#8

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole Laboratory
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

22 November 2019

Mr. Thomas Nies
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950
tnies@nefmc.org

Dear Mr. Nies,

Thank you for your July 3, 2019 letter requesting "*...the NEFSC provide observer deployment data at the vessel level for groundfish trips to better understand concerns about differences in coverage rates between vessels.*" The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) welcomes the opportunity to present the technical and operational details of observer deployment in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery (groundfish). The observer deployment topic is complex, involving multiple monitoring programs with differing sampling designs, a multitude of regulatory exemptions from these monitoring programs, and the operational realities of managing observer programs of which ensuring observer safety is paramount. A comparison of coverage rates between vessels is informed by an understanding of these complexities.

Background

The groundfish fishery uses a combination of observer programs to achieve ASM target coverage levels mandated by the groundfish FMP, which presents unique observer deployment challenges. There are currently four separate at-sea observer sampling programs (or tiers) covering the groundfish fishery in support of Fishery Management Plan (FMP) sector coverage objectives: 1) Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) which is fulfilled using Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) coverage; 2) Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) which is fulfilled using Limited NEFOP (NEFOP Limited) coverage; and Sector At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) which can be fulfilled using either 3) industry-funded ASMs or 4) Electronic Monitoring (EM) in lieu of human ASMs. The three types of coverage that count towards the groundfish ASM coverage levels are NEFOP, ASM, and EM. NEFOP Limited coverage is only deployed on groundfish vessels fishing with gillnet gear during certain periods of the year (there were 87 NEFOP Limited trips in FY 2018 and there have been 72 trips to date in 2019). EM can be used as both a surrogate of ASM coverage (Partial EM Program), and as a means of exempting a vessel from ASM coverage (Audit Model EM Program). Trips that are exempt from

ASM coverage are not included when evaluating ASM coverage levels - these include trips eligible for the Framework 55 (FW55) extra-large mesh gillnet exemption, as well as fishing trips conducted under certain Exempted Fishing Permits, or EFPs (e.g., Audit Model EM Program, Maximized Retention). Some EFPs may also exempt trips from SBRM coverage (e.g., Maximized Retention).

All observer selections in the groundfish fishery are accomplished using the NEFSC's Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS). The PTNS employs a stratified random sampling approach for the deployment of observers in each of the three sampling programs, or tiers, currently deployed on the groundfish fishery (NEFOP, ASM, EM). Each of the selection tiers is broken up into sampling strata, with strata defined by certain trip characteristics (gear, port region, fishing region, sector, etc.). The sampling design varies across sampling programs (i.e., the stratification design used in SBRM is different than the one used for ASM).

Fishery observers are deployed based on the characteristics of the fishing trip, not on the identity of the vessel (i.e., do the trip characteristics meet the criteria of an observer program and a defined sampling stratum within that program?). A vessel's trips may be subjected to different observer sampling programs and sampling strata depending on the variability in a vessel's fishing practices (gear types fished, fishing area, etc.). The realized coverage a vessel experiences is a product of the aggregate coverage across all trips taken by a vessel over the course of a fishing year. The observer selection/deployment experience of each vessel is specific to that vessel's operations and thus, comparing vessel-level coverage rates should be done considering the variety of observer sampling programs and sampling strata.

We have identified several explanations for varying coverage rates between vessels, including:

- Trips were subjected to a different combinations of sampling programs (e.g., some trips were eligible for only SBRM selection, while other trips were eligible for both SBRM and ASM selection).

- Trips were subjected to the same sampling program(s), but occurred in different sampling strata and coverage levels (e.g., two trips were both eligible for SBRM selection but were fishing different gear types, and therefore associated with different SBRM fleets with different sea day allocations and coverage levels). Using the example of the 2019 SBRM sampling program, Figure 1 demonstrates how the distribution of vessel-level coverage rates within a sampling program can vary widely due to differences in the strata-specific coverage targets.

- Differences in coverage rates arising from several factors including random variation, observer unavailability, vessel non-compliance and/or observer avoidance behavior, and observer provider preference for certain vessels or avoidance of others (i.e., deployment effects).

The interaction of the ASM and SBRM sampling programs leads to increased complexity in calculating ASM coverage. To date, in the 2019 fishing year there have been 51 unique combinations of SBRM and ASM selection outcomes, with combinations having differing coverage levels, including exemptions from one or both programs (Fig. 2). Only those combinations subjected to the ASM sampling program would count towards the monitoring of the ASM coverage targets (i.e., 31% in FY 2019). Figure 2 highlights that some collection of trips within a sector will receive more than the mandated 31% combined SBRM and ASM coverage, while others will receive less. This variability in coverage stems from the interaction of the SBRM and ASM sampling programs. The groundfish FMP specifies that the ASM coverage targets are evaluated at a sector-level, and not at the strata and vessel-levels that better reflects the individual vessel experience. The sector coverage rate average reflects an average across all SBRM/ASM trip combinations occurring within a sector (Fig. 2).

Analysis

To provide observer deployment data at the vessel level for groundfish trips we have analyzed the observer deployment data available within our Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS). A major upgrade was made to our PTNS system at the start of FY 2018, which allows for improved tracking of the trip selection process and coverage metrics. For this reason, our analysis is restricted to FYs 2018 and 2019. Our analysis includes non-canceled trips eligible for either the SBRM or ASM sampling programs. Trips that are exempt from an observer sampling program have been excluded from the appropriate coverage rate calculations (i.e., trips that are exempt from ASM, but not SBRM would be included in our calculation of SBRM coverage rates, but excluded from the calculation of ASM coverage rates). In FY 2018 the PTNS notification compliance rate was 95.1% (4.9% of the trips or 379/7809 failed to notify) compared to 98.2% in FY 2019 (1.8% of the trips or 86/4782 failed to notify).

To facilitate comparisons across the observer sampling programs and sampling strata, we have normalized vessel-level coverage using a z-score approach. The z-score approach is helpful for placing coverage estimates from different observer sampling programs and sampling strata on a similar scale. A z-score is a measure of the number of standard deviations an individual observation is from the group mean. For example, a z-score of 0 would indicate that a vessel's realized coverage was identical to the stratum mean, and a z-score of 1 would indicate that a

vessel's realized coverage was +1 standard deviation from the mean. A z-score can only be calculated when 3 or more vessels were active within a stratum. The z-score approach can obscure large differences, or accentuate small differences (e.g., a vessel whose coverage rate is at 1% relative to a stratum mean coverage rate of 2% may appear similar to a vessel whose coverage rate is at 10% relative to a stratum mean of 20%).

The results of our analysis are shown in Figure 3. An important feature of the coverage distribution is that vessel-level coverage converges on the stratum mean as a vessel takes more fishing trips. This is a design feature of the PTNS that has been previously documented (Palmer et al. 2013). The revised PTNS also includes a 2nd stage selection process to further reduce inter-vessel variability which further reduces inter-vessel variability beyond what is documented in Palmer et al. (2013). Of those vessels with 20 or more trips, 91.3% of the vessel-level coverage rates were within ± 1 standard deviation of the stratum mean, with the percentage increasing to 94.3% for vessels with 50 or more trips. The ± 1 standard deviation measure is arbitrary – there is currently no defined metric to objectively categorize coverage as 'equitable' or 'inequitable'.

This analysis does provide a description of the relative variation of vessel-level coverage within individual sampling strata, and how the variability changes as a function of vessel activity. We have integrated these types of analyses into a dashboard utility contained in the revised PTNS – these tools allows to us to monitor observer deployment patterns in real-time, and then work with vessels, sector managers, and service providers to better understand and address any identified issues.

Efforts to promote equitability

The NEFSC takes the issue of potentially inequitable coverage seriously and monitors coverage rates closely. Factors that can contribute to varying coverage rates include vessel safety deficiencies, vessel non-compliance (i.e., failure to notify), and observer provider preference or avoidance. Of the non-cancelled PTNS trips, 1.5% of trips (115/7809) and 0.6% (29/4782) of the trips were waived of coverage for safety deficiencies in FY 2018 and 2019, respectively.

We actively work with all our program participants (vessel owners, captains, sector managers, observer service providers, and observers) to limit the influence of deployment effects on vessel-level coverage. To proactively prevent this, the provider cannot see the vessel name at trip offering, only after accepting the trip. To address any possible issues that arise in a timely fashion, sector managers, providers and Agency staff communicate no less than monthly about realized coverage, trip offerings and acceptance, cancellation rates and individual vessel level

coverage. Individual vessel challenges are discussed and if an issue is identified, we work together to resolve it.

The NEFSC would welcome the opportunity to discuss this topic in more depth with your Groundfish Plan Development Team, or other relevant Council committee. If you would like to further discuss observer deployment issues, please contact Amanda McCarty, Fishery Monitoring and Research Division Chief, at 508-495-2341, or Amanda.McCarty@noaa.gov.

References

Palmer MC, Hersey P, Marotta H, Shield GR, Cierpich SB. 2013. The design, implementation and performance of an observer pre-trip notification system (PTNS) for the northeast United States groundfish fishery. US Dept Commer, Northeast Fish Sci Cent Ref Doc. 13-21; 82 p. Available from: National Marine Fisheries Service, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026, or online at http://nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/

Figures

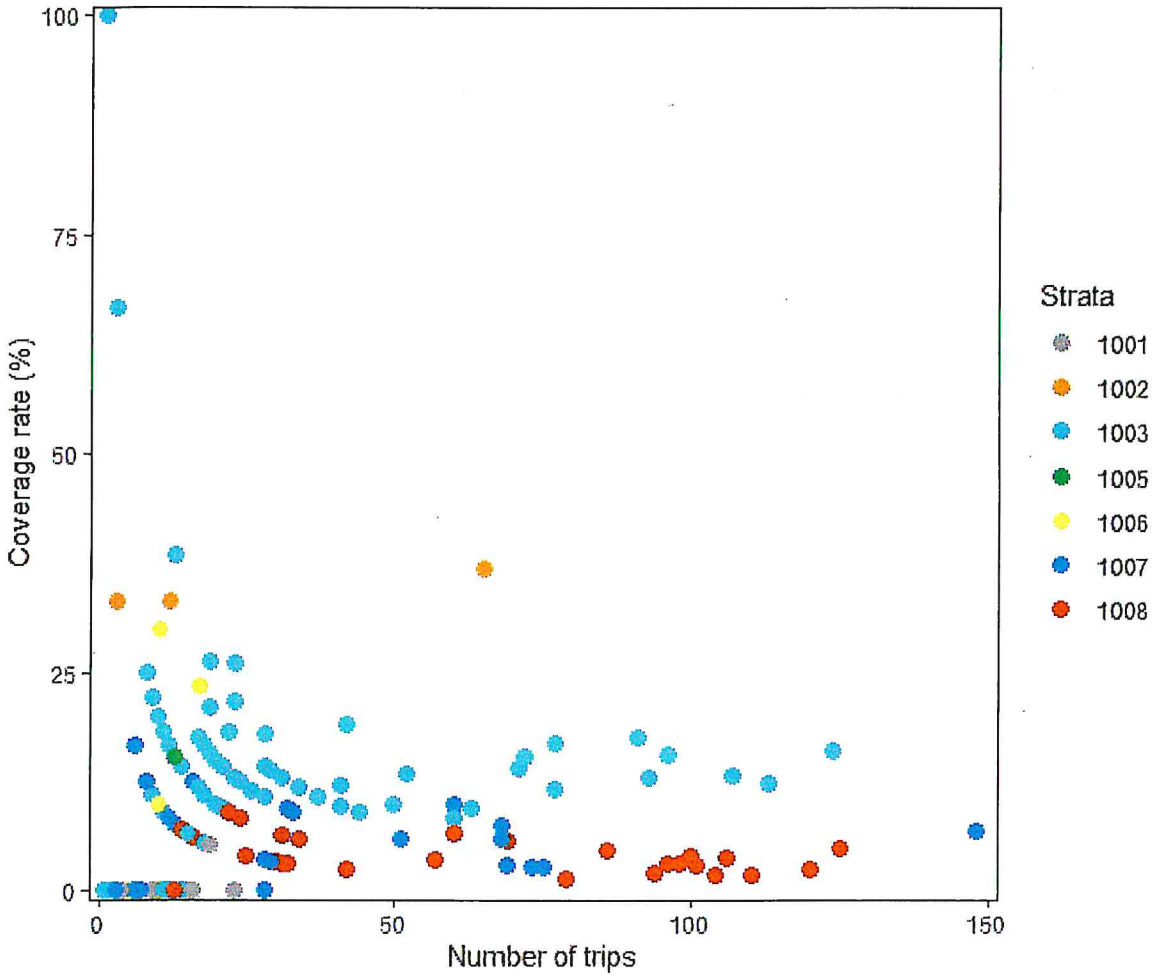


Figure 1. Vessel-level realized coverage rates as a function of fishing activity (number of trips) for the 2019 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) sampling program. There are currently 7 active strata (i.e., SBRM 'fleets') in the 2019 SBRM sampling program operating in the groundfish fishery. Each dot represents a single vessel's activity within a sampling stratum (i.e., if a vessel fished in multiple sampling strata it would be represented by multiple dots on the plot). Target coverage rates can vary widely across sampling strata - the PTNS target coverage rate settings for the SBRM sampling program currently range from 2% (1001) to 50% (1002). Data are current as of November 14, 2019.

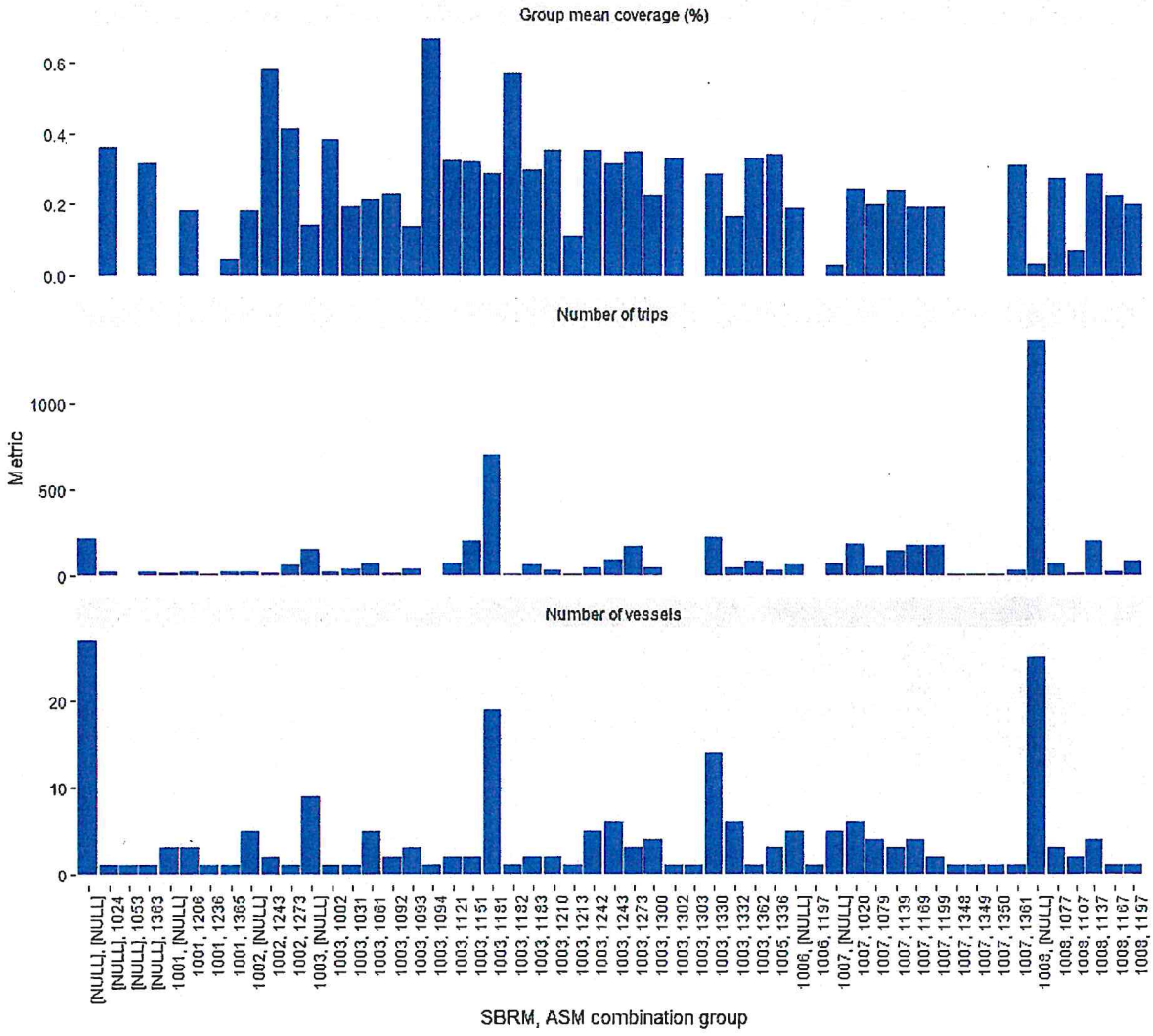


Figure 2. Summary of the SBRM and ASM selection outcome combinations experienced by groundfish trips in the 2019 fishing year, through November 14, 2019. The x-axis displays the unique combinations of SBRM and ASM selection strata groundfish trips were subjected to. The values represent the SBRM stratum identifier followed by the ASM stratum identifier. Values of '[NULL]' indicate an exemption from that sampling program. Data are summarized by combination group to provide the mean realized coverage of each combination, and the number of trips and vessels within each. Only combinations where the ASM identifiers are not null count toward the monitoring of ASM coverage targets.

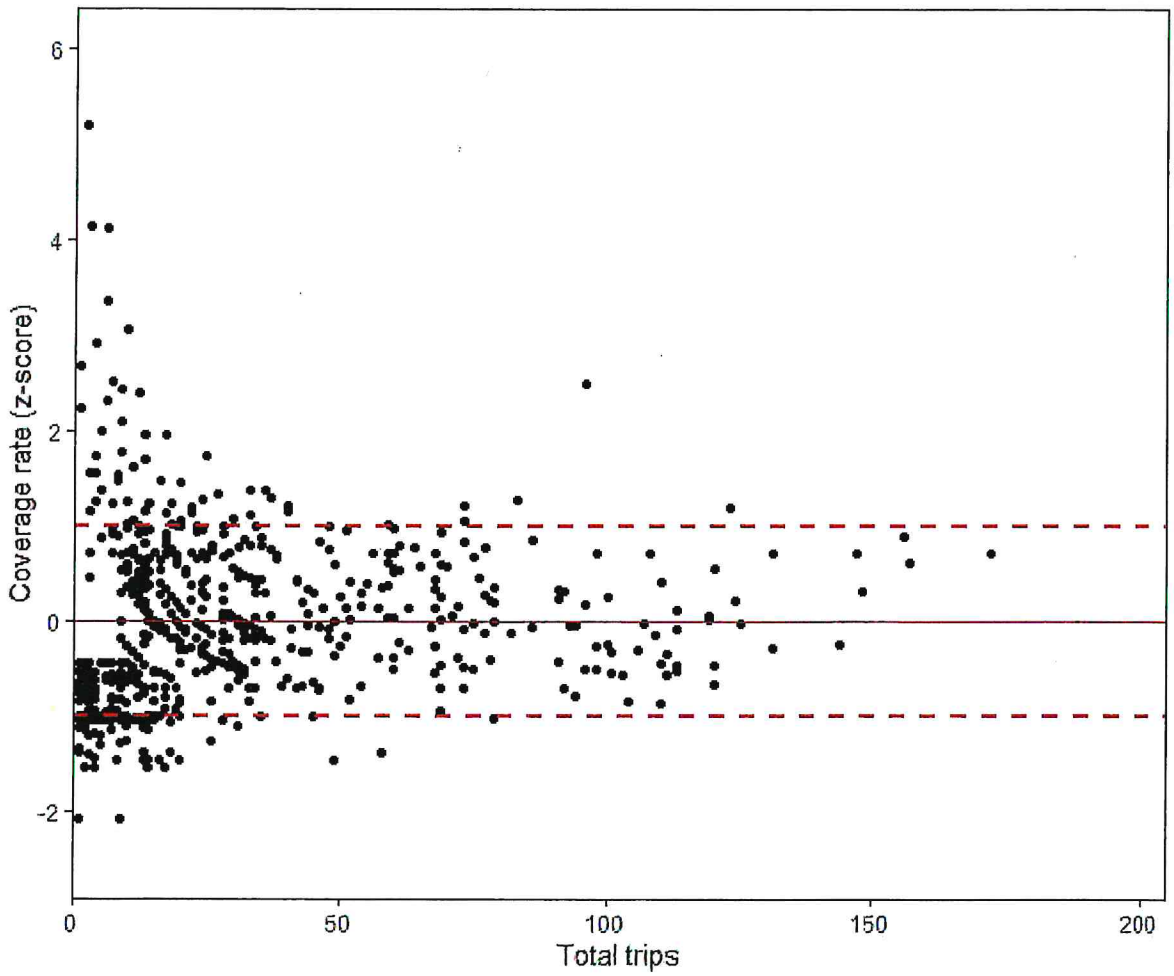


Figure 3. Normalized (z-score) vessel-level realized coverage rates as a function of fishing activity (number of trips) across all 2018 and 2019 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) and At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) sampling strata. The data reflect the distribution of vessel-level coverage across 115 distinct sampling strata. Dots near the solid red line at 0 represent vessels with coverage near the stratum mean. The dashed red line represents ± 1 standard deviation from the stratum mean. Data are current as of November 14, 2019.

SUSTAINABLE HARVEST SECTOR
PO Box 356, So. Berwick ME 03908 | 207-956-8497 | www.groundfish.org

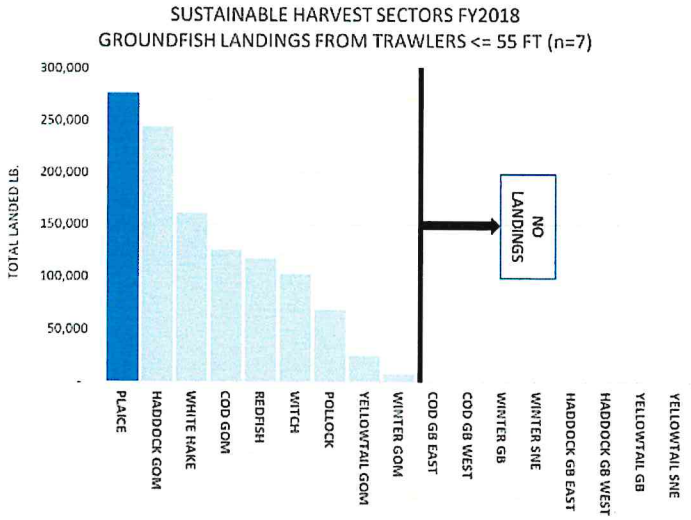
November 19, 2019

Dr. John Quinn, Chair
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Dr. Quinn,

We write regarding FY2020's allocation of plaice. In a letter to you dated November 18, Associated Fisheries of Maine contends the Council should remand the SSC's recommended ABC for plaice (and some other stocks) back to the Committee for revision consistent with NEMC policy. We urge the Council to support this request, on behalf of our small-boat fleet.

Our sectors' trawlers are historically reliant on availability of plaice in the Gulf of Maine; the membership holds about a third of the sector PSC for this stock. It is the #1 stock landed by our small-boat fleet, comprising nearly 25% of all groundfish landed by them:



This fleet has had some recent success targeting the abundant GOM haddock resource (as well as redfish, though the figure shown above warrants a caveat – 80% of the redfish catch shown came from one vessel). However, two of the top four stocks (GOM cod and white hake) are slated for quota reductions, so our small trawlers must seek alternatives. The healthy plaice stock represents one of those, and if there is no biological reason to constrain the catch, we request the Council provide access to that fish.

Sincerely,

Hank Soule
Sector Manager

JC 11/20/19

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES OF MAINE

PO Box 287, South Berwick, ME 03908

November 18, 2019

Dr. John Quinn, Chair
New England Fishery Management Council

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear John:

The Associated Fisheries of Maine writes to convey our concern with the process used by both the PDT and the SSC to set ABC specifications for the groundfish fishery.

The Amendment 16 ABC control rule states (in part):

a) *ABC should be determined as the catch associated with 75% Fmsy.*
b) *If fishing at 75% Fmsy does not achieve the mandated rebuilding requirements for overfished stocks, ABC should be determined as the fishing mortality that meets rebuilding requirements (Frebuild).*

For every stock where there is an accepted model, the PDT offered two options to the SSC:

1) the 75% Fmsy projections and
2) an option to hold the ABC constant.

Inexplicably, the PDT alternatives to hold the ABC constant also propose using the lowest ABC value generated by the projections, which in all cases was the 2nd or 3rd year projection, even though it is well understood that the further out in time the projections extend, the less reliable or the more uncertain those projections become.

In the case of American plaice, both haddock stocks, and pollock, the PDT offered, and the SSC accepted a suggestion to hold the lowest value of the ABC constant. These stocks are rebuilt, and no overfishing is occurring, and therefore should be subject to the control rule as described in part (a) above, and not the constant ABC calculation.

The Council's Operations Handbook provides guidance on scenarios when the Council could remand a decision back to the SSC:

The Council may remand back to its Scientific and Statistical Committee the SSC's recommendations based on the following criteria: (a) failure of the committee to follow the terms of reference provided to it by the Council; (b) an error, in fact or omission, in the materials provided to the committee; (c) an error in fact in the calculations, if any, undertaken by the Committee in developing an ABC recommendation; and (d) failure of the committee to follow its standard operating procedures.

jc 11/19/19

We request that the Council remand the ABC recommendations for American plaice, both haddock stocks, and pollock back to the SSC based on (b) of the remand guidance – the PDT's error in recommending a constant ABC approach for these stocks in contradiction of the control rule and part (d) of the remand guidance - the SSC's failure to follow the control rule.

Furthermore, we strongly urge the Council to develop transparent guidelines in the control rule for use of the constant ABC calculation, including misgivings about holding the least reliable projection constant (i.e. the projections associated with the 2nd or 3rd year).

As always, we appreciate your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

M. Raymond

Maggie Raymond, Executive Director
Associated Fisheries of Maine

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Tom:

We are nearing completion of the groundfish year-end accounting for the 2018 fishing year, and the draft report is attached to this letter. We are still working with the State of Maine to confirm the final catch data for Atlantic halibut and, therefore, that information is not included in the report. We will provide you with a final report as soon as possible. All other data included in the draft report can be considered final. For the 19 stocks included in the attached draft report, fishing year 2018 catch did not exceed any of the annual catch limits (ACL).

Windowpane Flounder Sub-Annual Catch Limits

The sub-ACLs and catch for the groundfish and scallop fisheries allocations of windowpane flounder are shown in Table 1. The scallop fishery exceeded its sub-ACL for northern windowpane flounder, and the groundfish fishery exceeded its sub-ACL for southern windowpane flounder. The total ACL was not exceeded for either stock. For the scallop fishery, the sub-ACL for northern windowpane flounder was exceeded by less than 50 percent. Therefore, accountability measures are not triggered for either stock of windowpane flounder.

Table 1: Fishing year 2018 windowpane flounder catch limits and catch (mt) for the groundfish and scallop fisheries.

Stock	Overall ACL	Groundfish	Scallop
Northern Windowpane Flounder			
Catch Limit	86	63	18
Catch	56.7	33.3	22.3
Catch as a Percent of the Catch Limit	65.9%	52.8%	123.7%
Southern Windowpane Flounder			
Catch Limit	457	53	158
Catch	454.7	66.5	157.1
Catch as a Percent of the Catch Limit	99.5%	125.4%	99.5%

While we are still working to finalize the 2018 year-end accounting by completing our analysis of Atlantic halibut catch, we wanted to provide the catch report for all other stocks to you as quickly as possible to support development of Framework 59. If you have any questions on the report, please contact Peter Christopher, Groundfish Team Supervisor, at (978) 281-9288.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Jon Hare, Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Enclosure

Northeast Multispecies Fishery

Final Year-End Results for Fishing Year 2018

- Tables 1 through 5: Total groundfish caught, landed, and discard estimates*
- Table 6: Estimated state water catch*
- Tables 7-9: Other sub-component catch detail*
- Table 10: FY 2016 through FY 2018 GOM cod and haddock recreational catch evaluation
- Table 11: Sector carryover
- Tables 12 through 17: U.S./Canada stocks catch evaluation

*Atlantic halibut amounts TBD

In this report: a table cell value of "0" or "0.0" indicates a non-zero value in the cell. "-" is displayed for values exactly equal to zero. Blanks are shown when there are no values. "NA" is displayed when no value is applicable.

11/4/2019

Table 1: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Percent of Annual Catch Limit Caught (%)

Stock	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AMs)								Sub-components: No AMs	
	Total	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	58.4	61.6	71.1	26.0					50.2	29.0
GOM Cod	75.7	75.7	86.7	48.8	66.8				80.7	51.8
GB Haddock	11.5	11.5	11.6	1.4		6.5			3.5	24.6
GOM Haddock	29.1	28.6	32.8	33.8	17.7	-			54.1	94.1
GB Yellowtail Flounder	19.7	14.7	14.9	-			87.5	2.5	NA	NA
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	22.3	19.6	19.9	18.1			79.7		9.8	20.5
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	52.0	42.8	43.3	32.3					108.6	70.8
Plaice	69.6	68.3	68.6	49.1					66.9	131.7
Witch Flounder	95.6	95.6	97.9	96.7					66.6	112.7
GB Winter Flounder	59.1	57.5	57.9	-					NA	79.3
GOM Winter Flounder	54.6	25.7	26.7	6.4					200.9	189.4
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	56.9	48.4	50.1	35.6					21.8	120.5
Redfish	48.9	49.9	50.1	2.3					2.2	3.8
White Hake	75.6	76.7	77.2	8.1					1.3	54.1
Pollock	10.9	9.3	9.4	2.2					119.7	54.0
Northern Windowpane	65.9	52.8	NA	NA			123.7		20.3	22.9
Southern Windowpane	99.5	125.4	NA	NA			99.5		93.1	94.0
Ocean Pout	44.8	18.2	NA	NA					14.5	157.2
Halibut										
Wolffish	1.9	1.8	NA	NA					3.9	5.5

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
October 25, 2019, run date of July 22, 2019

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 2: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Limits (mt)

Stock	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AMs)								Sub-components: No AMs	
	Total ACL	Groundfish	Sector[1]	Common Pool[1]	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	1,519	1,360	1,170	24					16	143
GOM Cod	666	610	357	12	220				47	9
GB Haddock	46,312	44,659	44,340	319		680			487	487
GOM Haddock	12,409	12,096	8,641	98	3,358	122			95	95
GB Yellowtail Flounder	206	188	185	3			15	4	NA	0.0
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	66	43	35	8			3		2	17
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	490	398	381	17					51	41
Plaice	1,649	1,580	1,552	28					35	35
Witch Flounder	948	849	811	18					40	60
GB Winter Flounder	787	731	725	6					NA	57
GOM Winter Flounder	428	357	339	18					67	4
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	700	518	456	62					73	109
Redfish	10,986	10,755	10,705	50					116	116
White Hake	2,794	2,735	2,715	21					29	29
Pollock	38,204	37,400	37,170	230					402	402
Northern Windowpane	86	63	NA	63			18		2	3
Southern Windowpane	457	53	NA	53			158		28	218
Ocean Pout	120	94	NA	94					3	23
Halibut	100	77	NA	77					21	2
Wolffish	84	82	NA	82					1	1

[1]To account for overages of the 2016 ACLs for GB cod, GOM cod, and witch flounder, the following sub-ACLs were reduced midyear: GB cod (sector and common pool), GOM cod (sector only), and witch flounder (sector and common pool)

Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 25, 2019

Table 3: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Total Catch (mt)

Stock	**Total Catch**	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery[1]	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	887.3	837.9	831.6	6.3					8.0	41.5
GOM Cod	504.5	461.9	309.2	5.8	146.9				37.9	4.7
GB Haddock	5,324.3	5,143.7	5,139.2	4.4		43.9			17.1	119.7
GOM Haddock	3,605.9	3,465.1	2,837.1	33.0	595.0	-			51.4	89.4
GB Yellowtail Flounder	40.5	27.6	27.6	-			12.7	0.1	-	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	14.7	8.5	7.0	1.5			2.6		0.2	3.5
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	254.7	170.3	164.8	5.5					55.4	29.0
Plaice	1,147.9	1,078.4	1,064.7	13.7					23.4	46.1
Witch Flounder	906.1	811.8	794.1	17.7					26.6	67.6
GB Winter Flounder	465.1	419.9	419.9	-					-	45.2
GOM Winter Flounder	233.9	91.7	90.6	1.1					134.6	7.6
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	398.0	250.7	228.7	22.0					15.9	131.3
Redfish	5,369.1	5,362.1	5,360.9	1.2					2.6	4.4
White Hake	2,113.1	2,097.1	2,095.4	1.7					0.4	15.7
Pollock	4,179.1	3,480.8	3,475.8	5.0					481.1	217.3
Northern Windowpane	56.7	33.3	33.0	0.3			22.3		0.4	0.7
Southern Windowpane	454.7	66.5	49.7	16.8			157.1		26.1	205.0
Ocean Pout	53.7	17.1	17.0	0.1					0.4	36.2
Halibut										
Wolffish	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.1					0.0	0.1

[1]Based on scallop fishing year April 2018 through March 2019

Values in metric tons of live weight

Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Any value for a non-allocated species may include landings of that stock or misreporting of species and/or stock area. These are northern windowpane, southern windowpane, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 25, 2019, run date of July 22, 2019

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 4: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Landings (mt)

Stock	**Total Landings**	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	871.8	833.2	827.1	6.1					7.4	31.3
GOM Cod	352.1	310.8	302.8	3.6	4.3				37.7	3.7
GB Haddock	4,763.8	4,708.6	4,704.1	4.4		43.9			10.6	0.7
GOM Haddock	3,314.6	3,243.9	2,787.1	32.9	423.9	-			50.0	20.7
GB Yellowtail Flounder	27.4	27.4	27.4	-			-	-	-	-
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	7.5	7.3	5.8	1.5			-		0.1	0.1
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	205.2	149.0	144.1	4.9					55.0	1.3
Plaice	1,042.8	1,019.7	1,008.1	11.7					21.9	1.2
Witch Flounder	778.9	753.3	747.2	6.1					25.1	0.5
GB Winter Flounder	419.7	419.3	419.3	-					-	0.4
GOM Winter Flounder	225.5	89.3	88.2	1.1					133.6	2.6
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	269.7	247.7	226.5	21.2					14.7	7.3
Redfish	5,299.1	5,294.3	5,293.3	1.0					1.0	3.8
White Hake	2,088.5	2,086.1	2,084.6	1.6					0.1	2.2
Pollock	3,633.7	3,374.0	3,369.2	4.8					187.2	72.5
Northern Windowpane	0.0	0.0	0.0	-			-		-	-
Southern Windowpane	18.8	0.0	-	0.0			-		18.8	0.0
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-					-	-
Halibut										
Wolffish	-	-	-	-					-	-

Values in metric tons of live weight
Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Any value for a non-allocated species may include landings of that stock or misreporting of species and/or stock area. These are northern windowpane, southern windowpane, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
October 25, 2019, run date of July 22, 2019

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 5: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Estimated Discards (mt)

Stock	Total Discards	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
GB Cod	15.5	4.7	4.4	0.2					0.7	10.2
GOM Cod	152.4	151.1	6.4	2.2	142.6				0.2	1.0
GB Haddock	560.6	435.1	435.1	0.0		-			6.5	119.0
GOM Haddock	291.3	221.2	50.0	0.1	171.1	-			1.4	68.7
GB Yellowtail Flounder	13.1	0.2	0.2	-			12.7	0.1	-	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	7.3	1.1	1.1	0.0			2.6		0.1	3.4
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	49.5	21.4	20.8	0.6					0.4	27.7
Plaice	105.1	58.7	56.7	2.0					1.5	44.9
Witch Flounder	127.2	58.5	46.9	11.6					1.5	67.1
GB Winter Flounder	45.3	0.6	0.6	-					-	44.8
GOM Winter Flounder	8.4	2.4	2.4	0.0					1.0	5.0
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	128.3	3.0	2.3	0.8					1.2	124.0
Redfish	70.0	67.8	67.7	0.2					1.6	0.6
White Hake	24.7	11.0	10.9	0.1					0.3	13.4
Pollock	545.5	106.8	106.6	0.2					293.9	144.8
Northern Windowpane	56.6	33.3	33.0	0.3			22.3		0.4	0.7
Southern Windowpane	435.9	66.5	49.7	16.8			157.1		7.3	205.0
Ocean Pout	53.7	17.1	17.0	0.1					0.4	36.2
Halibut										
Wolffish	1.6	1.5	1.4	0.1					0.0	0.1

Values in metric tons of live weight
Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
October 25, 2019, run date of July 22, 2019

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Table 6: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Estimated State Water Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)

Stock	Total			Commercial			Recreational		
	Catch	Landings	Discard	Total Catch	Landings[1]	Discard[1]	Total Catch	Landings	Discard
	A+B+C+D	A+C	B+D	A+B	A	B	C+D	C	D
GB Cod	8.0	7.4	0.7	2.5	2.4	0.1	5.5	4.9	0.6
GOM Cod	37.9	37.7	0.2	37.9	37.7	0.2	-*	-*	-*
GB Haddock	17.1	10.6	6.5	17.1	10.6	6.5			
GOM Haddock	51.4	50.0	1.4	51.4	50.0	1.4	-*	-*	-*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-			
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1			
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	55.4	55.0	0.4	55.4	55.0	0.4			
Plaice	23.4	21.9	1.5	23.4	21.9	1.5			
Witch Flounder	26.6	25.1	1.5	26.6	25.1	1.5			
GB Winter Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-			
GOM Winter Flounder	134.6	133.6	1.0	106.5	106.4	0.1	28.1	27.2	1.0
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	15.9	14.7	1.2	14.6	14.5	0.1	1.3	0.2	1.1
Redfish	2.6	1.0	1.6	2.6	1.0	1.6			
White Hake	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.3			
Pollock	481.1	187.2	293.9	6.6	3.5	3.1	474.5	183.7	290.8
Northern Windowpane	0.4	-	0.4	0.4	-	0.4			
Southern Windowpane	26.1	18.8	7.3	26.1	18.8	7.3			
Ocean Pout	0.4	-	0.4	0.4	-	0.4			
Halibut									
Wolffish	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0			

*Recreational catch of GOM cod and haddock in state waters is attributed to the recreational sub-ACL (see Tables 1 - 5), and so is not included above.

[1]January through April 2019 commercial catches are estimated.

State discard rate estimates based on discard rates on federal trips

Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 25, 2019, run date of September 27, 2019

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 7: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCALLOP[1]	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB[2]	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	41.5	7.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
GOM Cod	4.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	-	-	0.1	-	3.5
GB Haddock	119.7	13.4	2.8	-	0.5*	-	0.9	0.0	0.3	-	0.5
GOM Haddock	89.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.8*	-	0.2	-	0.0	-	20.7
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-*	0.0	0.0	0.0*	-	-	-	-	0.0	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	3.5	-*	0.4	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.3	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	29.0	11.8	0.0	0.2	1.0	-	-	-	0.0	-	1.3
American Plaice	46.1	25.7	0.0	-	0.1	-	0.2	0.0	0.0	-	1.2
Witch Flounder	67.6	31.7	1.0	0.0	0.2	-	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5
GB Winter Flounder	45.2	34.8	0.0	0.0	0.9	-	-	-	-	0.0	-
GOM Winter Flounder	7.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	0.9
SNE Winter Flounder	131.3	52.5	3.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
Redfish	4.4	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	3.5
White Hake	15.7	1.9	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.0
Pollock	217.3	0.4	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.3	-	0.9
Northern Windowpane	0.7	-*	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern Windowpane	205.0	-*	23.6	-	0.5	-	0.9	0.0	1.1	-	0.0
Ocean Pout	36.2	4.8	0.7	0.0	0.2	-	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Halibut											
Wolffish	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0

Values in metric tons of live weight

[1]Based on scallop fishing year April 2018 through March 2019

[2]Landings only. Discard estimates not applicable. Lobster/crab discards were not attributed to the ACL, consistent with the most recent assessments for these stocks used to set the respective quotas.

*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Oct. 25, 2019, run date of Sept. 17, 2019

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Table 7: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	41.5	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	31.6
GOM Cod	4.7	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	-*
GB Haddock	119.7	2.9	0.1	73.3	7.2	1.0	-	0.2	16.8	
GOM Haddock	89.4	-	-	0.0	4.2	0.2	0.1	5.5	55.0	-*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	0.0	-*	0.0*	0.0	-	-	-	0.0*	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	3.5	0.4	0.0	1.3	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.9	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	29.0	-	-	0.9	7.5	0.1	0.0	2.5	3.6	
American Plaice	46.1	0.0	0.0	14.0	1.4	0.2	-	0.1	3.0	
Witch Flounder	67.6	1.0	0.0	23.9	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	6.1	
GB Winter Flounder	45.2	0.0	-	4.1	5.3	-	-	-	0.0	
GOM Winter Flounder	7.6	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.8
SNE Winter Flounder	131.3	3.5	0.1	47.9	3.2	0.8	0.0	0.1	14.1	4.1
Redfish	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	
White Hake	15.7	0.6	0.0	6.2	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.3	
Pollock	217.3	-	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.4	214.7
Northern Windowpane	0.7	0.0	-	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	
Southern Windowpane	205.0	24.8	0.1	98.7	7.2	2.5	-	0.2	45.2	
Ocean Pout	36.2	0.8	0.0	21.2	2.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	5.3	
Halibut										
Wolffish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	

Values in metric tons of live weight

*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Oct. 25, 2019, run date of Sept. 17, 2019

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Table 8: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Landings Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCALLOP[1]	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	31.3	0.6	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.2	-	0.0
GOM Cod	3.7	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.1	-	3.5
GB Haddock	0.7	0.0	0.1	-	-*	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.5
GOM Haddock	20.7	-	-	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	20.5
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	0.1	-*	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3
American Plaice	1.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2
Witch Flounder	0.5	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5
GB Winter Flounder	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	2.6	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.9
SNE Winter Flounder	7.3	1.2	0.6	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-
Redfish	3.8	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.5
White Hake	2.2	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	2.0
Pollock	72.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.9
Northern Windowpane	-	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Windowpane	0.0	-*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut											
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Values in metric tons of live weight

[1]Based on scallop fishing year April 2018 through March 2019
*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Oct. 25, 2019, run date of Sept. 17, 2019

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Table 8: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Landings Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	31.3	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.2	30.3
GOM Cod	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-*
GB Haddock	0.7	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.1	
GOM Haddock	20.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	0.1	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	1.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Plaice	1.2	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	
Witch Flounder	0.5	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	
GB Winter Flounder	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GOM Winter Flounder	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.7
SNE Winter Flounder	7.3	0.2	-	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	1.0	4.1
Redfish	3.8	-	-	0.3	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
White Hake	2.2	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.1	
Pollock	72.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	71.5
Northern Windowpane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Southern Windowpane	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Halibut										
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Values in metric tons of live weight

*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Oct. 25, 2019, run date of Sept. 17, 2019

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Table 9: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Estimated Discards Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCALLOP[1]	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB[2]	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	10.2	7.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
GOM Cod	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	NA	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
GB Haddock	119.0	13.3	2.7	-	.5*	NA	0.9	0.0	0.3	-	0.0
GOM Haddock	68.7	0.0	0.0	0.7	2.8*	NA	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.2
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-*	0.0	0.0	0.0*	NA	-	-	-	0.0	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	3.4	-*	0.4	-	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.3	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	27.7	11.8	0.0	0.2	1.0	NA	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
American Plaice	44.9	25.7	0.0	-	0.1	NA	0.2	0.0	0.0	-	0.0
Witch Flounder	67.1	31.7	1.0	0.0	0.2	NA	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
GB Winter Flounder	44.8	34.4	0.0	0.0	0.9	NA	-	-	-	0.0	-
GOM Winter Flounder	5.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	NA	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
SNE Winter Flounder	124.0	51.3	3.1	0.0	0.3	NA	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Redfish	0.6	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0
White Hake	13.4	1.9	0.6	0.0	0.1	NA	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Pollock	144.8	0.4	-	-	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.2	-	0.0
Northern Windowpane	0.7	-*	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern Windowpane	205.0	-*	23.6	-	0.5	NA	0.9	0.0	1.1	-	0.0
Ocean Pout	36.2	4.8	0.7	0.0	0.2	NA	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Halibut											
Wolffish	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0

Values in metric tons of live weight

[1]Based on scallop fishing year April 2018 through March 2019

[2]Discard estimates not applicable. Lobster/crab discards were not attributed to the ACL, consistent with the most recent assessments for these stocks used to set the respective quotas.

*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Oct. 25, 2019, run date of Sept. 17, 2019

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Table 9: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Estimated Discards Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	10.2	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.3
GOM Cod	1.0	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	-*
GB Haddock	119.0	2.8	0.1	73.3	7.1	1.0	-	0.2	16.7	
GOM Haddock	68.7	-	-	0.0	4.2	0.2	0.1	5.5	54.8	-*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	0.0	-	0.0*	0.0*	-	-	-	0.0*	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	3.4	0.4	0.0	1.2	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.9	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	27.7	-	-	0.9	7.5	0.1	0.0	2.5	3.6	
American Plaice	44.9	0.0	0.0	14.0	1.4	0.2	-	0.1	3.0	
Witch Flounder	67.1	1.0	0.0	23.9	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	6.1	
GB Winter Flounder	44.8	0.0	-	4.1	5.3	-	-	-	0.0	
GOM Winter Flounder	5.0	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.8	0.1
SNE Winter Flounder	124.0	3.3	0.1	47.7	3.2	0.8	0.0	0.1	13.0	0.0
Redfish	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	
White Hake	13.4	0.6	0.0	6.2	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	3.2	
Pollock	144.8	-	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	143.2
Northern Windowpane	0.7	0.0	-	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	
Southern Windowpane	205.0	24.8	0.1	98.7	7.2	2.5	-	0.2	45.2	
Ocean Pout	36.2	0.8	0.0	21.2	2.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	5.3	
Halibut										
Wolffish	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	

Values in metric tons of live weight

*Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not included above.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Oct. 25, 2019, run date of Sept. 17, 2019

These criteria are used by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office to categorize trips to attribute groundfish catch for groundfish ACL accounting. By necessity these rules cannot capture the full complexity of categorizing every trip taken by vessels fishing in the Northeast. Further analysis should be completed to definitively attribute groundfish catch to an FMP for management purposes.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 10: FY 2016 - 2018 GOM Cod and Haddock Recreational Catch Evaluation (mt)

Stock	Fishing Year	Recreational Catch				
		Catch	Landings	Discard	Recreational sub-ACL	Percent of Catch Limit Taken
		A + B	A	B		
GOM Cod	2016	280.9	94.5	186.4	157	178.9
	2017	245.4	26.6	218.8	157	156.3
	2018	146.9	4.3	142.6	220	66.8
	Average	**224.4**	**41.8**	**182.6**	**178**	**126.1**
GOM Haddock	2016	887.0	560.2	326.8	928	95.6
	2017	795.0	533.7	261.3	1,160	68.5
	2018	595.0	423.9	171.1	3,358	17.7
	Average	**759.0**	**505.9**	**253.1**	**1,815**	**41.8**

Recreational estimates based on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.
Values in metric tons of live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
October 25, 2019

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Table 11: FY 2018 Northeast Multispecies Sector Carryover (mt)

Stock †	FY 2018 Available Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE)				Available Carryover from FY 2018 to FY 2019	
	FY 2018 Initial ACE	FY 2017 Carryover	FY 2018 Total ACE	Total ACE as a Percent of Initial ACE	*de minimis*	Maximum
	A	B	C = A + B	C / A	D	E
GB Cod	1,170	38	1,208	103.3	13	83
GOM Cod	351	22	373	106.3	3	28
GB Haddock	44,338	3,840	48,178	108.7	502	2,865
GOM Haddock	8,558	265	8,823	103.1	79	687
GB Yellowtail Flounder	185.1	NA*	185.1	100.0	NA*	NA*
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	35	11	46	131.5	0	2
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	373	18	391	104.8	4	21
Plaice	1,531	67	1,598	104.4	14	77
Witch Flounder	794	39	833	104.9	7	35
GB Winter Flounder	725	19	744	102.6	7	24
GOM Winter Flounder	332	34	366	110.2	3	19
SNE Winter Flounder	456	31	487	106.8	4	27
Redfish	10,650	558	11,208	105.2	98	577
White Hake	2,703	154	2,857	105.7	23	144
Pollock	37,081	938	38,019	102.5	344	1,968

* Carryover of GB yellowtail flounder is not allowed because this stock is jointly managed with Canada.

† There is no carryover for non-allocated stocks: Northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting; (4) Observers and at-sea monitors via the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Run Date: October 18, 2019

Table 12: FY 2018 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - Percentage of U.S. TACs Caught (%)

Stock	% of U.S. TAC	Percent of Each Fishery Component U.S. TAC Caught								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	41.4	41.4	42.3	0.0					NA	NA
Eastern GB Haddock	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0		NA			NA	NA
GB Yellowtail Flounder	19.0	14.7	14.9	0.0			87.5	2.5	NA	NA

Values in percent live weight (%)
Includes estimate of missing dealer reports
Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
August 27, 2019

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 13: FY 2018 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. TACs (mt)

Stock	U.S. TAC	Fishery Component TAC								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small-Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	257	257	252	5						
Eastern GB Haddock	15,600	15,600	15,489	111						
GB Yellowtail Flounder	213.0	187.9	185.1	2.9			14.6	4.0		0.0

Values in live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
August 27, 2019

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 14: FY 2018 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Catch (mt)

Stock	U.S. Catch	U.S. Catch by Fishery Component								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	106.4	106.4	106.4	-					-	0.0
Eastern GB Haddock	631.4	623.1	623.1	-		6.7			-	1.5
GB Yellowtail Flounder	40.5	27.6	27.6	-			12.7	0.1	-	0.0

Values in live weight
Includes estimate of missing dealer reports
August 27, 2019

Table 15: FY 2018 End of Year Transboundary U.S./Canada Vessels, Trips, DAS Used, and Observers

Area[1]	Number of Vessels		Number of Trips		DAS Used		Number of Observed Trips	
	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common Pool
Eastern U.S./Canada Area	25	0	145	0	921	0	28	0
Western U.S./Canada Area	39	0	407	0	2,357	0	75	0
Total	40	0	440	0	2,499	0	80	0

[1]Area based on area fished. Totals don't sum due to multi-area trips
Data display "NA" due to data confidentiality.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
August 27, 2019

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 16: FY 2018 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Landings (mt)

Stock	U.S. Landings	U.S. Catch by Fishery Component								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery*	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	105.0	105.0	105.0	-					-	-
Eastern GB Haddock	567.9	561.2	561.2	-		6.7			-	-
GB Yellowtail Flounder	27.4	27.4	27.4	-			-	-	-	-

Values in live weight
Includes estimate of missing dealer reports
Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
August 27, 2019

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 17: FY 2018 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Discards (mt)

Stock	U.S. Discards	U.S. Catch by Fishery Component								
		Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Eastern GB Cod	1.4	1.4	1.4	-					-	0.0
Eastern GB Haddock	63.5	61.9	61.9	-		-			-	1.5
GB Yellowtail Flounder	13.0	0.2	0.2	-			12.7	0.1	-	0.0

Values in live weight
Includes estimate of missing dealer reports
Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
August 27, 2019

Any value for a non-allocated species may be due to landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281-9315

Date Issued: 11/1/2019

Gillnet Fishing
Nantucket Lightship and Closed Area I Closure Areas

November 1, 2019

On October 28, 2019, Federal District Court Judge James E. Boasberg issued an Order and Opinion on a lawsuit challenging a portion of the New England Fishery Management Council's Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2.

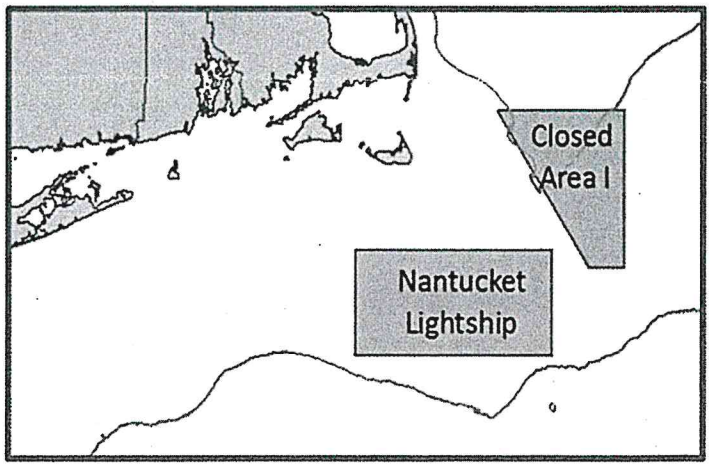
The Order prohibits NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from allowing gillnet fishing in the former Nantucket Lightship Groundfish Closure Area and the Closed Area I Groundfish Closure Areas, until such time as NMFS has fully complied with requirements of the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, consistent with the Opinion.

NMFS is studying the Opinion and will put regulations in place as soon as possible to comply with the Order to close the areas to gillnet fishing until further notice.

To facilitate compliance with the Order and implementation of the rule, you must remove all of your gillnet gear from these areas as soon as possible, consistent with safe vessel operations.

Closed Area I		
Point	N. lat.	W. long.
CI1	41°30′	69°23′
CI2	40°45′	68°45′
CI3	40°45′	68°30′
CI4	41°30′	68°30′
CI1	41°30′	69°23′

Nantucket Lightship Closed Area		
Point	N. lat.	W. long.
G10	40°50′	69°00′
CN1	40°20′	69°00′
CN2	40°20′	70°20′
CN3	40°50′	70°20′
G10	40°50′	69°00′



From: Jeff Kaelin [mailto:jkaelin@lundsfish.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 11:22 AM
To: Deirdre Boelke <dboelke@nefmc.org>; HerringAdvisors <HerringAdvisors@NEFMC.ORG>; HerringCte <HerringCte@NEFMC.ORG>
Subject: RE: FOR YOUR RECORDS: Groundfish PDT and Herring PDT memos - review of GB haddock sub-ACL in the MWT herring fishery

Thanks for this Deirdre.

It is unfortunate we did not have an opportunity to discuss this pending issue when the AP and Committee met last month.

It also continues to be difficult for us to understand why this AM is again proposed to be triggered at 1-2% of the GB haddock ACL, particularly when the directed groundfish fishery is taking less than 10% of the sub-ACL. The AM for overfished GB yellowtail bycatch in the scallop fishery, for example, is not triggered until the total YT ACL is reached, if I recall correctly; I believe the same is also true for windowpane flounder bycatch in the SNE fluke fishery.

Our company benefits in both of these fisheries from the Council's reasonable approach to the application of AMs for unwanted incidental catch. However, we feel the need to point out, again, the inconsistency of the effect of the proposed haddock AM on the offshore herring fishery's ability to realize OY, which can also have an effect on the fleet's ability to access Atlantic mackerel.

The offshore herring fishery does not want to take haddock and can find juvenile haddock difficult to avoid when found in the water column with herring of similar size. An ongoing GARFO project is reviewing the use of sonar technology to attempt to differentiate these fish, for example, an example of the fleet continuing to work together to avoid haddock. Also, the fishery is already incentivized from taking haddock as, years ago, the fleet and Council agreed that the fish would not be sold.

While we certainly appreciate the PDTs' recommending a 2% cap for the coming fishing year, it seems the Council has a long way to go to treat the effect of hard caps and pound-for-pound paybacks consistently and fairly across all fisheries under council management.

With best regards,

Jeff Kaelin
Director of Sustainability
and Government Relations
Lund's Fisheries, Inc.
997 Ocean Drive
Cape May, NJ 08204
C-207-266-0440

RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

October 25, 2019

Mr. Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator
NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Office
55 Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Pentony,

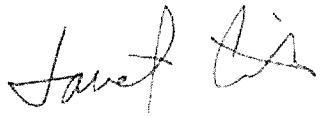
I am writing this letter to confirm the RI Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM) support of Amendment 23 (A23) to the New England Fishery Management Council Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. The amendment would implement measures to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting and ensure a precise and accurate representation of catch as reflected in the amendments purpose and need statement. In the past, the Department has supported the allocation of any surplus funds from those dedicated to the support of the New England on-board observer program to the continuing development of A23.

Fishery managers are struggling to rebuild groundfish stocks, and there is evidence this is at least partially due to insufficient monitoring levels and potential observer bias. This can negatively impact the information needed to adequately manage these fisheries. Discards continue to be an issue that is difficult to characterize through the current monitoring programs, and we believe A23 will improve the documentation of catch (both harvest and discards). RIDEM realizes there are many hurdles facing the industry with regards to enhanced monitoring, but pilot programs using mechanisms like electronic monitoring to enhance the data collected from these fisheries have shown tangible success and received positive feedback and support from the vessels in those programs.

Understanding the two main hurdles of A23, which the groundfish industry perceives as being privacy and cost, the RIDEM is committed to working with industry to insure the timely transition to any enhanced monitoring programs that assuage these two concerns to the extent possible. Council discussions have focused on at-sea observer coverage because it provides the highest quality data; however, its cost to the fishing industry, combined with low quotas in the fishery put participants at a disadvantage, potentially making fishing trips non-profitable. While there will be an upfront cost for things like electronic monitoring, the cost of these types of technologies will certainly decrease over time. Additionally, we support options for fishermen who are uncomfortable with electronic monitoring, as long as these options enhance monitoring.

Specifically, the RIDEM agrees to play a significant role in continued development of A23 through its Council representation and supporting staff at the Division of Marine Fisheries. Throughout the A23 process, there have been numerous delays, and we believe it is time to move this initiative forward so that fishery managers have the best chance of gathering the high-quality information needed to begin to make better progress in restoring our important and iconic groundfish fisheries.

Sincerely,



Janet Coit
Director

cc: Tom Nies, NEFMC Executive Director
Eric Reid, NEFMC Vice Chair
Rick Bellavance, NEFMC

New England Fishery Management Council
50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

October 23, 2019

Ms. Elizabeth Sullivan
Fishery Management Specialist
Sustainable Fisheries Division
NMFS/GARFO
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Liz:

Sarah Heil has recommended you represent the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office on the Council's Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT). The PDT is currently supporting the Council's work on several management priorities – including Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring and Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications. Your expertise and experience in policy and the scientific and management process will be very valuable to the PDT.

PDT members are expected to contribute to discussion, analysis, and document preparation, often under difficult timelines. I appreciate your willingness to assist in these tasks. Further, PDTs are tasked with providing objective analyses to the Council. For this reason, PDT members are not allowed to address the Committee or Council in order to advocate for any specific Council decisions unless they are presenting a PDT position. This task is normally the responsibility of the PDT Chair.

Jamie Cournane, Groundfish PDT Chair, will be contacting you shortly with more information. Feel free to contact him at your convenience by email (jcournane@nefmc.org) or telephone: 978-465-0492, ext. 103.

I am pleased to appoint you to the Groundfish PDT. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Heil, GARFO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Dr. John F. Quinn, Chairman
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear John:

I am writing to inform you that Peter Christopher is our new groundfish branch chief. In this role, he will be my delegate to the Council's Groundfish Committee. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Sarah Heil, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, at (978) 281-9257.

Sincerely,

Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

cc: Tom Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council

New England Fishery Management Council
50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

October 9, 2019

The Honorable Seth Moulton
United States House of Representatives
Longworth House Office Building
Independence and New Jersey Aves., SE
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Moulton:

Thank-you for your letter of September 5, 2019 that requested an update on the development of Amendment 23 (A23) to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. This amendment is considering alternatives that will improve the At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) program. You asked for our comments on a letter received from the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) in early August. The NSC letter is one of several we received on the development of A23. We interpret it as a comment on the development of that action, and note that the NSC intended to discuss their concerns with the Council. The NSC actively participates in our process, with representatives attending all of our Advisory Panel, Committee, and Council meetings. I will address the four specific points raised by the NSC.

At the time the NSC letter was written, the plan for spending the $10.3 million provided for ASM costs in the FY 2019 appropriations bill was not yet published. This spend plan is developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), not the Council. In April the Council suggested the appropriation could be used to facilitate development and implementation of the A23 monitoring program. In late May, NMFS agreed that this might be possible. The spend plan was recently released (Attachment 1) and is enclosed for your information.

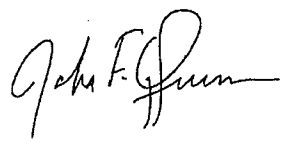
The NSC asked that A23 include an analysis of the impacts of the under-estimates of stock size on Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and the "observer effect." The fundamental assumption of this request – that ACLs are under-estimated – has not been proven. Indeed, the results of stock assessments completed in September do not support this claim. The Council is required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) to use the "best scientific information available." This makes it problematic to include an analysis that is not consistent with the most recent stock assessments. Even if we assume that stock size may be under-estimated, that has not been quantified and determining how that changes the observer effect is uncertain. Including this NSC assumption request in the document would rely heavily on speculation and would be inconsistent with the MSA.

With respect to the NSC request that A23 include a cost-benefit analysis of the monitoring alternatives, this is a part of every management action. I caution, however, that while determining the costs of new monitoring alternatives is relatively simple, establishing the costs of inadequate monitoring or the benefits of improvements is much more difficult. As a result, there is a tendency to rely too much on the parts of the analyses that are easier to determine, such as the costs, while under-valuing the benefits of monitoring improvements. The Council is trying to address this problem by working with a researcher to explore the impacts of inaccurate catch information on stock assessments. The results of that work may not be completed in time for the draft document but should be available for the Council's final decision.

Finally, the NSC asks that the Council develop a plan to use monitoring data to "...enhance stock abundance estimates by focusing on reducing uncertainties in the underlying biomass rather than focusing only on uncertainties in removals (catch)." Biomass estimates are developed using fishery dependent and fishery independent data in assessment models of varying complexity. Developing accurate estimates relies not only on analytic techniques that accurately model biological processes, but on accurate input data. The Northeast Fisheries Science Center is working with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils to improve the performance of the primary fishery-independent data source, the bottom trawl surveys. The other key data source is fishery catch information. During the development of A23, several analyses indicate that fishery dependent data may not be accurate and are biased. The quality of these data need to be improved before they can be expected to reduce uncertainties in the biomass estimates. Unless we have confidence in the accuracy of the catch information, we cannot rely on it to inform biomass estimates.

I hope these responses clarify the work we are doing on Amendment 23. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Quinn
Chairman

enclosure
cc: Mr. Michael Pentony, RA, NMFS/GARFO

New England Fishery Management Council
50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., Chairman | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

October 7, 2019

Mr. Richard Balouskus
Principal Biologist
RI Division of Marine Fisheries
Three Fort Wetherill Road
Jamestown, RI 02835

Dear Rich:

Deputy Chief, Scott Olszewski has recommended you represent Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries on the Council's Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT). The PDT is currently involved in supporting the Groundfish Committee with respect to commercial management issues. Your knowledge of the State of Rhode Island's fisheries and management will be very valuable to the PDT.

PDT members are expected to contribute to discussion, analysis, and document preparation, often under difficult timelines. I appreciate your willingness to assist in these tasks. Further, PDTs are tasked with providing objective analyses to the Council. For this reason, PDT members are not allowed to address the Committee or Council in order to advocate for any specific Council decisions unless they are presenting a PDT position. This task is normally the responsibility of the PDT Chair.

Dr. Jamie Cournane, Groundfish PDT Chair, will be contacting you shortly with more information. Feel free to contact her at your convenience by email (jcournane@nefmc.org) or telephone: 978-465-0492, Ext. 103.

I am pleased to appoint you to the Groundfish PDT. We appreciate your assistance and technical support for the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies

Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

cc: Scott Olszewski, Deputy Chief, RI DMF

From: Jon Hare - NOAA Federal [mailto:jon.hare@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 3:10 PM
To: Tom Nies
Cc: Michael Pentony; Michael Simpkins; Amanda McCarty - NOAA Federal; Sarah Heil; Jim Weinberg
Subject: FY19 ASM Spend Plan

Dear Tom,

Below is the FY19 ASM Spend Plan. I will include this in the Center report during the Council meeting.

See you next week.

Cheers

Jon

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is providing this spend plan for the $10.3 million provided within the Observers and Training PPA in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019. For fishing year 2019, based on a 31 percent coverage level, we estimate industry's costs for At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) will be approximately $2.5 million, and NMFS will reimburse 100 percent to sectors through an existing grant with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This grant has sufficient funds remaining from FY2018 funds to cover FY2019 costs.

The following outlines the proposed use of the $10.3 million provided in FY2019. Approximately $2.7 million will be used for shoreside costs associated with ASM sea days. In addition, $600,000 is planned for additional ASM training, to cover the surge training and recruitment of ASMs necessary to increase the ASM rate from 16 percent to 31 percent. Approximately $1.5 million will be used to support efforts to develop Electronic Monitoring (EM) technologies to use in the groundfish fishery. NMFS proposes to use $4.1 million for future industry support for groundfish monitoring costs. NMFS proposes to use $700,000 to purchase gear and support analyses involving observer data and discard estimates related to Amendment 23. Finally, $700,000 is used for NOAA/NMFS Shared Mission Support Costs applied across the budget (e.g. information technology, acquisition and grant administration, general counsel support, and financial management).

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