

Transboundary Management Guidance Committee

DRAFT 2026 Guidance Document

Executive Summary

This document is a summary of the basis of the TMGC's guidance to both countries for the 2026 fishing year (calendar year for Canada; May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027, for the United States (U.S.)). The recommended shared Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and Resource Allocation Share for each stock is provided in Table 1. The domestic science products used by the TMGC during its meeting are available as appendices to this document.

Table 1. TMGC Recommended Shared TACs and Allocation Shares

	2025					2026 (Recommended)				
	TAC (mt)	Quota (mt)		Share (%)		TAC (mt)	Quota (mt)		Share (%)	
		Canada	US	Canada	US		Canada	US	Canada	US
Had.	7,410	5,854	1,556	79	21	4,750	3,752	998	79	21
Cod	452*	370	82	77	23	473	322	151	68	32
YT	200	104	96	52	48	57	26	31	46	54

* The 2024 TMGC negotiations ended with no agreement on Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) Cod for the 2025 fishing season. This number is based on the combined domestic decisions.

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Background

The Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), established in 2000, is a government-industry committee composed of representatives from Canada and the U.S. The TMGC's purpose is to develop guidance in the form of harvest strategies, resource sharing, and management processes for Canadian and U.S. management authorities for the cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder transboundary resources on Eastern Georges Bank. The TMGC aims to collaborate effectively on the management of the three transboundary resources, including the development of joint annual harvest levels that are consistent with the objectives, as well as legal and policy requirements of both countries, where possible.

The TMGC in 2025

In 2025, the TMGC was hosted by Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia on October 1. These negotiations, for the 2026 fishery season, were based on the previously agreed upon sharing allocation agreement, in place since 2001, and the new Integration of Science Advice for Transboundary Species (ISATS) process.

Due to the U.S. government shutdown, the U.S. TMGC delegation participation was limited, with only one U.S. representative attending in person. Remote access was made available for interested observers. Pertinent reference documents and consultations used in the TMGC deliberations are listed at the end of this document.

Integration of Science Advice for Transboundary Species (ISATS) process:

Science advice on stock status and future projections of the three transboundary stocks has historically been provided jointly by Canadian and U.S. scientists through the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC). A TRAC Improvement Workshop was held in March 2024 with participation by the TMGC industry and government co-chairs, TRAC co-chairs, and regional senior management staff from both the Canadian and U.S. science and resource management sectors.

On April 10, 2024, a report was released that detailed the results of the workshop. In summary, a consensus was reached on a new approach for the provision of science advice to TMGC. Endorsed by TRAC, TMGC, and the steering committee leadership in May 2024, these strategies aim to enhance collaboration and streamline advice for assessments for the management process. The recommended changes to the process eliminated the annual TRAC meeting, and replaced it with a process that compiles, but does not seek to reconcile, domestic science advice products from each country.

Therefore, in 2025 science advice used by the TMGC to develop the joint annual harvest recommendations for cod and haddock for 2026, was provided through the new approach for provision of science advice called the ISATS process. This process is a replacement for the TRAC process. ISATS supports the decision-making process for the management of EGB cod and haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder. This process includes a Technical Science Coordination (TSC) meeting of stock assessment leads where the outcomes from U.S. and Canadian domestic assessments are compiled into a joint document to provide scientific advice for the shared transboundary stocks.

For 2025, the US management track assessment for GB yellowtail flounder had not been completed, prior to this meeting, therefore, the results of this meeting informed the 2026 position on this stock.

As per the new process, Canada and U.S. Science will rotate completing the Resource Allocation shares calculation to inform fishery negotiations year to year. Canada completed the calculation this year, informing the 2026 recommended shared TACs. The agreement is based on a combination of historical catches (10% weighting), and resource distribution based on available trawl surveys (90% weighting).

The TSC meeting was held on July 16, 2025. The report from that meeting compiled the science advice for haddock and cod from each domestic model, and provided a summary of the assessments and key differences between the U.S. and Canadian assessment approaches as highlighted by the scientists during discussion in this meeting. The report was presented to TMGC and reviewed at an Informational Session for the TMGC held on July 23, 2025 after which management authorities in both countries completed their domestic consultation processes.

An abbreviated review of the new ISATS process is intended to be held in 2026, after the conclusion of the first full year of the new science process. A full review workshop is intended to be held in 2028 to further evaluate whether the new process is successfully providing information needed by TMGC to develop joint catch advice recommendations for each shared stock.

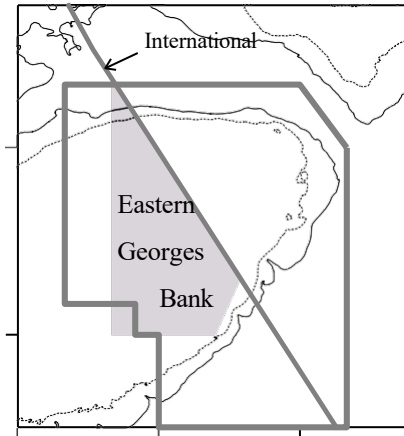
Eastern Georges Bank Cod [5Zjm; 551, 552,561,562]

Guidance

TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined Canada/U.S. TAC for Eastern Georges Bank Cod for 2026 is 473 mt, which is a 5% increase in relation to the 2025 TAC of 452 mt (combined domestic TACs due to non-agreement at 2024 TMGC).

Applying the allocation shares for 2026 entitles the U.S. to 32% and Canada to 68% of the TAC, resulting in a U.S. TAC of 151 mt and a Canadian TAC of 322 mt.

Historical TACs and Catch



	Canada Catch (mt)	Canada TAC (mt)	US Catch (mt)	US TAC (mt)	Total Catch (mt)	Total TAC (mt)	Canada Allocation Share (%)	US Allocation Share (%)
Cod								
2019	396	462	31	188	428	650	71	29
2020	377	462	67	188	444	650	71	29
2021	431	444.5	41	190.5	472	635	70	30
2022	326	411	37	160	363	571	72	28
2023	329	384.8	31	135.2	360	520	74	26
2024	327	370	51	150	378	520	71	29
2025		370		82		452	77	23
2026		320		151		473	68	32

Summary of TMGC Discussion

Both countries agreed to use the 2025 Canadian assessment for Eastern Georges Bank (EGB) cod, which recommends a catch of 473 mt. This assessment incorporates the latest data and applies a Fishing mortality (F) strategy defined as a very low risk of preventable decline, consistent with the TMGC's historical approach of reducing fishing pressure when stock productivity is poor. The recommended joint TAC of 473 mt is the lowest ever agreed to for this stock. While it helps maintain some operations on EGB, it is acknowledged that such a low TAC will continue to limit other fisheries in 2026.

Special Considerations

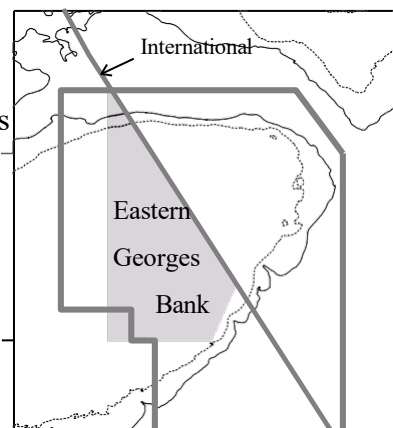
- The U.S. TMGC representative flagged an interest in revisiting a discussion of the long-standing allocation shares agreement at the Canada-US Steering Committee meeting on October 14, 2025.

Eastern Georges Bank Haddock [5Zjm; 551, 552,561,562]

Guidance

TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined Canada/U.S. TAC for Eastern Georges Bank Haddock for 2026 is 4,750 mt, which is a 36% decrease in relation to the 2025 TAC of 7,410 mt.

Application of the allocation shares for 2026 result in a U.S. share of 21% and a Canadian share of 79%, resulting in a U.S. TAC of 998 mt and a Canadian TAC of 3,752 mt.



Historical TACs and Catch

	Canada Catch (mt)	Canada TAC (mt)	US Catch (mt)	US TAC (mt)	Total Catch (mt)	Total TAC (mt)	Canada Allocation Share (%)	US Allocation Share (%)
Haddock								
2019	14,168	15,000	594	15,000	14,762	30,000	50	50
2020	11,052	13,800	683	16,200	11,735	30,000	46	54
2021	7002	7,614	524	6,486	7,526	14,100	54	46
2022	5,150	7,473	335	6,627	5,485	14,100	53	47
2023	2,507	2,320	332	1,520	2,840	3,840	58	42
2024	5,908	6,900	311	3,100	6,219	10,000	69	31
2025		5,854		1,556		7,410	79	21
2026		3,752		998		4,750	79	21

Summary of TMGC Discussion

Based on a review of the domestic assessment products provided by both countries, the TMGC found that a shared TAC of 4,750 mt for EGB haddock is appropriate. This TAC is below the apportioned U.S. advice of 6,133 mt, however, it is above the range of the Canadian advice based on the 2025 Canadian EGB haddock assessment. This stock is considered to be in the healthy zone in the Canadian precautionary approach framework, and in the U.S. context is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. A 36% decrease was considered a significant one year reduction which responds to the Canadian assessment projections. Assessments are anticipated to be updated to provide science advice to inform the 2027 TMGC negotiation.

Special Considerations

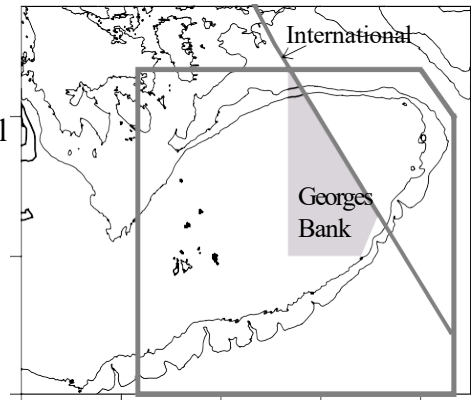
- A Canadian EGB haddock assessment is anticipated to be updated in 2026 in time for the provision of advice to support the TMGC negotiations for the 2027 fishing year. Work towards a peer review of the Canadian EGB haddock assessment framework will be initiated over the coming months. If the framework review is not completed by June 2026, the current modelling framework will be used to provide advice for consideration by TMGC negotiations in 2026, for the 2027 fishing year.
- There is an expectation the US Georges Bank Haddock Assessment will be updated in 2026 in time for consideration by TMGC negotiations for the 2027 fishing year.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder [5Zhjmn; 522,525, 551, 552, 561, 562]

Guidance

Using the results of the 2025 U.S. Georges Bank Yellowtail Management Track Assessment, the TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined Canada/U.S. TAC for Georges Bank yellowtail for the 2026 fishing year is 57 mt. This represents a 72% decrease in relation to the 2025 TAC of 200 mt.

Applying the allocation shares for 2026 entitles the U.S. to 54% and Canada to 46% of the TAC, resulting in a U.S. TAC of 31 mt and a Canadian TAC of 26 mt.



Historical TACs and Catch

	Canada Catch (mt)	Canada TAC (mt)	US Catch (mt)	US TAC (mt)	Total Catch (mt)	Total TAC (mt)	Canada Allocation Share (%)	US Allocation Share (%)
Yellowtail								
2019	4	34	5	106	8	140	24	76
2020	6	42	61	120	68	162	26	74
2021	4	45	48	80	51	125	36	64
2022	4	78	11	122	15	200	39	61
2023	5	94	18	106	24	200	47	53
2024	5	97	7	71	13	168	58	42
2025		104		96		200	52	48
2026		26		31		57	46	54

Summary of TMGC Discussion

Canadian science and resource management authorities agreed that U.S. science would provide catch advice for GB yellowtail flounder following their Management Track Assessment in September 2025. Based on the results of the US assessment, the Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder stock is overfished and overfishing is not occurring; stock status based on Canadian reference points remains unknown, but it is assumed the stock would be in the critical zone. The most recent survey values remain low, and recent fishery catches remain well below the quota. The stock biomass is low, and productivity is poor. Thus the Management Track Assessment catch advice of 57 mt, a decrease from 200 mt, was deemed appropriate.

Appendices

- I. NEFSC and DFO. 2025. COMPILATION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE FOR EASTERN GEORGES BANK COD AND HADDOCK FOR FISHING YEAR 2026
- II. NEFSC. 2025. Management Track Stock Assessment Report for Georges Bank Yellowtail 2026

Consultations

Pre-TMGC public consultation in the United States, virtual meeting, 26 September 2025

Pre-TMGC meeting in Canada, virtual meeting, NS, 6 August 2025