TMGC Guidance for 2027

U.S./Canada Steering Committee Meeting

October 16, 2026

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

- 2027 TAC of 57 mt

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2026	57	46%	26	54%	31
2027	**57**	54%	31	46%	**26**

- The TMGC recommends a shared TAC of 57 mt, noting that current catches remain low. They referenced the New England Scientific and Statistical Committee conclusion that recent fishing activity is not likely the primary driver of stock decline.
- The TAC is consistent with the 2025 Georges Bank yellowtail flounder Management Track assessment results.
- The proposed level was considered sufficient to support current Canadian and U.S. bycatch needs.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

- ***Special Considerations***

  - The U.S. noted that there will be reduced scallop fishing effort in eastern Georges Bank in 2027 because Area II is not expected to open as an access area.

  - The U.S. also noted potential consideration of designating Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder as an Ecosystem Component stock, which would remove the stock from the Fishery Management Plan and remove regulated requirements for annual catch limits. This process may be initiated in 2027 but will not impact TMGC's process in 2027.

  - The U.S. is not planning to update the Georges Bank yellowtail flounder Management Track assessment in 2027.

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

- 2027 TAC of 3,200 mt

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2026	4,750	79%	3,753	21%	998
2027	**3,200**	72%	2,304	28%	**896**

- Haddock discussions presented some challenges, although both assessments were updated in 2026, the assessments have different underlying assumptions and some differences in inputs, this resulted in assessments that do not result in similar catch advice levels.
- TMGC felt a shared TAC of 3,200 mt balances conservation objectives and fishery needs. Since 2024, TMGC has recommended annual reductions greater than 25% reflecting recent declines in surveys and signals in assessments.

Eastern Georges Bank Haddock

- ***Special Considerations***

- In 2027, Canada plans to conduct an assessment framework review for Eastern Georges Bank haddock, which is expected to be completed to inform TMGC negotiations in 2027 for the 2028 fishing year.

- The U.S. is not planning to update the Georges Bank haddock Management Track assessment in 2027.

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Cod

- 2027 TAC of 353 mt

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2026	473	68%	322	32%	151
2027	**353**	72%	254	28%	**99**

- Discussions on Cod focused on selecting a TAC that was consistent with the best available science while recognizing the stock's depleted state.
- The TMGC recommended a shared TAC of 353 mt, referencing results from the Canadian EGB assessment and an approach focused on preventable decline, which acknowledges that fishing mortality cannot realistically be reduced to zero while still supporting utilization of other fisheries.
- TMGC noted that the U.S. assessment has not been updated since 2024 with increased uncertainty around the 2027 projected values, acknowledged the stock is still in the critical zone for Canada, and considered overfished in the U.S.
- The TMGC sought to balance conservation objectives with the continued utilization of other fisheries by both countries, recognizing the need to accommodate cod bycatch.

Eastern Georges Bank Cod

- ***Special Considerations***

- In 2027, the U.S. plans to conduct a Management Track assessment for Georges Bank cod and Canada plans to conduct an assessment for Eastern Georges Bank cod, both of which are expected to be available to inform TMGC negotiations for fishing year 2028.

Other Business and Planning

- 2027 Process Review Workshop
  - Coordinated with October 2027 TMGC meeting – week of Oct 4th
  - TMGC identified topics for discussion
    - Items to be considered before 2027 process
    - Items for higher level review at the workshop

- Successful 2026 process!
  - Thank you very much:
    - Science team and assessment leads
    - Industry members
    - TMGC members
    - Council, GARFO, Science Center, DFO staff
    - Steering Committee