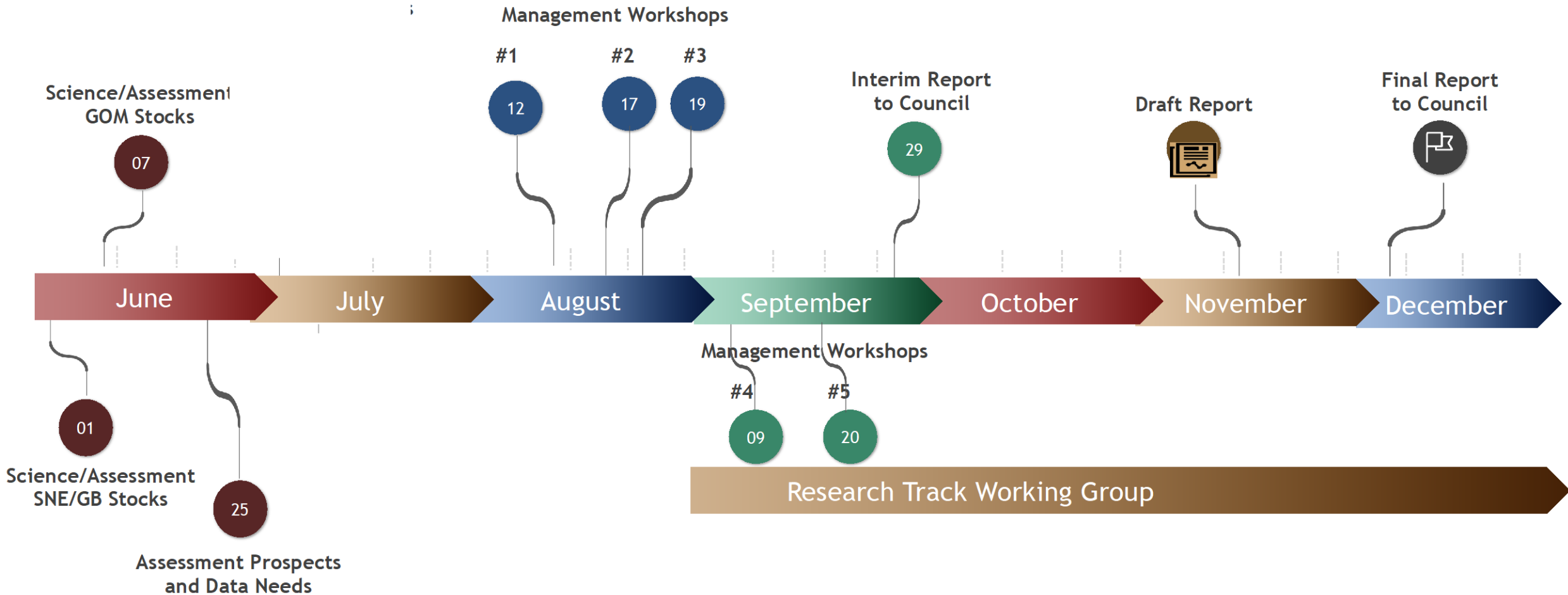


A close-up photograph of an Atlantic Cod fish, showing its textured scales, large eye, and whiskers. The fish is positioned horizontally across the frame, with its head on the right side.

Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Management Workshops Overview

Photo credit: NOAA Fisheries

2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshop Timeline



Management Workshop Series

Thursday, August 12

- **Setting the Groundwork: 1pm-3pm**

Tuesday, August 17

- **Gathering Regional Perspectives from Southern New England and Georges Bank East & West: 1pm-3pm**

Thursday, August 19

- **Gathering Regional Perspectives from Gulf of Maine East & West: 1pm-3pm**

Thursday, September 9

- **Focusing on Recreational Fishing Perspectives: 2pm-4pm**

Monday, September 20

- **Evaluating Tradeoffs to Adjusting Management Measures: 1pm-4pm**

Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshops

Goals & Objectives

PHASE 1: *Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group*

Five distinct biological stocks, instead of the two that are currently managed

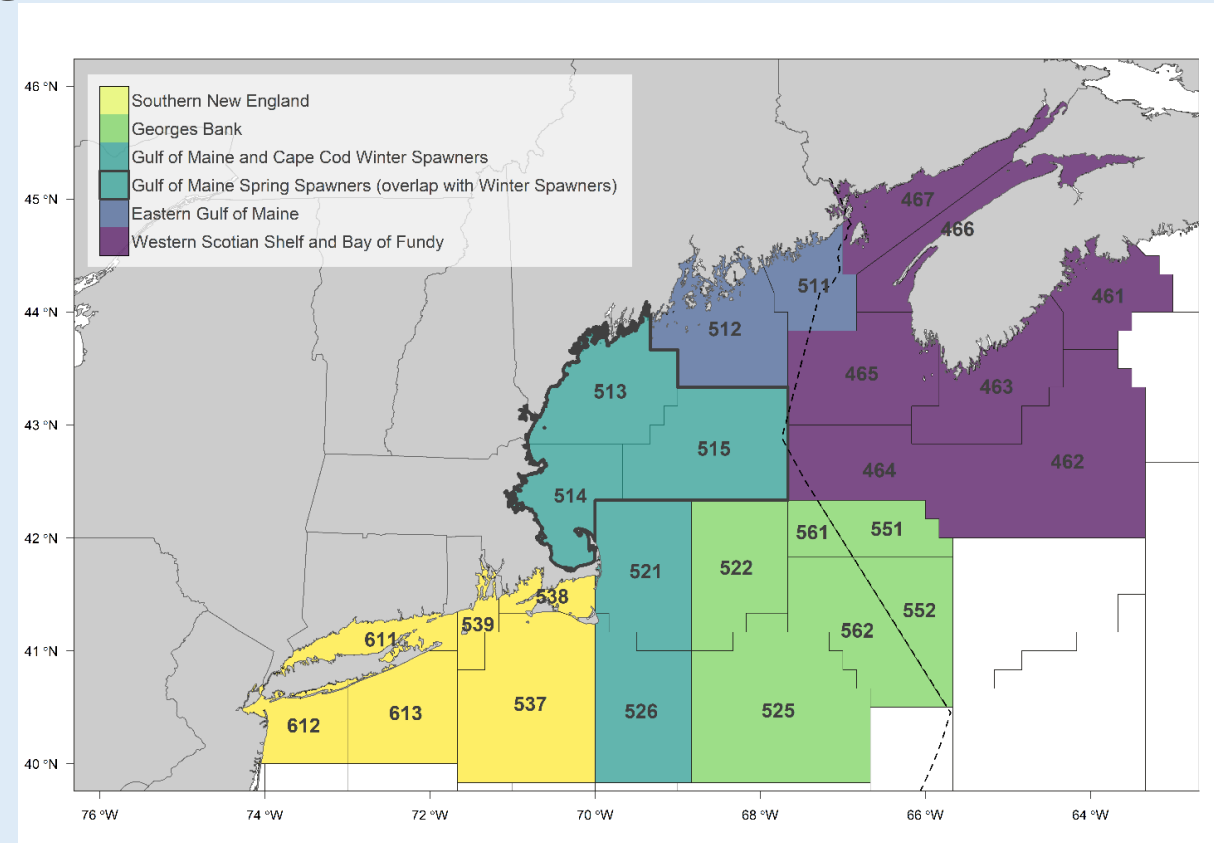
Re-thinking of the current science and management approaches to the fishery.

Two-pronged approach developed to incorporate new stock definitions into existing science and management structures.

PHASE 2: Workshops

(a) Science/Assessment Prospects

(b) Management

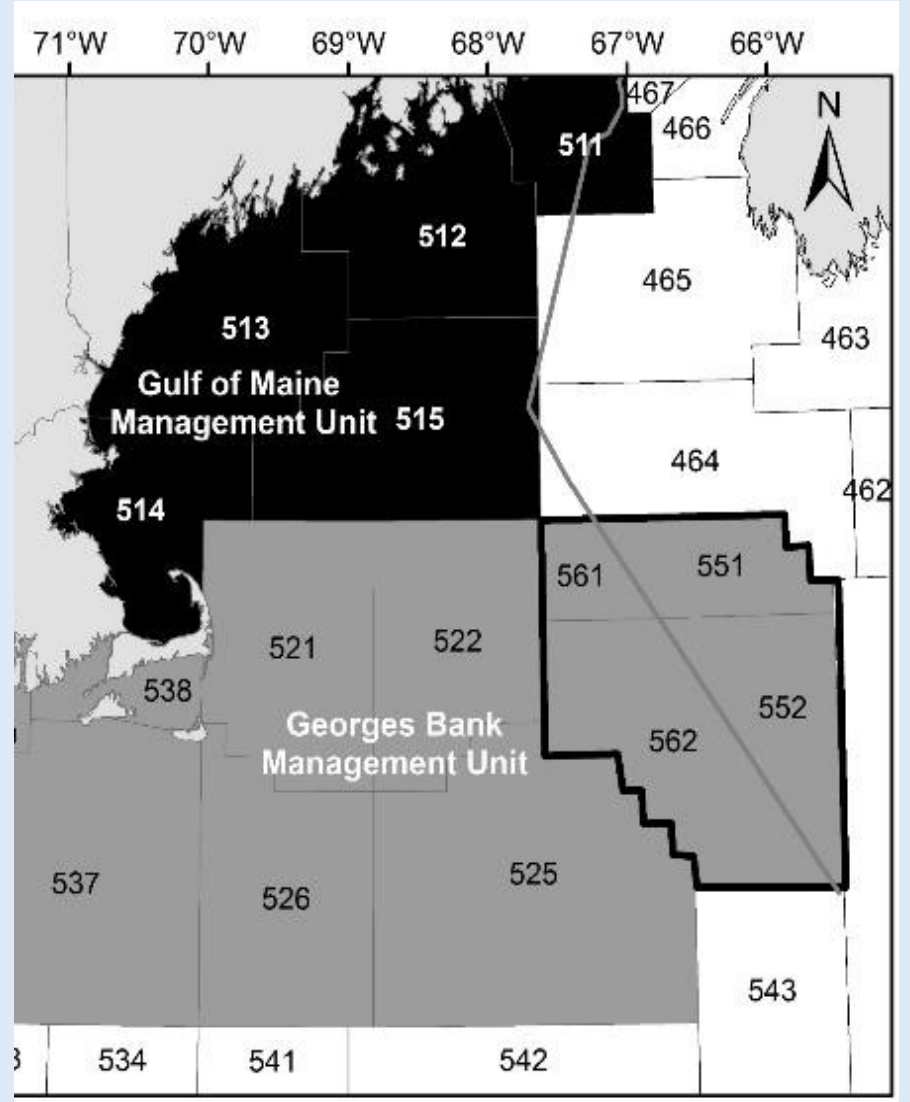
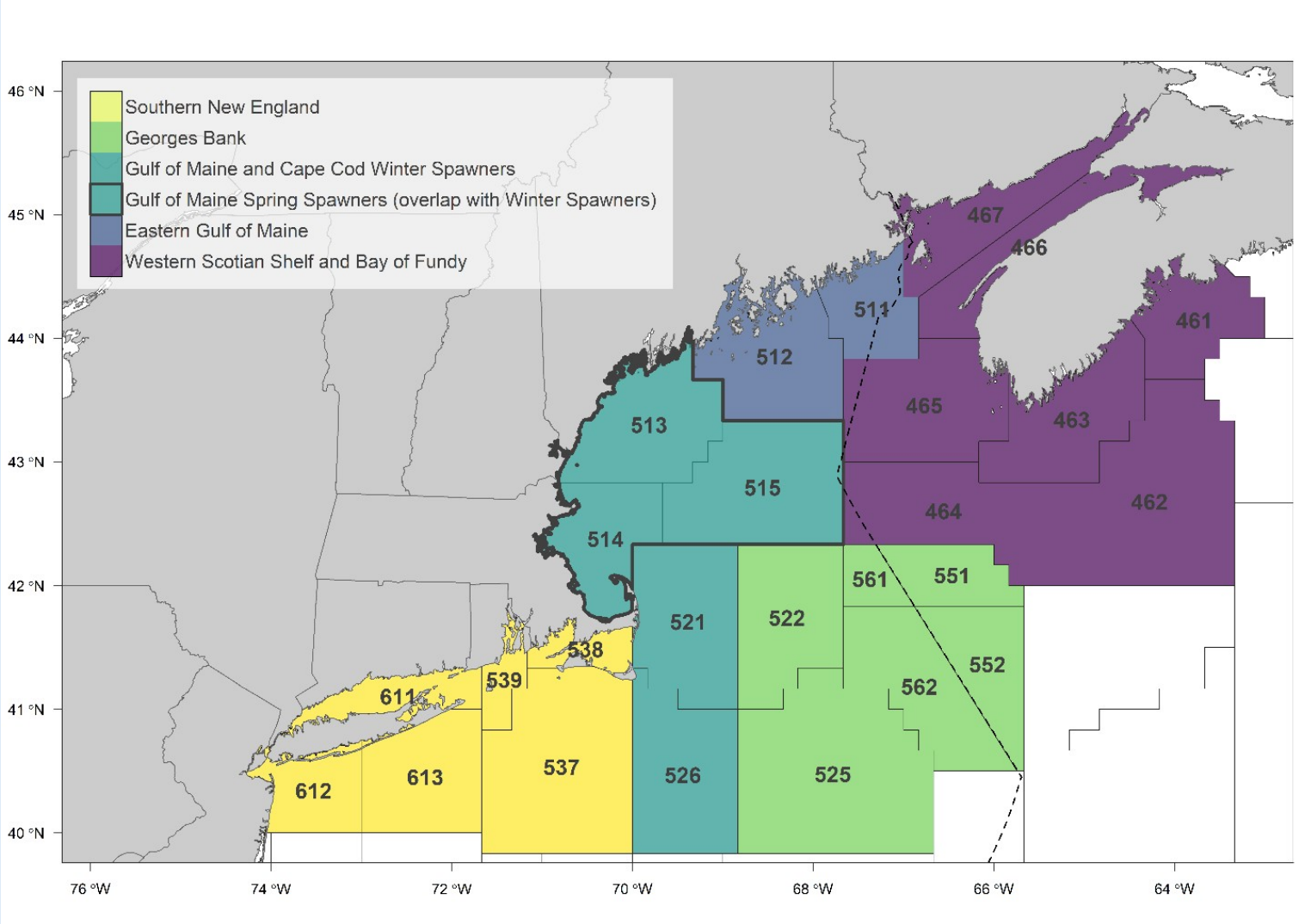


Management Workshop Series

Focus: **Gathering input on potential management changes and possible economic and social impacts**

What we are not doing during the Management Workshops

- Scoping a management action – *that's a Council/NMFS process*
- Making formal recommendations – *this forum is for gathering perspectives*



Setting the Groundwork

August 12

Objectives:

- Review outcomes of the science/assessment June workshops
- Provide an overview of the current cod fisheries management system
- Examine different management tools and approaches available

Discussion Topics:

- Management strategies may be area-specific, not overarching
- Altering boundaries is not strictly two or five management areas.
- How can an ongoing mixed stock analysis be implemented (cost, effectiveness)?
- Is “status quo” a viable option?
- How well can external factors (climate, wind energy) be incorporated into management decisions?

What we heard:

- All options are on the table!

Gathering Regional Perspectives from Southern New England and Georges Bank East & West

August 17

Objectives:

- Discuss and define available and potential management tools that could be used to manage Southern New England and Georges Bank East & West stocks differently to account for new understanding of biological stock structure.
- Share advantages and disadvantages of options.

Selected Discussion Topics:

1. Spawning closures
2. Gear options
3. Additional trip reporting

What we heard:

- Promising research is currently underway
- Lessons learned from spawning closures (theory vs practice)
- There is no universal gear type used across the proposed management areas
- Recreational reporting requires improvements

Gathering Regional Perspectives from Gulf of Maine East & West

August 19

Objectives:

- Discuss and define available and potential management tools that could be used to manage Gulf of Maine East & West stocks differently to account for new understanding of biological stock structure.
- Share advantages and disadvantages of options.

Selected Discussion Topics:

1. Monitoring requirements for fisheries by subpopulation
2. Reference points defined first by subpopulation
3. Additional spawning closures for fisheries—with multiple components

What we heard:

- Mixed fisheries are complex but monitoring tools are available (otoliths, genetics)
- Again, recreational reporting requires improvements

Gathering Recreational Perspectives

September 9

Objectives:

- Examine recreational data needs to inform management under the new Atlantic cod stock structure.
- Discuss and define both available and potential management tools that could be used to manage Atlantic cod differently under a new biological stock structure.
- Share advantages and disadvantages of management options.

Discussion Topics:

1. How can recreational data inform management under the new stock structure?
2. What happens if the stock boundaries are moved to be more in line with the new understanding of cod stock structure? How would this effect your fishing practices or businesses?

What we heard:

- Monitoring is expensive and may require new strategies to better illustrate the recreational fishery
- Annual monitoring for sub populations is realistic and feasible using available tools (otoliths, genetics)

Evaluating Tradeoffs to Adjusting Management Measures

September 20

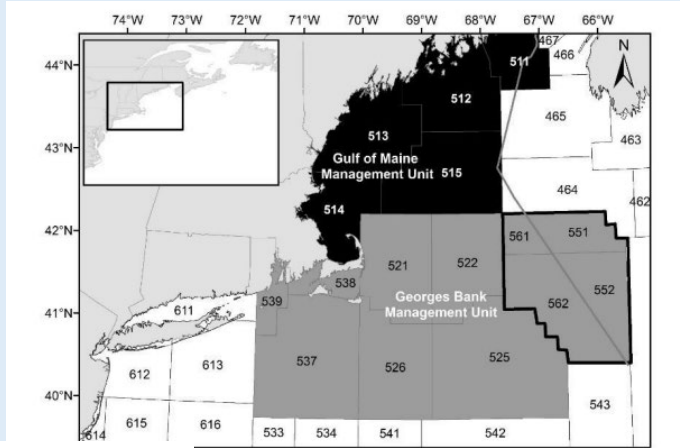
Objectives:

- Integrate the discussions from the previous management workshops and explore specific management options that could be used to manage Atlantic cod differently under a new biological stock structure.
- Evaluate tradeoffs of management options, highlighting socioeconomic considerations.

Discussion Topics:

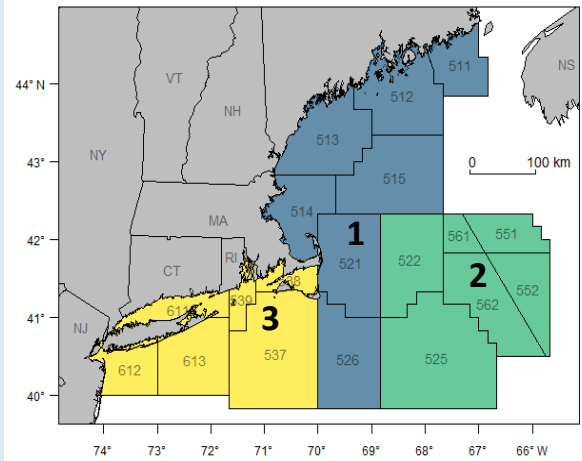
1. Recap of science/assessment workshops and management workshops to date
2. Learn about a project underway using Management Strategy Evaluation
3. Explore the implications and tradeoffs for a range of options to better align the management boundaries with our new understanding of the biological stock structure for Atlantic cod

Scenarios



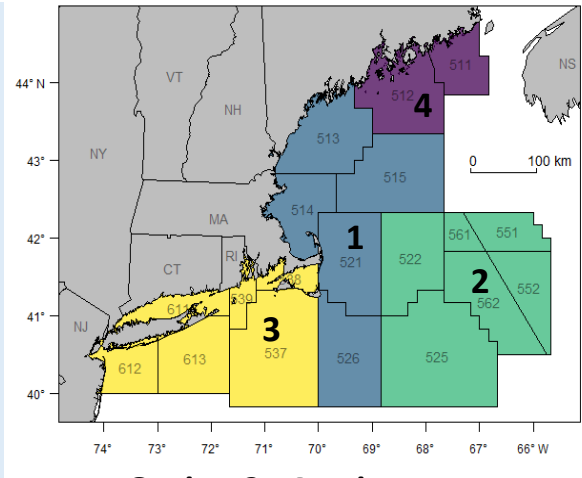
Option 1: Status Quo - 2 unit structure

1. GOM
2. GB



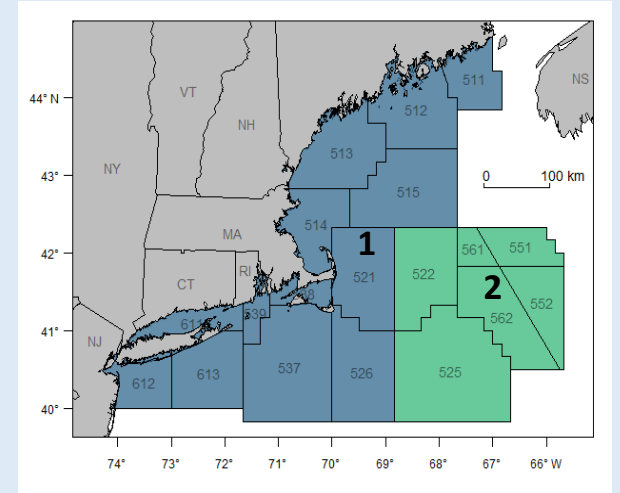
Option 2: 3 unit structure

1. GOM winter/spring
2. GB
3. SNE



Option 3: 4 unit structure

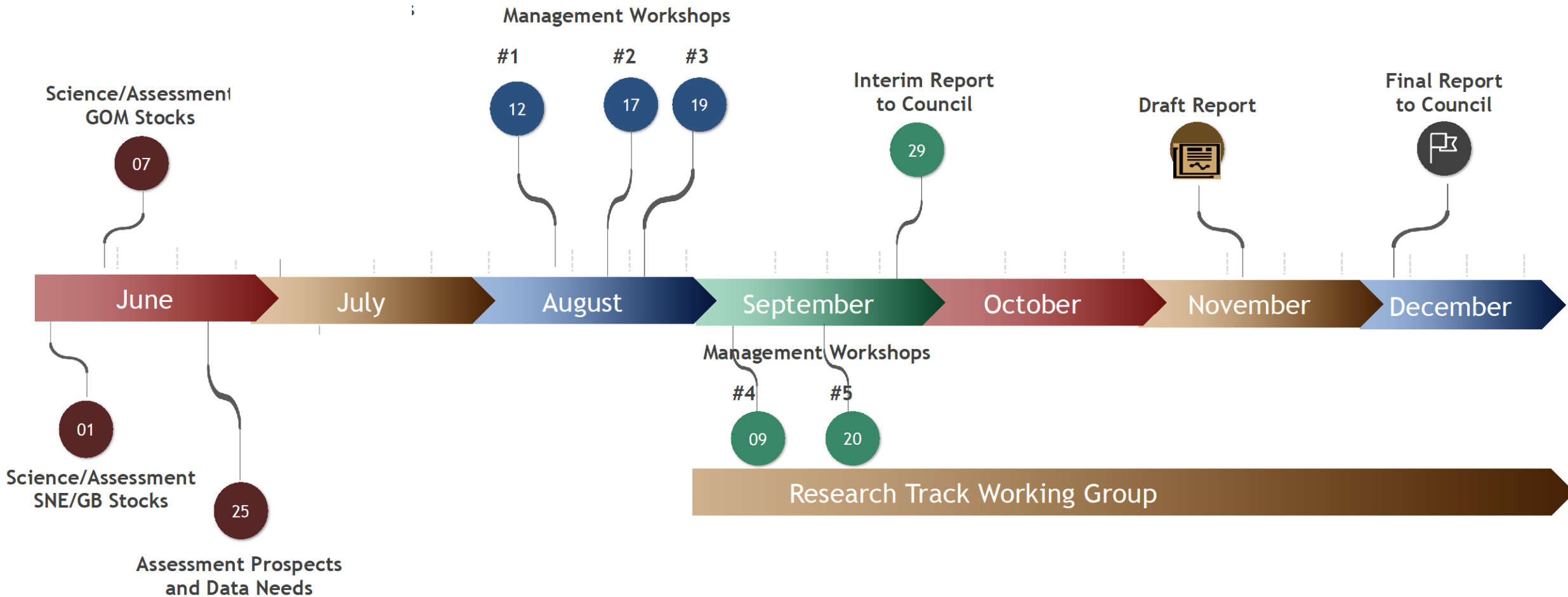
1. GoM winter/spring
2. GB
3. SNE
4. EGoM



Option 4: 2 unit structure

1. Inshore
2. Offshore

2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshop Timeline



For More Information

<https://seagrant.unh.edu/2021-atlantic-cod-stock-workshops>

Management Questions or Input

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