

2018 TMGC Guidance

NEFMC Groundfish Committee Meeting

New Bedford, MA

September 21, 2017

and

NEFMC Meeting

September 27, 2017

Gloucester, MA

Georges Bank (5Zhjmn) Yellowtail Flounder

- **2018 TAC of 300 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2017	300	31%	93	69%	207
2018	300	29%	87	71%	213

- Change in survey catchability in this year's empirical approach resulted in increased estimate of survey biomass, but declining trend of stock remains
- Catch is not major driver of current stock conditions—total mortality remains high despite record low catches
- Sought to balance stock conditions and utilization of other species

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

- **2018 TAC of 40,000 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2017	50,000	41%	20,500	59%	29,500
2018	40,000	61%	24,400	39%	15,600

- Biomass is likely to decrease, but will remain very high
- TAC is below the low risk of exceeding F_{ref} using the VPA model and below the neutral risk of exceeding F_{ref} in the sensitivity analysis
- Small reduction from 2017 given concerns about growth of 2013 year class and industry requests for stability

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

Target TAC for 2019

- Identified a 2019 target TAC of 40,000 mt as an upper bound
 - Will review subject to the 2018 TRAC interim report

Special Considerations

- Request that the Steering Committee consider a benchmark review a priority.
 - The last benchmark review was conducted in 1998
 - Recent declines in model performance
 - Changes in haddock productivity
 - TMGC's reliance on 2-year catch advice.

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Cod

- **2018 TAC of 951 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2017	730	80%	584	20%	146
2018	951	73%	694	27%	257

- Status of stock remains poor, but some recent improvement in survey indices
- Sought to balance utilization of other species while continuing to promote biomass growth
- Expected to result in an F below the fishing mortality reference point (0.11)
- Lower than results of the empirical approach to address potential instability in the terminal year estimate

New TRAC Process

- TMGC reviewed the new TRAC process used this year designed to clarify roles and responsibilities
- TMGC concluded the new process is an improvement and should continue to be used
- TMGC noted some difficulties in interpreting TRAC advice given input was provided by the scientists and external peer reviewers as well as from other meeting participants, including stakeholders and the general public
- TMGC and TRAC will continue to refine the process to address the issue of capturing TRAC catch advice, as well as input from other meeting participants

10-Year Review Conclusions

- TMGC reviewed report recommendations and finalized report
- TMGC will continue to make administrative improvements to its process based on the report's recommendations
- TMGC noted that the report's recommendations will help guide future TMGC work

Other Business and Planning

- No intersessional planned
- Pending CA fully populating delegation and further US and CA discussions, 2018 TMGC agenda will tentatively include discussion on one of the administrative review recommendations - review of the harvest strategies.
- TMGC initially discussed what does poor stock status mean to each country?