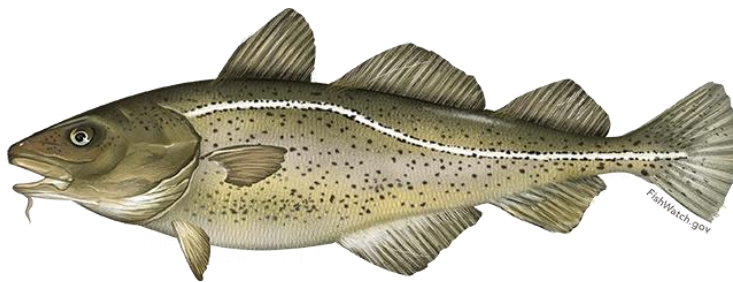


DECISION DOCUMENT
For
Framework 63 to the
Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)
Fishery Management Plan



This document was developed to help the Council select final preferred alternatives for Framework 63.

November 30, 2021

Version - Committee

Anticipated Council Action:

Prior to selecting final preferred alternatives, Council staff will present the measures under consideration in Framework Adjustment 63 (FW63). Council staff will also answer questions, as needed, about the document including measures under consideration in FW63 and their draft analyzed impacts on target species, non-target species, protected resources, physical environment (EFH), and human communities (economic and social impacts).

1. Select the *preferred alternative(s)* for Action 1 – Revised Specifications (Section 4.1).
2. Select the *preferred alternative* for Action 2 – Recreational Fishery Measures – Georges Bank Cod (Section 4.2)
3. Motion to submit FW63 to NOAA Fisheries

Action 1 – Revised Specifications

Section 4.1 – Action 1 – Revised Specifications <i>Choose one or more alternatives.</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	Cte
4.1.1 - Alternative 1	No Action		
4.1.2 - Alternative 2	Revised Specifications <i>Revise the annual specifications for FY2022 - FY2024 for GB cod and GOM cod, FY2022- FY2023 for GB yellowtail flounder, and FY2022 for white hake. Specify total allowable catches (TACs) for the U.S./Canada Management Area for FY2022 for Eastern GB cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder.</i>	GAP and RAP: <i>Recommends remand GB cod ABC to SSC</i>	
4.1.3 - Alternative 3	Recreational Catch Target for Georges Bank Cod <i>Choose one option.</i> 4.1.3.1 Option 1 – No Action 4.1.3.2 Option 2 – Revised recreational catch target for Georges Bank cod	GAP: <i>Option 2 in the GF PDT memo</i> GAP: <i>Analysis and develop an option based on 2001-2006 percentage of catch</i> RAP: <i>Option 3 in GF PDT memo. Add should be clarified the Georges Bank cod recreational catch target is to achieve but not exceed the target value.</i>	
4.1.4 - Alternative 4	Changes to the Default Specifications Process <i>Choose one option.</i> 4.1.4.1 Option 1 – No Action 4.1.4.2 Option 2 – 4 months duration, 75% of the previous year’s specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs 4.1.4.3 Option 3 – 5 months duration, 75% of the previous year’s specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs 4.1.4.4 Option 4 – 6 months duration, 75% of the previous year’s specifications, no holdback provision, and 2-year US/CA TACs	GAP: <i>Option 3</i>	

Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to Document #3a for the draft alternatives• Refer to Document #3h for the PDT's analysis of GB cod recreational catch target
Other important Considerations/ EIS References
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts on Regulated Groundfish and Other Species- Biological:• Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat:• Impacts on Endangered and Other Protected Species:• Impacts on Human Communities - Economic:• Impacts on Human Communities - Social:

Action 2 – Recreational Fishery Measures – Georges Bank Cod

Section 4.2 – Action 2 – Recreational Fishery Measures – Georges Bank Cod <i>Choose one alternative.</i>		Preferred by	
		AP	Cte
4.4.1 - Alternative 1	No Action		
4.4.2 - Alternative 2	<p>Additional Measures to Promote Georges Bank Cod Stock Rebuilding – Recreational Fishery Measures</p>	<p>GAP: <i>Give RA authority to adjust measures to prevent fishery from exceeding catch target.</i></p> <p>RAP: <i>The Council should retain the authority to adjust measures and should be clarified the Georges Bank cod recreational catch target is to achieve but not exceed the target value.</i></p> <p>RAP: <i>Georges Bank cod recreational management measures as:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slot limit 22 in to 28 in fish size - 5 fish bag limit - To prioritize the closed season measure to achieve conservation goals, as: <i>First choice- May 1 to July 31 (Wave 3 and Partial Wave 4)</i> <i>Second choice- July and August (Wave 4)</i></p>	

Decisions/Questions/Information to Consider
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to Document #3a for the draft alternatives• Refer to Document #3h for the PDT's analysis of GB cod recreational measures
Other important Considerations/ EIS References
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts on Regulated Groundfish and Other Species - Biological:• Impacts on Physical Environment and Essential Fish Habitat:• Impacts on Endangered and Other Protected Species:• Impacts on Human Communities - Economic:• Impacts on Human Communities - Social: