Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan
Framework Adjustment 74 – Specifications and Management Measures

October 13, 2026

DRAFT Alternatives Outline

4.0 DRAFT ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

4.1 Action 1 – Specifications

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Revised Specifications

- FY2027 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada management units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod and Eastern GB haddock, and FY2027-FY2028 TACs for the GB yellowtail flounder stock,
- FY2027 specifications for GB cod and GB haddock,
- FY2027-FY2028 specifications for GB yellowtail flounder,
- FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock, American plaice, witch flounder, pollock, northern windowpane flounder, and southern windowpane flounder,
- FY2027-FY2031 specifications for Atlantic halibut, exploring sources of best available science to support catch setting methods,
- Sub-component analysis for stocks with revised specifications, and others as time permits,
- Review of GB haddock sub-ACL in the mid-water trawl/herring fishery, set the sub ACL at a fixed percentage amount, and discontinue the review requirement,

4.2 Action 2 – Fishery Program Administration

Streamline administration of the B DAS Program and Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock Special Access Program (SAP)

- Adjust administration of the B DAS Program so that the program is by default closed
- Adjust administration of the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP so that "open to target haddock" is the default status

4.3 Action 3 – Commercial Fishery Management Measures – Southern Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measures

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Simplify the Criteria for Reducing the Size of the AM Area

- Simplify the criteria to reduce the size of the AM area so that if the Large AM Area has been triggered and the stock is rebuilt, only the Small AM Area is implemented – for the Groundfish Fishery and Large-Mesh Non-Groundfish Trawl Fisheries