

DRAFT: Permit and allocation options, discussion document

Create a permitting system that is more consistent with fishing modes (métiers). Catch allocations may be based on the EPU permitting. Stock complex catch allocations may be counted against stock catch limits that also occur outside of the EPU and are managed by the NEFMC or others.

Vessels authorized to obtain a permit and fish in the Georges Bank EPU based on history (does not need to be defined now – only as a concept). Distinct single species fisheries such as scallop, lobster, and red/Jonah crabs might not be included. Allocations and catch would be managed similar to the way they are for the Easter Georges Bank co-managed (US/CAN) areas.

### **Questions**

1. Since qualification periods for individual fisheries (as currently defined) differ, how would a vessel qualify to fish with a specific gear in the Georges Bank EPU?
2. What is the qualified vessel entitled to do? What are the limitations of the qualification? Can vessels with Georges Bank EPU history with one gear type obtain a permit for a different gear type?
3. Are Georges Bank EPU permits and allocations consistent with stock allocations (for species managed by MAFMC, ASMFC, and HMS) and monitoring?
4. Catch allocation can be discussed separately, but assuming that there is some sort of EPU/gear permit, what catch allocation systems would be compatible with other systems currently in use? Catch shares, sector allocations, a simple cap without an allocation to a permit?

### **Options**

1. No additional permit required (No Action), but vessels would declare into a Georges Bank EPU fishing mode (métier) for monitoring catch
  - a. Weaknesses – No way to limit effort other than existing limited access permits which also apply to Georges Bank fishing; requires existing suite of permits (some which may be unobtainable) to fish. Requires an additional type of trip declaration (similar to Eastern Georges Bank).
  - b. Strengths – no additional permitting costs; no qualification procedure
2. EPU/Gear Overlay – additional permit needed to fish within the Georges Bank EPU
  - a. Weaknesses – creates an additional permit, but still requires a fishing vessel to have species permits (some which may be unobtainable) to land.
  - b. Strengths – Limits effort to only vessels that have had a history fishing within the Georges Bank EPU with specific gears

3. Hybrid EPU permit – new permit to fish with specific gear within the Georges Bank EPU and land NEFMC-managed species
  - a. Weaknesses – Vessels fishing on Georges Bank would require permits for stocks managed by MAFMC, ASMFC, and HMS. Catch allocations for these stocks would be applied stock wide, but only a portion of them may be taken from within the Georges Bank EPU.
  - b. Strengths - Manages effort and catch allocations for all NEFMC managed Georges Bank species (other permits only needed if the vessels fishes for NEFMC species in the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic).
4. EPU/Gear permit – Vessels with history of using a gear in the Georges Bank EPU may obtain a permit to fish and land all species associated with that fishing mode (métier).
  - a. Weaknesses – catch allocations need to be consistent with single stock limits for MAFMC, ASMFC, and HMS unless the stock is primarily a Georges Bank stock (but these stocks would be managed by NEFMC anyway).
  - b. Strengths – Manages effort and catch allocations for all managed Georges Bank species. Total catch allocation would be consistent with EPU MSY limit.