149.49	-12.58	12.58
NEFS 10	1.56	5.02	0.24	0.01	6.84	5.33	0.71	6.04	0.79	0.79
NEFS 11	9.84	30.24	0.55	0.03	40.66	33.67	1.62	35.29	5.37	5.37
NEFS 12	3.21	10.98	0.92	0.05	15.16	10.97	2.71	13.68	1.49	1.49
NEFS 13	0.48	24.03	14.74	0.84	40.09	1.65	43.39	45.05	-4.95	4.95
NH Permit Bank	1.00	2.98	0.00	0.00	3.98	3.41	0.00	3.41	0.56	0.56
Sustainable Harvest Sector 1	6.04	32.00	9.10	0.52	47.66	20.67	26.80	47.47	0.19	0.19
Sustainable Harvest Sector 2	1.46	8.08	2.42	0.14	12.10	5.00	7.14	12.13	-0.03	0.03
Sustainable Harvest Sector 3	0.16	0.66	0.11	0.01	0.94	0.56	0.33	0.88	0.05	0.05
Common Pool	3.07	15.38	4.05	0.23	22.74	10.51	11.93	22.44	0.30	0.30
Sum	86.6	470.1	138.0	7.9	702.6	296.2	406.4	702.6		51.21

Table 6: Illustrative example demonstrating the difference in the amount (mt) of cod that was allocated to sectors for 2 stocks in 2024 to the amount of cod that would have been allocated to each sector under the 4-stock scenario developed in FW69 using an apportionment ratio of 45:55 (North:South) for the WGOM stock. Allocations are calculated using the Fishing Year 2024 quota and sector rosters. The difference in the total cod allocated under each scenario is shown as both actual and absolute values.

	45:55 FW69 Method: 2 PSC and 4 hypothetical commercial sub-ABC's					"Status Quo" 2 PSC and 2 actual (2024) commercial sub-ABC's			45:55 FW69 vs "Status Quo": Change in total cod	
Sector Name	**EGOM**	**WGOM**	**GB**	**SNE**	**Total Cod**	**GOM**	**GB**	**Total Cod**	**Difference**	**Absolute Difference**
Fixed Gear Sector	0.60	29.05	14.72	0.84	45.21	2.06	43.34	45.40	-0.19	0.19
Maine Coast Community Sector	13.66	38.92	2.96	0.17	55.70	46.73	8.71	55.44	0.26	0.26
Maine Permit Bank	1.01	2.80	0.19	0.01	4.01	3.44	0.55	3.99	0.02	0.02
Mooncusser Sector	5.42	44.82	16.86	0.96	68.07	18.54	49.64	68.18	-0.12	0.12
NEFS 2	23.41	82.60	13.56	0.77	120.35	80.09	39.92	120.01	0.33	0.33
NEFS 4	9.68	45.97	11.91	0.68	68.24	33.12	35.07	68.19	0.05	0.05
NEFS 5	0.28	1.88	0.63	0.04	2.83	0.97	1.86	2.84	-0.00	0.00
NEFS 6	0.15	1.74	0.74	0.04	2.66	0.50	2.17	2.67	-0.01	0.01
NEFS 8	5.55	96.59	44.33	2.53	148.99	18.98	130.51	149.49	-0.50	0.50
NEFS 10	1.56	4.26	0.24	0.01	6.07	5.33	0.71	6.04	0.03	0.03
NEFS 11	9.84	25.08	0.55	0.03	35.50	33.67	1.62	35.29	0.21	0.21
NEFS 12	3.21	9.56	0.92	0.05	13.74	10.97	2.71	13.68	0.06	0.06
NEFS 13	0.48	28.79	14.74	0.84	44.85	1.65	43.39	45.05	-0.20	0.20
NH Permit Bank	1.00	2.44	0.00	0.00	3.44	3.41	0.00	3.41	0.02	0.02
Sustainable Harvest Sector 1	6.04	31.82	9.10	0.52	47.48	20.67	26.80	47.47	0.01	0.01
Sustainable Harvest Sector 2	1.46	8.11	2.42	0.14	12.13	5.00	7.14	12.13	0.00	0.00
Sustainable Harvest Sector 3	0.16	0.61	0.11	0.01	0.89	0.56	0.33	0.88	0.00	0.00
Common Pool	3.07	15.09	4.05	0.23	22.45	10.51	11.93	22.44	0.01	0.01
Sum	86.6	470.1	138.0	7.9	702.6	296.2	406.4	702.6		2.03

For Today

- Receive an update on the repackaged and revised action.

- Discussion and consider making recommendations to the Council to submit the revised action.

New England
Fishery Management Council

Framework Adjustment 72 / Specifications and Management Measures

New England
Fishery Management Council

For Today

- Receive an update on development of the action.

- Discussion.

New England
Fishery Management Council

Draft Scope

Fishing year (FY) 2026-2028 Specifications and Management Measures, to:

- Revise status determination criteria, as appropriate,
- Set FY2026 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern GB cod and Eastern GB haddock, and the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- Set FY2026-FY2027 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock,
- Set FY2026-FY2028 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, white hake, Acadian redfish, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish,
- Review sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, Atlantic halibut, and others as time permits and,
- Address recreational measures as part of Atlantic cod management transition for Phase 1

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Draft Range of Alternatives

1. Revised Status Determination Criteria (*if necessary*)
2. Specifications
   - FY2026 TACs for US/Canada management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder stock
   - FY2026-FY2027 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock
   - FY2026-FY2028 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder, CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, white hake, Acadian redfish, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish,
3. Recreational Fishery Management Measures
   - Regional Administrator authority to adjust recreational measures for cod and haddock

New England Fishery Management Council

Draft Council Milestones

- **June –** initiate the action
- **September** –update on any draft alternatives under other measures
- **December** – receive specifications alternatives and take final action on entire action (specifications and other measures)
- Implementation by **May 1, 2026,** NMFS

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Fishery Management Council

Draft Timeline

2025	
MAY-JUN	Committee/AP/PDT preliminary discussion
MAY 22	Assessment Oversight Panel meets (fall 2025 assessments)
JUN 24-26	**Council initiates framework**
JUL-SEP	Committee/AP/PDT develop draft alternatives
SEP 15-18	Peer review – Management Track Assessments for yellowtail flounder, winter flounder, white hake, and redfish
SEP 24-27	Council reviews progress on developing draft alternatives
OCT 1-2	TMGC/SC meets to recommend TACs for US/CA management units of EGB cod and EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder stock
OCT 8	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for ocean pout* and wolffish*
OCT 21-22	SSC recommends OFLs/ABCs for GB cod, GB haddock, yellowtail flounder (GB, CC/GOM, SNE/MA), winter flounder (GB, GOM, SNE/MA), white hake, redfish
OCT-NOV	Committee/AP/PDT continue developing draft alternatives and complete impact analysis
DEC	**Council receives draft alternatives and takes final action**
2026	
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

*Assessment schedule change – data update only

New England Fishery Management Council

Risk Policy Matrices

- Draft examples for white hake and ocean pout
- All groundfish stocks with updated specifications this year – to be completed by PDT for October SSC meetings
- Revised matrix format – follows the Risk Policy themes and factors included in the Council's new Risk Policy Concept

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Risk Policy Use and Development

- New Risk Policy became effective on January 1, 2025.
- Two phases (use and development) are happening concurrently.

USE – ALPHA Phase

- Risk Policy Concept as approved in Sept. 2024.
- Statement and Stability.
- 7 factors, and guidelines.
- Risk Policy matrix completed by PDTs.
- Qualitative application.

Development – BETA Phase

- Simulation testing.
- Weightings exercise.
- Incorporate input. Adjustments to factors and data.
- Connection to harvest control rules.
- Quantitative application for 2027.

Revised Risk Policy Matrix

- Supporting information is grouped by Risk Policy theme and factor. Also includes a section on additional information.

	A	B	C	D
1	**Group Theme**	**Factor**	**Supporting Information**	
2			Overfished? Rebuilding?	
3			Overfishing?	
4		Biomass Stock Status	SSB Relative to SSB-Target?	
5		Recruitment	Recent trends and how recruitment is accounted for in assessment	
6			Assessment model, type, terminal year	
7			Availability of biological data/missing years of data?	
8			Retrospective pattern?	
9	**Stock Status and Uncertainty**	Assessment Type and Uncertainty	Major sources of assessment uncertainty	
10			Climate impacts and incorporation into assessment	
11			Tophic interactions	
12		Climate Vulnerability	Does the fishery rely on quota of another species?	
13	**Climate and Ecosystem**	Fish Condition	Trends in fish condition	
14			Commercial fishery trends (e.g. landings, revenue, LPUE, DAS usage, price)	
15			Management uncertainty in comm fishery	
16			Vessels, permits, dealers, processors	
17		Commercial Fishery Characterization	Commercial fishing communities	
18			Recreational fishery trends (e.g. catch, angler trips)	
19			Management uncertainty in rec fishery	
20	**Economic and Community**	Recreational Fishery Characterization	Recreational fishing communities	
21	**Importance**	Other Economic/Social Considerations		
22		Reference Points	OFLs	AMs
23				
24		Harvest Control Rule	ABCs	Signficant source of catch outside the directed federal fishery?
25	**Additional Information**			

Stock: **White Hake**

Factor	Supporting Information
Stock Status and Uncertainty	
Biomass Stock Status	Rebuilding target: 2031
	Awaiting updated assessment information
	Awaiting updated assessment information
Recruitment	*Awaiting updated assessment information*
Assessment Type and Uncertainty	Analytical, ASAP, 2024
	Awaiting updated assessment information
	Awaiting updated assessment information
	Awaiting updated assessment information
Climate and Ecosystem	
Climate Vulnerability	high climate exposure + moderate biological sensitivity = **moderate climate vulnerability** **negative directional effect** of climate change
	22 prey categories: species in the gadidae family which could include pollock; silver hake; Atlantic cod; Atlantic mackerel; haddock; atlantic hagfish; Acadian redfish; species in the hake family; Atlantic herring and other fish in the clupeidae family; four beard rockling fish; squid; and 6 families of marine crustaceans.
Fish Condition	Poor fish condition based on the most frequent condition reported over the past three years for White hake sampled in GOM and GB

White Hake

Economic and Community Importance	
Commercial Fishery Characterization	Overall decline in landed groundfish pounds, groundfish revenue, and groundfish ex-vessel prices: *Total groundfish landings:* 36.88 million pounds in FY2021; 33.26 million pounds in FY2022; 32.53 million pounds in FY2023 *Average groundfish ex-vessel prices:* $1.38/lb in FY2021; $1.34/lb in FY2022; $1.28/lbs in FY2023
	Commercial Groundfish Revenue for White Hake (2023$): $6.2 million in FY2021; $5.5 million in FY2022; $4.8 million in FY2023; $5.3 million 5-year average
	Ex-vessel price/lb for White Hake (2023$/lb): $1.98/lb in FY2021; $1.82/lb in FY2022; $1.68/lb in FY2023; $1.72/lb 5-year average
	Total catch of White Hake: 1,941.6 mt in FY2021; 1,850.2 mt in FY2022; 1,765.9 mt in FY2023
	Commerical groundfish fishery catch of White Hake: 1,930.1 mt in FY2021; 1,843.4 mt in FY2022; 1,760.3 mt in FY2023
	The default management uncertainty buffer of 5% was applied to the commercial groundfish fishery in FY2025.
	Overall downward trend in FY2023: 811 commercial groundfish permitted vessels (33% inactive); 533 reported landings (active vessels landing any revenue across common pool and sectors); 46 dealers reported buying groundfish, and 79 dealers reported buying any species on groundfish trips.

Stock: **White Hake**

Factor	Supporting Information
Commercial Fishery Characterization	The top 5 ports based on the Groundfish-Specific Commercial Engagement Indicator (2004-2023) are Gloucester, MA; New Bedford, MA; Boston, MA; Narragansett, RI; and Portland, ME.
	White hake is a constraining stock to the commercial groundfish fishery with over 90% utilization of its ACL in the most recent 3 years. The groundfish fishery on a whole relies on quota within the multispecies complex.
Recreational Fishery Characterization	White hake does not have a recreational fishery component; no recreational fishery trend data is available.
	The default management uncertainty buffer of 5% is applied to stocks with a recreational component in the groundfish fishery, but is not relevant for White hake as there is no recreational fishery component.
	Most of the top communities in recreational engagement in the Northeast are in the Mid-Atlantic region, except for Narragansett/Point Judith, RI. Recreational fishermen in these communities are unlikely to rely on Northeast Multispecies.
Other Economic/Social Considerations	*ACE lease prices modeled using a hedonic price model from inter-sector leases for FY2018-2023* In recent years, inter-sector ACE lease trades for white hake are not associated with prices greater than $0.80.

White Hake

Additional Information	
Reference Points	***SSBMSY:*** SSB/R (40% MSP) ***Biomass Threshold:*** 1/2Btarget ***Max. Fishing Mortality Threshold:*** F40% MSP
OFLs	2,591 in FY2025
ABCs	1,921 mt in FY2025
AMs	In-season closures and lb-lb for commercial groundfish fishery
Harvest Control Rule	Frebuild of 70% FMSY in FY2025 The commercial groundfish fishery utilized 96% of its FY2023 ACL and other fisheries utilized 29% of their FY2023 subcomponents.
Signficant source of catch outside the directed federal fishery?	No significant catch outside the groundfish fishery.

Stock: **Ocean Pout**

Factor	Supporting Information
Stock Status and Uncertainty	
Biomass Stock Status	Overfished; Rebuilding target: 2029
	Overfishing is not occurring
	Biomass proxy = 0.263 kg/tow (5% of SSBMSY proxy = 4.94 kg/tow)
Recruitment	Assessment does not account for recruitment due to its empirical nature
Assessment Type and Uncertainty	Exploitation ratio, empirical, 2021
	The 2020 spring NEFSC survey year was treated as missing.
	Exploitation ratio does not allow estimation of a retrospective pattern
	In spite of the no possession limit, stock size has not responded to low levels of catch. Additional assessment uncertainty will occur as only a data update will be provided for the stock in 2025.
Climate and Ecosystem	
Climate Vulnerability	high climate exposure + high biological sensitivity = **high climate vulnerability** **negative directional effect** of climate change
	13 prey categories of marine invertebrates such as sea stars, brittle stars, sea urchins, snails, mollusks, crabs, scallops, and marine worms
Fish Condition	Good fish condition based on the most frequent condition reported over the past three years for Ocean pout sampled in MAB, GOM and GB

Ocean Pout

Economic and Community Importance	
Commercial Fishery Characterization	<u>Overall decline in landed groundfish pounds, groundfish revenue, and groundfish ex-vessel prices:</u> *Total groundfish landings:* 36.88 million pounds in FY2021; 33.26 million pounds in FY2022; 32.53 million pounds in FY2023 *Average groundfish ex-vessel prices:* $1.38/lb in FY2021; $1.34/lb in FY2022; $1.28/lbs in FY2023 Ocean pout is managed as a zero-possession stock; there is no commercial groundfish revenue or ex-vessel price data available.
	Total catch of Ocean Pout: 44.9 mt in FY2021; 55.5 mt in FY2022; 41.9 mt in FY2023
	Commerical groundfish fishery catch of Ocean Pout: 24.6 mt in FY2021; 32.4 mt in FY2022; 33.7 mt in FY2023
	A management uncertainty buffer of 7% was applied to the commercial groundfish fishery in FY2025.
	<u>Overall downward trend in FY2023:</u> 811 commercial groundfish permitted vessels (33% inactive); 533 reported landings (active vessels landing any revenue across common pool and sectors); 46 dealers reported buying groundfish, and 79 dealers reported buying any species on groundfish trips.

Stock: **Ocean Pout**

Factor	Supporting Information
Commercial Fishery Characterization	The top 5 ports based on the Groundfish-Specific Commercial Engagement Indicator (2004-2023) are Gloucester, MA; New Bedford, MA; Boston, MA; Narragansett, RI; and Portland, ME.
	Ocean pout is a non-allocated stock and possession is not permitted; there is not a commercial fishery specific to ocean pout. The groundfish fishery on a whole relies on quota within the multispecies complex.
Recreational Fishery Characterization	Ocean pout is managed as a zero possession stock; there is no recreational fishery trend data available.
	The default management uncertainty buffer of 5% is applied to sotcks with a recreational component in the groundfish fishery.
	Most of the top communities in recreational engagement in the Northeast are in the Mid-Atlantic region, except for Narragansett/Point Judith, RI. Recreational fishermen in these communities are unlikely to rely on Northeast Multispecies.
Other Economic/Social Considerations	*No other considerations to present.*

Ocean Pout

Additional Information	
Reference Points	***SSBMSY:*** External ***Biomass Threshold:*** 1/2Btarget ***Max. Fishing Mortality Threshold:*** Rel F at replacement
OFLs	125 mt in FY2025
ABCs	87 mt in FY2025
AMs	If ACL and buffer for an unallocated stock is exceeded, groundfish vessels (common pool & sector) are subject to an area closure/ gear restriction in a future year.
Harvest Control Rule	Option 4 of the GF ABC CR in FY2025 The commercial groundfish fishery utilized 69% of its FY2023 ACL; state fisheries utilized 221% of their FY2023 subcomponent; and other fisheries utilized 21% of their FY2023 subcomponents.
Signficant source of catch outside the directed federal fishery?	***Scallop fishery catch of Ocean pout:*** 3.3 mt in FY2021, 4.1 mt in FY2022; 3.3 mt in FY2023 ***Summer flounder fishery catch of Ocean pout:*** 0.4 mt in FY2021, 3.1 mt in FY2022; 0.5 mt in FY2023 ***Squid fishery catch of Ocean pout:*** 13.6 mt in FY2021, 7.0 mt in FY2022; 1.5 mt in FY2023

For Today

- Receive an update on development of the action.

- Discussion.

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Extra Slides

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Stock	Council Actions								
	Emergency Action	*Amendment 25 v2*		*Framework 69*			*Framework 72*		
	FY2025	**FY2026**	**FY2027**	**FY2025**	**FY2026**	**FY2027**	**FY2026**	**FY2027**	**FY2028**
Eastern Gulf of Maine cod	✓[1]	✓	✓						
Western Gulf of Maine cod		✓	✓						
Georges Bank cod		✓					✓[3]	✓[3]	
Southern New England cod		✓	✓						
Georges Bank haddock	✓			✓[2]			✓[3]	✓[3]	
Gulf of Maine haddock	✓			✓[2]	✓	✓			
Georges Bank yellowtail flounder	✓			✓[2]	✓		✓	✓	✓
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder							✓	✓	✓
Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder							✓	✓	✓
American plaice	✓			✓[2]	✓	✓			
Witch flounder	✓			✓[2]	✓	✓			
Georges Bank winter flounder							✓	✓	✓
Gulf of Maine winter flounder							✓	✓	✓
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder							✓	✓	✓
Redfish									
White hake							✓	✓	✓
Pollock	✓			✓[2]	✓	✓			
Northern windowpane flounder							✓[4]	✓[4]	✓[4]
Southern windowpane flounder							✓[4]	✓[4]	✓[4]
Ocean pout							✓[5]	✓[5]	✓[5]
Atlantic halibut	✓			✓[2]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic wolffish							✓[5]	✓[5]	✓[5]

[1] Proposed ABCs in Framework 69 were combined to distribute specifications for GOM and GB cod stocks.
[2] Specifications will replace those included in the emergency action.
[3] Subject to negotiations agreed upon at TMGC in September -October 2025.
[4] Potential to be omitted from FW72.
[5] 2025 Management track assessments have been deferred to data updates only.