

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan Revised Amendment 25 – Atlantic Cod Specifications and Management

July 29, 2025

DRAFT Alternatives Outline

4.0 DRAFT ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

4.1 Action 1 – Incorporating Revised Atlantic Cod Stock Units into the Northeast Multispecies FMP

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Status Quo

Alternative 3 – Revise Atlantic Cod Stock Units in the FMP (*Preferred*)

4.2 Action 2 – Status Determination Criteria

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – New Status Determination Criteria for Cod Stocks (*Preferred*)

4.3 Action 3 – Specifications

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications for Atlantic Cod (*Preferred*)

- FY2026-FY2027 specifications for Eastern Gulf of Maine (EGOM) cod, Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) cod, and Southern New England (SNE) cod
- FY2026 specifications for Georges Bank (GB) cod [placeholder]
- Recreational sub-ACL for WGOM cod
- WGOM cod ABC apportionment
- Sub-component analysis
- Establish management uncertainty buffers

Alternative 3 – Southern New England Cod Recreational Sub-ACL

Option 1 – No Action

Option 2 - Set Southern New England Cod Recreational Sub-ACL (*Preferred*)

4.4 Action 4 – Commercial Fishery Management Measures

Alternative 1 – Common Pool Accountability Measures for Cod Stocks

Option 1 – No Action

Option 2 – Common Pool Trimester Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Distributions and Closure Areas (*Preferred*)

Option 3 – Common Pool Baseline Trip Limits (*Preferred*)

- *No adjustments to the approaches for determining trip limits*

4.5 Action 5 – Recreational Fishery Management Measures

Alternative 1 - Recreational Fishing Measures for Southern New England Cod

Option 1 – No Action

Option 2 - Recreational Fishing Measures for Southern New England Cod (*Preferred*)

Alternative 2 - Regulatory Process for Regional Administrator to Adjust Recreational Measures for Cod Stocks

Option 1 – No Action

Option 2 - Establish a Regulatory Process for the Regional Administrator to Adjust Recreational Measures for Eastern Gulf of Maine Cod and Georges Bank Cod (*Preferred*) [placeholder]

4.6 Considered but Rejected Alternatives
WGOM ABC apportionment – 55:45

DRAFT