

Framework Adjustment 55

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan

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**Groundfish Committee
Meeting
November 18, 2015**



Goals for the Committee Meeting Today

- To discuss any recommendations to the Council on the development of the alternatives and impacts analysis
- To possibly recommend specific alternatives to the Council.



Scope and Objectives

Scope	Objectives
To incorporate any status changes for groundfish stocks and set specifications for all groundfish stocks.	To meet regulatory requirements to prevent overfishing, ensure rebuilding, and help achieve optimum yield in the fishery.
To adopt an additional sector and modify the sector approval process.	To provide for flexibility within the sector system to adapt to changing regulatory and legal circumstances.
To make changes to the groundfish monitoring program.	To make the groundfish monitoring program more efficient and cost effective while achieving the stated goals of the program in Amendment 16 (A16) and Framework Adjustment 48 (FW48).



Scope and Objectives (cont.)

Scope	Objectives
To make changes to the management measures for U.S./Canada TACs in order to move GB cod quota from the eastern management area to the western management area.	To provide for flexibility to access stocks, while staying under quota limits.
To modify the Gulf of Maine Cod Protection Measures so that the recreational possession limit for GOM cod can once again be modified by the Regional Administrator.	To allow for flexibility in the setting of recreational management measures.
To modify the definition of a haddock separator trawl so that the separator panel is easily identifiable.	To improve enforcement of a conservation gear.



Likely Range of Alternatives

- 4.1 *Updates to Status Determination Criteria and Annual Catch Limits*
 - 4.1.1 *Status Determination Criteria*
 - 4.1.2 *Annual Catch Limits*
- 4.2 *Fishery Program Administration*
 - 4.2.1 *Implementation of an Additional Sector*
 - 4.2.2 *Sector Approval Process*
 - 4.2.3 *Modification to the Definition of a Haddock Separator Trawl*
- 4.3 *Commercial and Recreational Fishery Measures*
 - 4.3.1 *Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program**
 - 4.3.2 *Management Measures for U.S./Canada TACs*
 - 4.3.3 *Modification to the Gulf of Maine Cod Protection Measures*

*The number and complexity of alternatives may impact the timeline for this action.



Timeline- in time for FY 2016

2015	June	Council initiates FW55
	Jul-Oct	Develop specifications
	Sep	Council receives update on FW55
	Oct-Nov	Develop NEPA analysis
	Dec	Council takes final action on FW55



2015 Groundfish Assessments

- 2015 TRAC Assessments (July 2015)
 - GB yellowtail flounder,
 - EGB cod,
 - EGB haddock
- 2015 Groundfish Operational Assessments (September 2015)



Status Changes – Peer Review

Stock	<u>Previous Assessment</u>		<u>Current Assessment</u>	
	Overfishing?	Overfished?	Overfishing?	Overfished?
Georges Bank Cod	Yes	Yes	Unknown	Yes
Gulf of Maine Cod	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georges Bank Haddock	No	No	No	No
Gulf of Maine Haddock	No	No	No	No
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder	No	No	Yes	Yes
Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine Yellowtail Flounder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
American Plaice	No	No	No	No
Witch Flounder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georges Bank Winter Flounder	No	No	Yes	Yes
Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder	No	Unknown	No	Unknown
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder	No	Yes	No	Yes
Acadian Redfish	No	No	No	No
White Hake	No	No	No	No
Pollock	No	No	No	No
Northern Windowpane Flounder	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Southern Windowpane Flounder	No	No	No	No
Ocean Pout	No	Yes	No	Yes
Atlantic Halibut	No	Yes	Unknown	Yes
Atlantic Wolffish	No	Yes	No	Yes



SSC Discussion OFLs/ABCs*

Stock	OFL 2016	ABC 2016	OFL 2017	ABC 2017	OFL 2018	ABC 2018
GB cod	1,665	1,249	1,665	1,249	1,665	1,249
GOM cod	667	500	667	500	667	500
GB Haddock	160,385	77,898	258,691	77,898	358,077	77,898
GOM Haddock	4,717	3,630	5,873	4,534	6,218	4,815
GB Yellowtail Flounder	unknown	354	unknown	354	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	unknown	267	unknown	267	unknown	267
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	555	427	707	427	900	427
Plaice	1,695	1,297	1,748	1,336	1,840	1,404
Witch Flounder	513	394	925	394	974	394
GB Winter Flounder	957	755	1,056	755	1,459	755
GOM Winter Flounder	1,080	810	1,080	810	1,080	810
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1,041	780	1,021	780	1,587	780
Redfish	13,723	10,338	14,665	11,050	15,260	11,501
White Hake	4,985	3,816	4,816	3,686	4,733	3,622
Pollock	27,668	21,312	32,004	21,312	34,745	21,312
Northern Windowpane Flounder	243	182	243	182	243	182
Southern Windowpane Flounder	833	623	833	623	833	623
Ocean Pout	220	165	220	165	220	165
Halibut	210	158	210	158	210	158
Wolffish	110	82	110	82	110	82

**This is a Council staff summary. The SSC report is not final.*



4.1 Updates to SDCs and ACLs

4.1.1 Status Determination Criteria

- No changes to the criteria
- Numerical estimates provided for informational purposes
- Overfishing considered unknown for GB cod & halibut

4.1.2 Annual Catch Limits

- Incorporates US/CA quotas and SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs
- Includes PDT's recommended distribution of sub-component, state waters, and Canadian catches
- Provides range to consider for the Scallop Fishery sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder



FY2015 & FY2016 Commercial Groundfish sub-ACLs

Stock	FY 2015	FY 2016	% Change
GB Cod	1787	608	-66%
GOM Cod	207	280	36%
GB Haddock	21759	51667	137%
GOM Haddock	958	2416	152%
GB Yellowtail Flounder	195	211	9%
SNE/MA YT (Low/90%)	557	189	-66%
SNE/MA YT (High/100%)	557	182	-67%
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	458	341	-26%
American Plaice	1408	1183	-16%
Witch Flounder	610	277	-55%
GB Winter Flounder	1891	590	-69%
GOM Winter Flounder	392	639	63%
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1306	585	-55%
Redfish	11034	9526	-14%
White Hake	4343	3459	-20%
Pollock	13720	17817	30%
N. Windowpane Flounder	98	66	-33%
S. Windowpane Flounder	102	104	2%
Ocean Pout	195	137	-30%
Atlantic Halibut	64	91	43%
Atlantic Wolffish	62	72	17%

Possible Changes in Recreational sub-ACLs (mt)

Stock	FY 2015	FY 2016	% Change
GOM cod	121	157	+30%
GOM haddock	372	926	+149%

FY 2015 & FY 2016 Scallop ACLs (mt)

	2015 ACL (mt)	2016 ACL (mt)	% Change
GB Yellowtail Flounder	38	42	9%
S. Windowpane Flounder	183	209	14%
SNE/MA YT (Low/90%)	66	31	-53%
SNE/MA YT (High/100%)	66	38	-43%

4.2 Fishery Program Administration

4.2.1 Implementation of an Additional Sector

- Sustainable Harvest Sector II
- Operations plan within the range of previously approved sectors

4.2.2 Sector Approval Process

- Remove the requirement for a Council action
- Council would remain involved and review application in a public meeting of the Groundfish Committee and full Council, before forwarding a recommendation to NMFS

4.2.3 Modification to the Definition of a Haddock Separator Trawl

- Change the definition to require that the separator panel would be a contrasting color to the net of the net
- Improve enforcement of the gear



4.3 Commercial and Recreational Fishery Measures

4.3.1 Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program

- Option 2: ASM would be exempt for sector trips exclusively using ELM gillnets 10 inches or greater
- Option 3: ASM coverage would be prioritized based on stock status, discards, and landings

4.3.2 Management Measures for U.S./Canada TACs

- GB Cod from the Eastern quota area would be permitted to move to the Western quota area
- Identical to the program in place for GB Haddock

4.3.3 Modification to the Gulf of Maine Cod Protection Measures

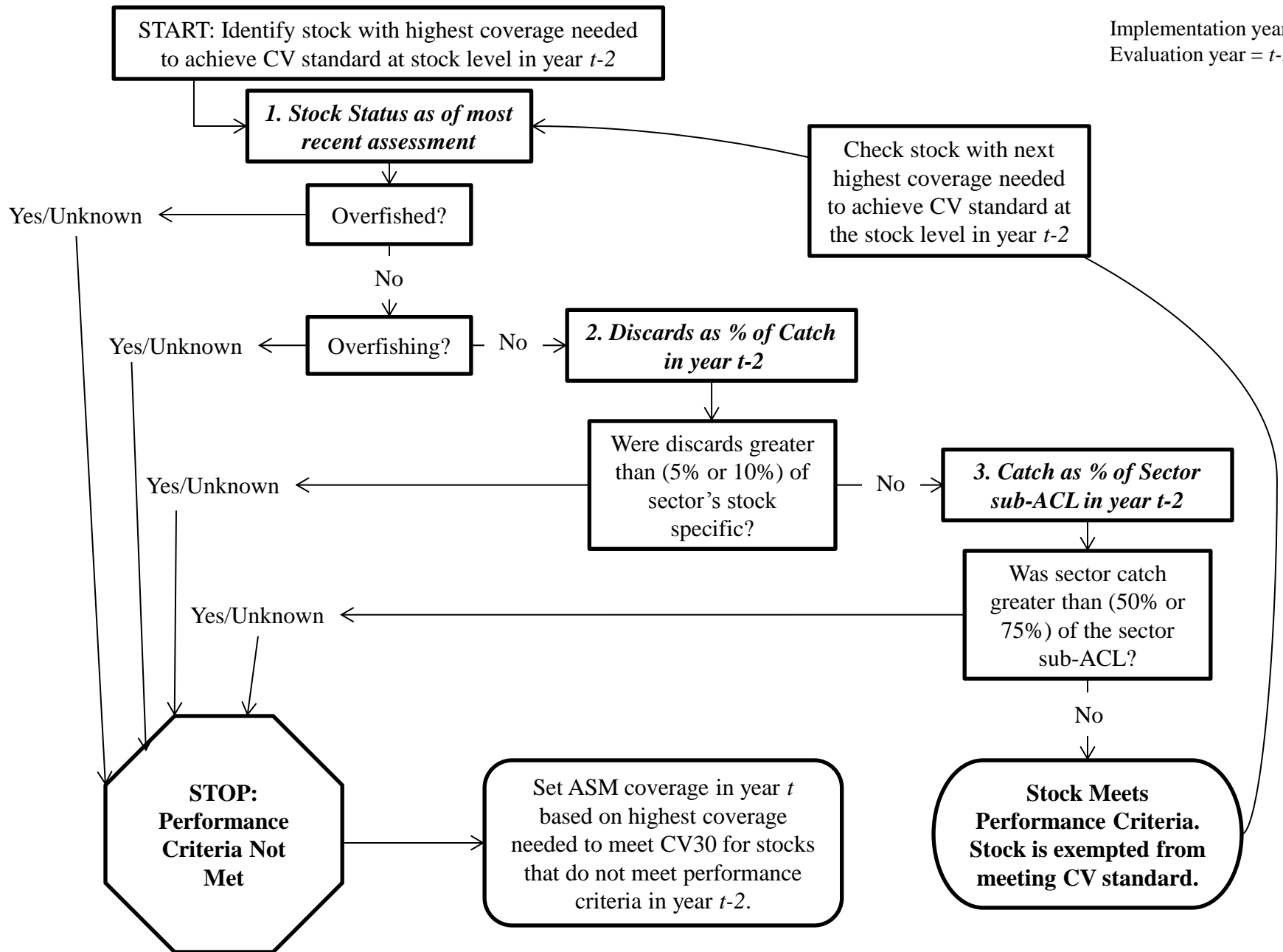
- The authority to change the recreational measures for GOM cod would return to the Regional Administrator.
- No other provisions would change.



Table 1. Realized Stock CVs.

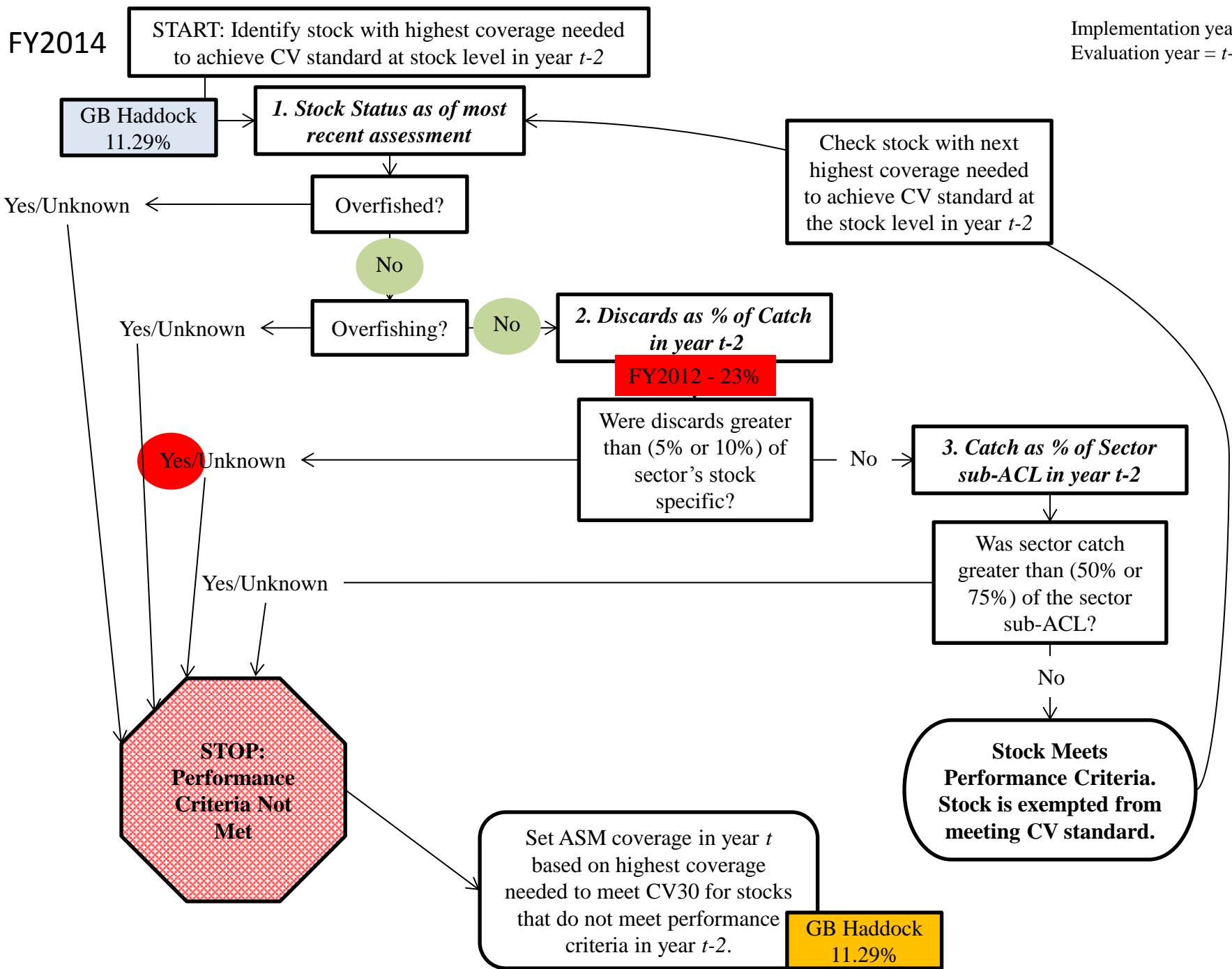
	FY 2010		FY 2011		FY 2012		FY 2013	
	Realized CV	CV 30 Percent Coverage Required	Realized CV	CV 30 Percent Coverage Required	Realized CV	CV 30 Percent Coverage Required	Realized CV	CV 30 Percent Coverage Required
GB cod	5.61	1.7	8.39	3.05	10.5	3.03	14.56	5.19
GB cod E	9.73	3.9	15.44	11.29	20.1	9.81	48.61	27.74
GB cod W	6.27	2.16	9.85	4.09	12.26	4.09	15.17	5.74
GOM cod	4.74	1.33	4.74	1.04	9.73	2.95	6.07	1.11
Plaice	4.96	1.23	4.36	0.76	5.52	0.82	6.51	1.05
GB winter flounder	16.29	8.77	27.67	21.71	21.29	8.87	23	10.63
GOM winter flounder	10.56	6.19	8.81	3.5	8.96	2.54	15.1	6.4
Witch flounder	5.76	1.6	5.11	1.06	8.87	2.05	7.41	1.35
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	8.66	4.19	6.9	2.07	7.8	1.81	9.32	2.43
GB yellowtail flounder	11.13	4.29	10.36	3.69	15.97	5.11	24.84	12.42
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	13.95	10.44	9.39	4.15	12.9	4.63	31.37	20.63
GB haddock	9.4	4.61	10.22	4.55	21.48	11.29	11.81	3.59
GB haddock E	12.73	6.43	17.36	13.97	33.64	23.36	29.98	12.67
GB haddock W	13.31	9.05	10.1	4.37	27.04	16.8	12.83	4.35
GOM haddock	9.94	5.56	9.11	3.68	12.26	4.6	12.98	4.84
White hake	9.21	4.15	7.76	2.36	12.95	4.44	11.94	3.41
Pollock	8.01	3.19	6.91	1.88	7.71	1.64	7.64	1.41
Redfish	11.51	6.15	8.98	3.11	13.79	4.87	21.16	9.87
SNE/MA winter flounder	10.61	7.2	12.85	7.74	15.44	7.24	21.05	11.77
S windowpane flounder	9.12	4.75	8.22	3.23	10.7	2.99	7.98	1.74
N windowpane flounder	13.22	8.08	9.04	3.05	11.01	3.21	16.69	6.45
Ocean pout	9.69	4.58	9.38	3.36	11.7	3.55	11.57	2.8
Halibut	6.34	2.01	6.95	1.93	6.66	1.22	7.68	1.43
Wolffish	6.66	2.18	7	1.9	8.34	1.93	9.55	2.24

Implementation year = t
Evaluation year = $t-2$



FY2014

Implementation year = t
Evaluation year = $t-2$



FY2015

Implementation year = t
Evaluation year = $t-2$

Yes/Unknown

Yes/Unknown

Yes/Unknown

Yes/Unknown

