



## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 24, 2018  
**TO:** EBFM Committee  
**FROM:** Andrew Applegate, EBFM Plan Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** **Georges Bank commercial fishing activity and permitting**

During the last meeting when the committee received and discussed a document describing a preferred cooperative approach to managed stock complex catch limits for a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU), questions were raised about the amount of fish, fishing effort, and permitted vessels. The committee had concerns about the complexity and the number of management interests involved in a cooperative approach. This concern is less important, or a different approach might be considered, if the fishing activity and landings for the Georges Bank EPU is largely dominated by NEFMC species and management plans. On the other hand, changes in distribution caused by warming water temperatures could also change our perception of the issue.

This issue also has bearing on the permit options and approaches described in another eFEP discussion document, which the committee discussed at a previous meeting. Some of these options and approaches would create an EPU limited access permit for vessels that already have an existing Federal limited access of any type.

To help characterize the issue and potential effects, the table below summarizes the number of permits and landings for vessels fishing in the Georges Bank EPU during 2018 by management authority. The table sums the number of issued permits (zeros indicate that the vessel was issued only a NEFMC or MAFMC open access permit. Although the table summarizes only fish landings (excluding scallops, clams, crabs, and lobster), the limited access permits include scallop limited access and lobster permits.

In each column, the number of MAFMC limited access permit types (ranging from 0 to 7) per vessel is summarized. Joint plans (i.e. monkfish and dogfish) unfortunately make this summary more complex. On the left side of the table, the number of vessels, trips, and landings are summarize for vessels that in 2018 held neither a joint monkfish or a dogfish permit. The right side of the table includes vessels, trips, and landings by vessels that held either a joint monkfish or dogfish permit (or both).

The numbers in the first column (0 to 4) indicate the number of NEFMC limited access permit types held by a vessel fishing in the Georges Bank EPU during 2018. Thus it does not include vessels with issued limited access permits that did not fish during 2018 or that fished elsewhere.

As a brief explanation of how to read and interpret the table, there were 767 vessels that landed fish caught in the Georges Bank EPU (approximated by statistical areas) in 2018. Of these, 261 held either a joint monkfish or dogfish permit and 506 held neither. Only 5 vessels (3+1+1) had a MAFMC limited access permit but did not have a NEFMC limited access permit. However, there were 151 vessels (340+36-225 open access only permits) that held a NEFMC limited access permit, but not a MAFMC permit. For landings, 13,944 mt (63%) were NEFMC-managed stocks, 1,091 mt (5%) were MAFMC-managed stocks, 5,573 mt (25%) were jointly managed, 211 mt (0%) were ASMFC-managed stocks, and 1,346 mt (6%) were unmanaged stocks. Of these totals, only 27 mt of NEFMC stocks were landed by vessels without a NEFMC limited access permit, only 1 mt by vessels having a MAFMC limited access permit (but no NEFMC limited access permit). On the other hand, there were 23 mt of MAFMC-managed stocks by vessels without a MAFMC limited access permit, and only 14 mt by vessels holding a NEFMC limited access permit (but not a MAFMC permit).

To help with the discussion in the eFEP, I recommend including this table in the eFEP document, revised as the Committee suggests. The committee may help with the discussion of how to include and apply catch limits for stock complexes that include stocks managed by other bodies.

Table 1. Comparison of permits issued and commercial landings by Council for vessels fishing on Georges Bank (statistical areas 521, 522, 525, 526, 561, 562) during 2018.

NEFMC permits	No monkfish or dogfish permit								Monkfish or Dogfish permit								Monk	Grand Total	
	MA								No monkfish or dogfish permit										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
<b>Permits</b>																			
0	225	3	1						229		1						1	230	
1	98	36	17	12	3	10	2	2	180	20	36	9	6	1	9	7	88	268	
2	16	26	5	21	2	5	6	7	88	14	53	10	8	8	19	10	14	136	224
3	1	1		1		1	1	4	9	2	11	1	2	1	7	6	2	32	41
4												1					3	4	4
<b>VTR trip reports</b>																			
0	1,164	12	0						1,176		1						1	1,177	
1	1,908	274	96	177	81	91	34	15	2,676	914	227	391	65	14	83	117	1,811	4,487	
2	90	151	27	109	35	44	34	47	537	236	532	65	50	156	165	106	145	1,455	1,992
3	3	8		2		4	0	21	38	15	70	33	5	2	38	58	7	228	266
4												7					19	26	26
<b>NEFMC fish landings, mt</b>																			
0	26	1	0						27		0						0	27	
1	432	1	0	262	12	242	303	0	1,253	3,404	113	938	341	60	286	909	6,051	7,304	
2	0	1	0	0	0	0	85	1	87	1,151	1,675	141	8	1,075	658	809	296	5,813	5,900
3	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	35	390	0	0	2	287	0	713	713
4												0					1	1	1
<b>MAFMC fish landings, mt</b>																			
0	9	0	0						9		0						0	9	
1	14	754	0	1	8	5	9	10	799	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	8	807	
2	0	246	0	3	0	0	1	4	254	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	6	13	267
3	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	8	8
4												0					0	0	0
<b>Joint NEFMC/MAFMC landings, mt</b>																			
0	1,592	0	0						1,592		0						0	1,592	
1	297	14	9	72	0	8	2	0	403	931	128	325	76	55	198	8	1,721	2,123	
2	24	42	0	10	0	8	3	4	91	391	380	150	10	96	279	114	57	1,477	1,567
3	6	0		0		0	0	3	9	8	60	164	0	0	30	15	0	277	286
4												3					2	5	5
<b>ASFMC fish landings, mt</b>																			
0	190	0	0						190		0						0	190	
1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	0	0		0		0	18	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
4												0					0	0	0
<b>HMS fish landings, mt</b>																			
0	25	0	0						25		0						0	25	
1	11	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4												0					0	0	0
<b>Unmanaged fish landings, mt</b>																			
0	687	0	0						687		0						0	687	
1	2	39	0	0	0	0	24	411	476	0	1	0	0	0	0	73	74	551	
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	12	1	0	0	2	1	5	16	68	93	105
3	0	0		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	4
4												0					0	0	0
<b>Total Permits</b>	340	66	23	34	5	16	9	13	506	36	100	22	16	10	35	23	19	261	767
<b>Total VTR trip reports</b>	3,165	445	123	288	116	139	68	83	4,427	1,165	829	497	120	172	286	281	171	3,521	7,948
<b>Total NEFMC fish landings, mt</b>	458	4	0	262	12	242	388	2	1,367	4,554	1,823	1,469	349	1,135	945	2,004	297	####	13,944
<b>Total MAFMC fish landings, mt</b>	23	1,000	0	4	8	5	10	13	1,063	0	1	1	0	0	8	13	6	29	1,091
<b>Total Joint NEFMC/MAFMC landings, mt</b>	1,919	56	9	82	0	16	5	7	2,094	1,330	568	642	86	151	507	136	59	3,479	5,573
<b>Total ASFMC fish landings, mt</b>	193	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	211	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	211
<b>Total HMS fish landings, mt</b>	37	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
<b>Total Unmanaged fish landings, mt</b>	689	40	0	0	0	0	36	411	1,175	1	1	0	2	1	6	92	68	171	1,346

Zero permits means that a vessel had no limited access permit