

# **2021 TMGC Guidance**

New England Fishery Management Council Meeting

September 29, 2020 – October 1, 2020

By Webinar

# Georges Bank (5Zhjmn) Yellowtail Flounder

- **2021 TAC of 125 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2020	162	26%	42	74%	120
2021	125	36%	45	64%	80

- The 2021 TAC of 125 mt is a decrease from 162 mt in 2020, and corresponds with a 6% upper bound recommended by TRAC
- Sought to balance stock conditions and utilization of other species
- The declining trend of the stock remains; total mortality remains high despite record low catches
- Current levels of catch are not primary factor affecting stock rebuilding

# Georges Bank (5Zhjmn) Yellowtail Flounder

## **Special Considerations**

- There was no 2020 NMFS spring survey due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The empirical approach was applied to the other two surveys (2019 NMFS fall and 2020 DFO).
- TMGC and TRAC will continue to explore the most appropriate method to provide catch advice for this stock in its current state of productivity.
- The TMGC discussed the merits of moving to a “limiter approach” for future advice – this would involve a constant quota with upper, and lower survey bounds. As long as the values stay within those bounds, quota would remain at the chosen level between management periods. This has been addressed in the TOR for next years TRAC.

# Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

- **2021 TAC of 14,100 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2020	30,000	46%	13,800	54%	16,200
<b>2021</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>7,614</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>6,486</b>

- There was no analytically-based catch advice (model rejected in 2019).
- Estimates of biomass from the two available surveys and total catch were summarized to describe the state of the resource, rather than using estimates from three surveys or the results from the rejected model
- The TRAC recommended a range of catch advice (2,635 -14,117 mt). Stock status cannot be determined due to lack of a model, however there was consensus of the TRAC that the stock condition is not poor
- The 2021 TAC is a 53% decrease from the 2020

# Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

## **Special Considerations**

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 NMFS spring survey was cancelled, and aging data was not completed for the 2020 DFO survey. In the absence of an analytical model, there's a large amount of uncertainty about the haddock quota and the population size.
- TMGC has been reaffirming the priority for a TRAC benchmark for Haddock for a number of years. Canada has agreed to participate in the 2021 haddock research track assessment with the US, which includes EGB Haddock. This is scheduled for July 2021.

# Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Cod

- **2021 TAC of 635 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2020	650	71%	461.5	29%	188.5
<b>2021</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>444.5</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>190.5</b>

- TRAC reviewed fishery and biological indicators and provided no new catch advice for cod in 2021, there was no reason to change the advice provided for 2018-2020 (602 – 676 mt)
- The 2021 TAC is 635mt, consistent with the TRAC advice, and a slight decrease from 2019
- Low quotas in recent years, along with TMGC’s recommendation for a low quota in 2021 is expected to promote cod rebuilding
- TMGC sought to balance the utilization of other species and signals of the survey indices
- The status of stock remains poor

# Special Considerations

- There was no 2020 NMFS spring survey and ages were unavailable for the 2020 DFO spring survey and the Canadian commercial catch due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The DLMtool approach is on track for providing catch advice for TRAC 2021. A new timeline has been proposed and accepted which depicts the iterative collaboration between a TMGC working group and a TRAC working group that needs to happen over the next year. The timeline includes an initial run-through the simulation, giving the TMGC, and TRAC WGs a chance to revise the DLMtool components before the final iteration.

# Other Business and Planning

- TMGC intersessional phone call or webinar.
  - DLM Update
  - Define expected documents requirements from TRAC 2020
  - Update on limiter approach needs for YT
  - Changing requirements/evolving issues: Covid-19
    - Options paper from TRAC required for how to deal with Allocation shares in the absence of surveys.
    - Review plan for Haddock Advice options – delaying TRAC, waiting for Research Track.