

Framework Adjustment 72
to the
Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

Appendix II
Calculation of Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Limits
for FY2026– FY2030

This appendix documents the calculation of Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and annual catch limits (ACLs) for FY2026 - FY2030. The general approach for all stocks is to first determine the OFL and then determine the ABC. The ABC in all cases is consistent with, or more conservative than, the recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The ABC is distributed to various components of the fishery, and then an adjustment is made to these “sub-ABCs” to determine the ACLs, sub-ACLs, or other sub-components.

The descriptions in this Appendix reflect the Council’s *Proposed Action* for specifications in Framework Adjustment 72 (FW72). For this action, the *Proposed Action* recommendations for several stocks, including:

- Georges Bank (GB) cod
- GB haddock
- GB yellowtail flounder
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder
- Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine (CC/GOM) yellowtail flounder
- GB winter flounder
- GOM winter flounder
- SNE/MA winter flounder
- Acadian redfish
- White hake
- Ocean pout
- Wolffish

The *Proposed Action* includes adjustments to the state waters and other fisheries sub-components for CC/GOM yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, GB winter flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNE/MA winter flounder, redfish, and ocean pout. GB Yellowtail flounder has no state waters sub-component and presently has other fisheries sub-components set to zero due to very low catches. GB cod and GB haddock are adjusted for U.S./CA TACs, and GB winter flounder and white hake are adjusted for Canadian catches. This appendix also documents how catches are distributed to the sub-components of the fishery. These are listed for all stocks to keep a clear record of the distribution. Amendment 16 authorized changes to be made in a framework action and this summary documents several changes.

Determining OFL and ABC

It is not possible to project stock sizes for the following stocks:

- GOM winter flounder
- Ocean Pout
- Wolffish

For index-assessed stocks, an estimate of the probability of overfishing cannot be determined but the proposed ABC is based on the default control rule applied at 75% of F_{MSY} , an exploitation rate, or an alternative approach applied to the most recent estimate of stock size. Because the proposed ABCs for stocks with an empirical assessment are determined using control rules, the proposed ABCs are not expected to lead to declines in biomass for these stocks.

Table 1 summarizes the SSC's 2025 recommendations for FY2026-FY2030 specifications for several groundfish stocks.

Table 1 Summary of OFLs and ABCs for FY2026-FY2030 based on SSC recommendations in 2025. Specifications for stocks in grey are unadjusted from their last specifications.

Stock	Fishing Year									
	2026		2027		2028		2029		2030	
	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC
Eastern Gulf of Maine cod	50	39	39	30						
Western Gulf of Maine cod	603	460	769	586						
Georges Bank cod	473	473								
Southern New England cod	47	36	65	36						
Georges Bank haddock	8,177	8,177								
Gulf of Maine haddock	4,709	3,634	4,700	3,631						
Georges Bank yellowtail flounder	57	57								
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic yellowtail flounder	46	33	56	33	56*	33	56*	33	56*	33
Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder**	2,224	1,736	2,638	2,062	2,984	2,335	3,225	2,335	3,225*	2,335
American plaice	8,866	6,979	7,368	5,791						
Witch flounder	unknown	1,526	unknown	1,526						
Georges Bank winter flounder	2,279	1,785	2,148	1,681	2,070	1,627	2,061	1,613	2,060	1,612

Stock	Fishing Year									
	2026		2027		2028		2029		2030	
	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC	OFL	ABC
Gulf of Maine winter flounder	1,064	798	1,064	798	1,064	798	1,064	798	1,064	798
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic winter flounder	961	507	1,009	532	1,055	556	1,101	556	1,101*	556
Redfish	7,519	5,665	7,203	5,427	6,999	5,273	6,723	5,065	6,513	4,907
White hake	1,943	1,393	1,760	1,261	1,640	1,174	1,618	1,157	1,698	1,215
Pollock	14,583	11,170	13,383	10,252						
Northern windowpane flounder	unknown	136								
Southern windowpane flounder	284	213								
Ocean pout	125	87	125	87	125	87	125	87	125	87
Atlantic halibut	unknown	106	unknown	106						
Atlantic wolffish	124	93	124	93	124	93	124	93	124	93

*The SSC requested to recalculate OFL if possible. Recalculated OFLs were provided to the Council and are reflected in Table 6 and Table 8 below.

**The Council proposed a more conservative approach for setting catch advice in recommending to hold the 2026 ABC constant (reflected in Table 6 and Table 8 below).

Distribution of ABCs

Because the Council wants the ability to consider a different adjustment for management uncertainty for different components of the fishery, ABCs were first distributed to the components prior to applying this adjustment. A brief description of the components follows. Note that there are a few stock-specific instances (described in a later section) that may differ from this general overview.

ABC: Acceptable Biological Catch for the entire stock.

Canadian Share/Allowance: An amount from the stock that Canadian vessels are expected to harvest, as is the case for GB winter flounder, white hake, and Atlantic halibut (see details that follow in the next section). For GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, this is based on the Canadian allocation under the TMGC (but see the Eastern GB (EGB) cod discussion below).

U.S. ABC: That portion of the ABC available to U.S. fishermen after accounting for Canadian harvests.

State waters: Portion of the U.S. ABC expected to be harvested from state waters, outside of the federal management plan. This is not an allocation.

Other sub-components: Portion of the U.S. ABC expected to be harvested by unidentified non-groundfish fishery components. These are not attributed to specific components because individual amounts are small. In cases where there is no specific recreational allocation, unless otherwise specified, recreational catches are counted against this sub-component. There are a few stocks where this may not be the case, such as when most recreational catches are from state waters and the recreational catch is considered part of the state waters sub-component. These instances will be specifically identified. The southern windowpane flounder “other fisheries” sub-component is used to evaluate when an AM could be triggered for large-mesh non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., summer flounder and scup trawl fisheries).

Scallops: That portion of U.S. ABC allocated to the scallop fishery.

Groundfish: That portion of the U.S. ABC available to the groundfish fishery (including recreational and commercial vessels if there is a specific allocation). This ABC has several sub-components:

Commercial: The portion of the U.S. ABC available to commercial vessels; this is further sub-divided into sector and common-pool portions.

Recreational: The portion of the U.S. ABC available to recreational vessels, when a specific allocation is made.

MWT: Portion of the U.S. ABC available to herring mid-water trawl vessels. Currently only applies to the two haddock stocks.

Small-Mesh Fisheries: Portion of the U.S. ABC of GB yellowtail flounder for small-mesh fisheries.

Amendment 16 provides that the distribution to various sub-components can be modified in a framework or specification action. These adjustments are often made as more experience is gained with the ACL system adopted by Amendment 16. Changes can also be required if there are large changes in ABCs, particularly because the sub-components of the fishery are not subject to specific catch controls by the FMP and a specific percentage allocation has not been defined. This is the case for state waters and other sub-component catches. Unlike the case when a specific allocation has been specified, the PDT estimates the expected catch from these two components and then compares that amount to the ABC to determine the percentage that should be set aside to account for these catches.

Groundfish ABCs and ACLs are distributed to various components of the fishery. First, expected catch by Canadian vessels is deducted from the total ABC, and the amount remaining is the portion of the ABC available to U.S. vessels (U.S. ABC). Expected catch from state waters and the other sub-component is then deducted from the U.S. ABC¹. These sub-components are not subject to specific catch controls by the Groundfish FMP, although in many instances states do adjust their measures accordingly. As a result, the state waters and other sub-components are not allocations, and these components of the fishery are not subject to accountability measures if the catch limits are exceeded. Because the state waters and other sub-component values are based on expected catch, there is no downward adjustment for management uncertainty that applies to fisheries with specific allocations and accountability measures.

After the state and other sub-components are deducted, the remaining portion of the U.S. ABC is the amount available to the fishery components that receive an allocation (i.e., subject to accountability measures). Allocation is made first to non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., scallop, midwater trawl, small-mesh fisheries), and the portion of the U.S. ABC remaining is the commercial groundfish allocation.

Once the U.S. ABC is distributed to the various fishery components, sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs) are set by reducing the amount of the ABC distributed to each component to account for management uncertainty (i.e., the likelihood that management measures will result in a level of catch greater than the catch target). For each stock, management uncertainty is estimated using the following criteria: Enforceability and precision of management measures, adequacy of catch monitoring, latent effort, and catch of groundfish in non-groundfish fisheries.

Canadian Catch of Groundfish Stocks

In addition to the US/CA stocks, three additional stock assessments include Canadian catches: Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder, white hake, and Atlantic halibut.

¹ For WGOM cod, SNE cod, and GOM haddock, the state waters and other sub-component are deducted from the commercial portion of the U.S. ABC (after allocating to the recreational fishery).

GB Winter Flounder: For GB winter flounder, the PDT used 3-year (2022, 2023, and 2024) calendar year average catch from the 2025 Management Track Assessment to determine a Canadian catch estimate (Table 5). This value (72 mt) is used to reduce the ABC to a US ABC, which reduces the US ABC in FY2026 to 1,713 mt for GB winter flounder

White Hake: For white hake, the PDT used 3-year (2022, 2023, and 2024) calendar year average landings from the 2025 Management Track Assessment to determine a Canadian catch estimate (Table 6). This value is 31 mt, which reduces the US ABC in FY2026 to 1,362 mt for white hake.

Atlantic Halibut: For Atlantic halibut, the PDT followed the alternate approach used in FW69 of using the most recent year of landings as the Canadian catch estimate (Table 7). This value is 71 mt, which reduces the US ABC to 35 mt.

The PDT contacted DFO on October 28, 2025, to request final 2024 and in-season 2025 Canadian landings of Atlantic halibut in 5Z and 5Y and information on management of the 2026 fishery for the Canadian stock of 3NOPs4VWX5Z. If the information is available in time, the PDT may update its Canadian catch estimate for 2026.

Table 2- Summary of recent Canadian catches (mt) of GB winter flounder in the 2025 stock assessment.
GB Winter Flounder - 2025 Assessment

Calendar Year	Canadian landings	Canadian scallop dredge discard	Total
2019	19	18	37
2020	21	49	70
2021	7	22	29
2022	3	42	45
2023	3	56	59
2024	27	86	113
3-Yr Avg			72

Table 3- Summary of recent Canadian landings (mt) of white hake in the 2025 stock assessment.
White Hake - 2025 Assessment

Calendar Year	Canadian landings
2019	24
2020	83
2021	48
2022	39
2023	25
2024	29
3-Yr Avg	31

Table 4- Summary of recent Canadian halibut landings (mt) in NAFO areas 5Y and 5Z.

Calendar Year	Canadian Landings in 5Z and 5Y
2019	54
2020	157
2021	119
2022	92
2023	71
2024 preliminary	70

PDT Review of State Waters and Other Fisheries Sub-Components

Annual Catch Limits

The PDT completed the sub-component review for stocks with revised specifications (except for GB cod) and Atlantic halibut. All other stocks' sub-components would remain unchanged. The PDT confirmed its approach of using the 3-year recent average of year-end catch for determining state and other sub-components, in the absence of other information. The final year-end catch report for FY2024 was not yet available during the analysis due to the partial federal government shutdown. The PDT used preliminary FY2024 catch data from GARFO in the calculations along with final year-end catch data from FY2022 and FY2023. Generally, the PDT compared the current other fisheries or state waters sub-component percentage (and associated value) to the updated three-year average catch (FY2022-FY2024) to develop recommendations, with some exceptions which are summarized in Table 5 and in the sections that follow.

Georges Bank Cod

Given uncertainty with Amendment 25 and the absence of a FY2024 catch estimate for the revised stock unit at this time, the PDT recommends maintaining the sub-component percentage from last year as included in Framework 69/revised Amendment 25.

Atlantic Halibut

In the absence of updated in-season 2025 Canadian landings information or any substantial change in Canadian landings, the PDT recommends not updating state and other sub-components for Atlantic halibut at this time.

Transboundary Stocks

The PDT notes that with the new TMGC process (see description in Section 3.0 of FW72) there is greater potential for the ABCs for the three transboundary stocks of GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder to be revised each year (with TMGC recommending total shared TAC set equal to ABC). The Committee may wish to consider whether the PDT should evaluate the sub-components for these stocks annually under the new TMGC process, or whether evaluation of sub-components for the transboundary stocks is tied to some other trigger, for example, when there is a U.S. stock assessment.

SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder Scallop Fishery Sub-ACL

In recent years, the approach has been to set the scallop fishery sub-ACL for SNE/MA yellowtail flounder at 90% of the scallop fishery's projected catch. The Council could change this approach as it is not set by regulations, but this has been the preferred methodology since FY2011. In the past, the Council has stated this methodology will incentivize the scallop fishery to reduce catches of SNE/MA yellowtail flounder without overly constraining the fishery. The Groundfish PDT typically reaffirms continuing to use this approach.

The Scallop PDT was unable to conduct bycatch projections during the development of FW72, since at the time they did not have area-specific projections of scallop catch under each alternative, nor updated d/K ratios (ratio of discards to all kept catch) for each stock/projection area.

The Groundfish PDT discussed possible alternative approaches:

1. Set sub-ACL based on updated fishery catches at 90% of average FY2023-FY2024 catch (2023 catch = 2.1 mt; 2024 catch 0.27 mt [590 lb]).
 - a. This would result in a sub-ACL of 1 mt that is 370% of the 2024 catch and 37% of the 2025 sub-ACL (2.7 mt set by emergency rule).
2. Set sub-ACL based on current allocation at 90% of FY2025 sub-ACL
 - a. This would result in a sub-ACL of 2.4 mt that is 907% of the 2024 catch.

Scallop PDT discussion:

At its October 30th meeting, the Scallop PDT discussed recent fishery catches of SNE/MA yellowtail flounder and effort in the SNE/MA yellowtail stock area with respect to the above options for setting the sub-ACL:

- The conditions that led to higher SNE/MA yellowtail flounder catches in-season FY2025 are not likely to occur in FY2026 - Nantucket Lightship West will be open but with low scallop biomass so expect lower effort there.
- Recognized uncertainty with the preliminary in-season catch estimate and that this will require further examination, especially given the majority of catch is from one month within one area.
- Likely to be increased open bottom fishing in FY2026 in the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder stock area.
- Suggest the Groundfish PDT consider setting the FY2026 sub-ACL at the current 2025 sub-ACL, or at 90% of this value, to balance keeping bycatch low without constraining the scallop fishery.
- Raised concern that the Mid-Atlantic AM area does not include the area where these FY2025 SNE/MA yellowtail flounder catches occurred. This mismatch warrants further discussion for future years (based on preliminary in-season FY2025 catch, expectation that AM will be in place for 2027).

Groundfish PDT discussion and recommendations:

- SNE/MA yellowtail flounder is overfished, overfishing is not occurring, and the stock is in a rebuilding plan with an end date of 2029.
- At its October 21-22, 2025, meeting, the SSC recognized this stock is at true bycatch levels and that it appears the environment is preventing rebuilding rather than fishing. An environmental covariate is included in the WHAM model – Gulf Stream Index (GSI) which informs recruitment. The SSC discussed uncertainty with the projections, given the influence of the recent decrease in GSI and potential for projections to be overly optimistic, which was provided as rationale for recommending constant ABCs for all 5 years. The SSC discussed SNE/MA yellowtail flounder as a candidate stock for Ecosystem Component management evaluation.

The Groundfish PDT recommends setting the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder scallop fishery sub-ACL at 90% of the FY2025 sub-ACL, which would be 2.4 mt.

- This keeps consistency with the approach and with the intent of keeping bycatch low without constraining the scallop fishery.
- The PDT recommends setting the sub-ACL for all five years in the specifications cycle (FY2026-FY2030) and planning to revisit next year in 2026 with new data and updated bycatch projections.

The Council proposed setting the SNE/MA yellowtail flounder scallop fishery sub-ACL at the FY2025 sub-ACL (2.7 mt). This would be set for FY2026-2030 with plans for the PDT to re-evaluate in 2026 with updated data.

WGOM Cod Commercial Apportionment

The WGOM cod stock is a new stock unit defined by a sub-set of the statistical areas of the old GOM stock unit (513, 514, and 515) and of the old GB stock unit (521, 526, and 541). Under Phase 1 of the Council’s Atlantic Cod Management Transition Plan, the Council chose to maintain existing potential sector contributions (PSCs) for the basis of allocating to the commercial fishery. This necessitates an apportionment of the WGOM cod ABC to the commercial groundfish fishery between the northern portion (statistical areas 513, 514, and 515) and the southern portion (statistical areas 521, 526, and 541). GOM PSCs are applied to the northern WGOM portion, and GB PSCs to the southern WGOM portion.

The WGOM cod ABC would be distributed by using the following methodology, in order:

1. Using the same methodology used in FW 59 to revise the apportionment between commercial and recreational, calculate the proportion of recreational catch to the total catch within the Western Gulf of Maine statistical areas over the fishing years 2001 through 2006 (see Amendment 25 (Revised) Appendix III).
2. The resulting proportion of recreational catch from the total WGOM cod ABC determines the recreational sub-ABC.

3. Set aside a portion of the remaining total WGOM cod ABC to the state and other subcomponents based on the average catch from each subcomponent over the most recent three years.
4. Calculate the proportion of commercial groundfish catch within the northern portion of the WGOM and the southern portion of the WGOM to the total catch within the WGOM statistical areas, respectively, over the fishing years 2010 through 2012, 2017, and 2022 through 2023.
5. Apply each proportional split, north and south, to the remaining WGOM cod ABC (less the recreational sub-ABC and the state and other sub-components) to determine a northern and southern commercial groundfish sub-ABC for WGOM cod respectively (Table 7).
6. Multiply each resulting northern and southern commercial groundfish sub-ABC by the respective GOM (for northern portion) and GB (for southern portion) sector PSC, and the GOM and GB common pool PSC to calculate northern and southern WGOM cod sector sub-ABCs, and northern and southern WGOM cod common pool sub-ABCs, respectively.
7. Combine the northern and southern sector sub-ABCs to produce one WGOM cod sector sub-ABC, and incorporate a 5% management uncertainty buffer (MUB) to produce one WGOM sector sub-ACL.
8. Combine the northern and southern common pool sub-ABCs and incorporate a 5% MUB to produce one WGOM cod common pool sub-ACL.

The apportionment of the WGOM cod commercial groundfish sub-ABC between the north and south (step 4) is based on an area proportional split of 68% of commercial sub-ABC in the northern portions of the Western Gulf of Maine and 32% of commercial sub-ABC in the southern portions of the Western Gulf of Maine (See Amendment 25 (Revised) Appendix III for background). The resulting pounds are combined to create a WGOM sector sub-ACL (and subsequent ACEs), and common pool sub-ACL, which will apply to the whole of the WGOM stock area.

Summary

Resulting ABCs by percentage and values are displayed in Table 6 and Table 8.

Table 5- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT’s recommendation using the three-year (FY2022-FY2024) average or alternative approach and justification.

Stock	Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC					
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
	FY25	Recommendation	Justification	FY25	Recommendation	Justification
GB cod	No state waters catch of this stock			NA	8% 12mt	Maintain 8% as recommended in FW69/revised A25.
GB haddock	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.5mt) that sub-component can remain at 0mt.	0.5% 7.8mt	0.5% 22mt	Maintain 0.5% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 12.2mt.
GB yellowtail flounder	No state waters catch of this stock			0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Maintain 0%, as there has been no catch of GB yellowtail flounder by other fisheries in recent years.
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	3% 28mt	1% 17mt	Decrease by 2% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 14.4mt. Provides buffer for other fisheries catch.	4% 37mt	2% 35mt	Decrease by 2% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 38.9mt.
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	0.5% 0.2mt	0.5% 0.2mt	Maintain 0.5% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 0mt.	5% 2mt	2% 0.7mt	Decrease to 2% to cover FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 0.6mt.
GB winter flounder	No state waters catch of this stock			1% 15mt	2.5% 43mt	Increase by 1.5% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 41.3mt.
GOM winter flounder	19% 153mt	12% 96mt	Decrease by 7% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 94.9mt. Provides buffer for other fishery catch.	1.5% 12mt	1% 8mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 8.3mt.
SNE/MA winter flounder	3% 19mt	5% 25mt	Increase by 2% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 25.5mt.	23% 144mt	16% 81mt	Decrease by 7% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 79.3mt. Provides buffer for state catch.

	Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC					
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY25	Recommendation	Justification	FY25	Recommendation	Justification
White hake	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.9mt) that sub-component can remain at 0mt.	0.5% 10mt	0.5% 6.8mt	Maintain at 0.5% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 6.1mt. Provides buffer for state catch.
Redfish	0% 0mt	0.5% 28mt	Increase by 0.5% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 4mt. Provides buffer for other fishery catch.	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (3.7mt) that sub-component can remain at 0mt.
Ocean pout	0.5% 0.4mt	1% 0.9mt	Increase by 0.5% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 1.4mt.	39% 34mt	35% 31mt	Decrease by 4% to cover the FY2022-FY2024 average catch of 28.6mt. Provides buffer for state catch.
Atlantic halibut	26% 9.1mt	26% 9.1mt	Maintain 26% as recommended in FW69.	4.5% 1.6mt	4.5% 1.6mt	Maintain 4.5% as recommended in FW69.
Atlantic wolffish	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Maintain 0%, as there has been no catch of Atlantic wolffish by state fisheries in recent years.	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Maintain 0%, as there has been no catch of Atlantic wolffish by other fisheries in recent years.

Table 6- Distribution of ABC to fishery components by percentage. Sector PSCs are preliminary and may change based on final sector rosters.

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	Percent of ABC							
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallop	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sector PSC	MWT or Small-Mesh
EGOM Cod	2026	50	39		39	0.005	0.01		0.99	0.99		0.960733788	
	2027	39	30		30	0.005	0.01		0.99	0.99		0.960733788	
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
WGOM Cod	2026	603	460		460	0.07	0.015		na	0.725	0.275	see Table 7	
	2027	769	586		586	0.07	0.015		na	0.725	0.275	see Table 7	
	2028												
	2029												
	2026												
GB Cod	2026	473	473	322	151	0	0.08		0.92	0.92		0.965441608	
	2027												
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
SNE Cod	2026	47	36		36	0.17	0.09		0.74	0.265	0.735	0.965441608	
	2027	65	36		36	0.17	0.09		0.74	0.265	0.735	0.965441608	
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
GB Haddock	2026	8,177	8,177	3,753	4,425	0.00	0.005		0.98	0.98		0.977019655	0.02
	2027												
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
GOM Haddock	2026	4,709	3,634		3,634	0.015	0.000		na	0.661	0.339	0.973795446	0.01
	2027	4,700	3,631		3,631	0.015	0.000		na	0.661	0.339	0.973795446	0.01
	2028												
	2029												

	2030											
GB Yellowtail Flounder	2026	57	57	26	31	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.82	0.82	0.934432105	0.02
	2027											
	2028											
	2029											
	2030											
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2026	46	33		33	0.005	0.02	0.082	0.893	0.893	0.730236341	
	2027	56	33		33	0.005	0.02	0.082	0.893	0.893	0.730236341	
	2028	67	33		33	0.005	0.02	0.082	0.893	0.893	0.730236341	
	2029	80	33		33	0.005	0.02	0.082	0.893	0.893	0.730236341	
	2030	92	33		33	0.005	0.02	0.082	0.893	0.893	0.730236341	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2026	2,224	1,736		1,736	0.01	0.02		0.97	0.97	0.94120827	
	2027	2,638	1,736		1,736	0.01	0.02		0.97	0.97	0.94120827	
	2028	3,086	1,736		1,736	0.01	0.02		0.97	0.97	0.94120827	
	2029	3,505	1,736		1,736	0.01	0.02		0.97	0.97	0.94120827	
	2030	3,860	1,736		1,736	0.01	0.02		0.97	0.97	0.94120827	
American Plaice	2026	8,866	6,979		6,979	0.00	0.005		1.00	1.00	0.969017527	
	2027	7,368	5,791		5,791	0.00	0.005		1.00	1.00	0.969017527	
	2028											
	2029											
	2030											
Witch Flounder	2026	unknown	1,526		1,526	0.005	0.025		0.97	0.97	0.961769589	
	2027	unknown	1,526		1,526	0.005	0.025		0.97	0.97	0.961769589	
	2028											
	2029											
	2030											
GB Winter Flounder	2026	2,279	1,785	72	1,713	0.00	0.025		0.98	0.98	0.95046577	
	2027	2,148	1,681	72	1,609	0.00	0.025		0.98	0.98	0.95046577	
	2028	2,079	1,627	72	1,555	0.00	0.025		0.98	0.98	0.95046577	
	2029	2,061	1,613	72	1,541	0.00	0.025		0.98	0.98	0.95046577	
	2030	2,060	1,612	72	1,540	0.00	0.025		0.98	0.98	0.95046577	
GOM Winter Flounder	2026	1,064	798		798	0.12	0.01		0.87	0.87	0.846372058	
	2027	1,064	798		798	0.12	0.01		0.87	0.87	0.846372058	
	2028	1,064	798		798	0.12	0.01		0.87	0.87	0.846372058	
	2029	1,064	798		798	0.12	0.01		0.87	0.87	0.846372058	

	2030	1,064	798		798	0.12	0.01	0.87	0.87	0.846372058
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	2026	961	507		507	0.05	0.16	0.79	0.79	0.850560642
	2027	1,009	532		532	0.05	0.16	0.79	0.79	0.850560642
	2028	1,055	556		556	0.05	0.16	0.79	0.79	0.850560642
	2029	1,101	556		556	0.05	0.16	0.79	0.79	0.850560642
	2030	1,148	556		556	0.05	0.16	0.79	0.79	0.850560642
Redfish	2026	7,519	5,665		5,665	0.005	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.987600252
	2027	7,203	5,427		5,427	0.005	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.987600252
	2028	6,999	5,273		5,273	0.005	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.987600252
	2029	6,723	5,065		5,065	0.005	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.987600252
	2030	6,513	4,907		4,907	0.005	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.987600252
White Hake	2026	1,943	1,393	31	1,362	0.00	0.005	1.00	1.00	0.988474304
	2027	1,760	1,261	31	1,230	0.00	0.005	1.00	1.00	0.988474304
	2028	1,640	1,174	31	1,143	0.00	0.005	1.00	1.00	0.988474304
	2029	1,618	1,157	31	1,126	0.00	0.005	1.00	1.00	0.988474304
	2030	1,698	1,215	31	1,184	0.00	0.005	1.00	1.00	0.988474304
Pollock	2026	14,583	11,170		11,170	0.06	0.055	0.89	0.89	0.989045451
	2027	13,383	10,252		10,252	0.06	0.055	0.89	0.89	0.989045451
	2028									
	2029									
	2030									
N. Windowpane Flounder	2026	unknown	136		136	0.00	0.05	0.21	0.74	0.74
	2027									
	2028									
	2029									
	2030									
S. Windowpane Flounder	2026	284	213		213	0.03	0.46	0.36	0.15	0.15
	2027									
	2028									
	2029									
	2030									
Ocean Pout	2026	125	87		87	0.01	0.35	0.64	0.64	
	2027	125	87		87	0.01	0.35	0.64	0.64	
	2028	125	87		87	0.01	0.35	0.64	0.64	
	2029	125	87		87	0.01	0.35	0.64	0.64	

	2030	125	87		87	0.01	0.35	0.64	0.64
Atlantic Halibut	2026	unknown	106	71	35	0.26	0.045	0.70	0.70
	2027	unknown	106	71	35	0.26	0.045	0.70	0.70
	2028								
	2029								
	2030								
Atlantic Wolffish	2026	124	93		93	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
	2027	124	93		93	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
	2028	124	93		93	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
	2029	124	93		93	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
	2030	124	93		93	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00

Table 7- WGOM cod ABC apportionment. Sector PSCs are preliminary and may change based on final sector rosters.

Stock	Area	Year	Total WGOM Cod ABC	Recreational sub-ABC	Commercial sub-ABC (all)	State	Other	Apportionment	Commercial GF sub-ABC	Sector PSC
WGOM Cod	North	2026	460	127	334	23	5	68%	207.5	0.960733788175763
	South							32%	97.6	0.965441608172823
	North	2027	586	161	425	30	6	68%	264.3	0.960733788175763
	South							32%	124.4	0.965441608172823

Table 8- Distribution of sub-ABCs (mt) to fishery components.

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	Sub-ABC values								
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh
EGOM Cod	2026	50	39		39	0	0		38	38		37	2	
	2027	39	30		30	0	0		30	30		28	1	
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
WGOM Cod	2026	603	460		460	23	5		432	334	127	294	12	
	2027	769	586		586	30	6		550	425	161	374	15	
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
GB Cod	2026	473	473	322	151	0	12		139	139		134	5	
	2027													
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
SNE Cod	2026	47	36		36	6.1	3.2		26.6	7.1	20	6.8	0.24	
	2027	65	36		36	6.1	3.2		27	7.1	20	7	0.24	
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
GB Haddock	2026	8,177	8,177	3,753	4,425	0	22		4,314	4,314		4,215	99	88
	2027													
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	Sub-ABC values								
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh
GOM Haddock	2026	4,709	3,634		3,634	36	0		3,562	2,402	1,232	2,269	61	36
	2027	4,700	3,631		3,631	36	0		3,559	2,400	1,231	2,267	61	36
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
GB Yellowtail Flounder	2026	57	57	26	31	0	0	4.9	25	25		24	1.7	0.6
	2027													
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2026	46	33		33	0.2	0.7	2.7	29	29		22	8.0	
	2027	56	33		33	0.2	0.7	2.7	29	29		22	8.0	
	2028	67	33		33	0.2	0.7	2.7	29	29		22	8.0	
	2029	80	33		33	0.2	0.7	2.7	29	29		22	8.0	
	2030	92	33		33	0.2	0.7	2.7	29	29		22	8.0	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2026	2,224	1,736		1,736	17	35		1,684	1,684		1,585	99	
	2027	2,638	1,736		1,736	17	35		1,684	1,684		1,585	99	
	2028	3,086	1,736		1,736	17	35		1,684	1,684		1,585	99	
	2029	3,505	1,736		1,736	17	35		1,684	1,684		1,585	99	
	2030	3,860	1,736		1,736	17	35		1,684	1,684		1,585	99	
American Plaice	2026	8,866	6,979		6,979	0	35		6,944	6,944		6,729	215	
	2027	7,368	5,791		5,791	0	29		5,762	5,762		5,584	179	
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
	2026		1,526		1,526	8	38		1,480	1,480		1,424	57	

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/Catch	U.S. ABC	Sub-ABC values								
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh
Witch Flounder	2027		1,526		1,526	8	38		1,480	1,480		1,424	57	
	2028													
	2029													
	2030													
GB Winter Flounder	2026	2,279	1,785	72	1,713	0	43		1,670	1,670		1,587	83	
	2027	2,148	1,681	72	1,609	0	40		1,569	1,569		1,491	78	
	2028	2,079	1,627	72	1,555	0	39		1,516	1,516		1,441	75	
	2029	2,061	1,613	72	1,541	0	39		1,502	1,502		1,428	74	
	2030	2,060	1,612	72	1,540	0	39		1,502	1,502		1,427	74	
GOM Winter Flounder	2026	1,064	798		798	96	8		694	694		588	107	
	2027	1,064	798		798	96	8		694	694		588	107	
	2028	1,064	798		798	96	8		694	694		588	107	
	2029	1,064	798		798	96	8		694	694		588	107	
	2030	1,064	798		798	96	8		694	694		588	107	
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	2026	961	507		507	25	81		401	401		341	60	
	2027	1,009	532		532	27	85		420	420		357	63	
	2028	1,055	556		556	28	89		439	439		374	66	
	2029	1,101	556		556	28	89		439	439		374	66	
	2030	1,148	556		556	28	89		439	439		374	66	
Redfish	2026	7,519	5,665		5,665	28	0		5,637	5,637		5,567	70	
	2027	7,203	5,427		5,427	27	0		5,400	5,400		5,333	67	
	2028	6,999	5,273		5,273	26	0		5,247	5,247		5,182	65	
	2029	6,723	5,065		5,065	25	0		5,040	5,040		4,977	62	
	2030	6,513	4,907		4,907	25	0		4,882	4,882		4,822	61	
White Hake	2026	1,943	1,393	31	1,362	0	7		1,355	1,355		1,340	16	
	2027	1,760	1,261	31	1,230	0	6		1,224	1,224		1,210	14	

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	Sub-ABC values							
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish
	2028	1,640	1,174	31	1,143	0	6		1,137	1,137		1,124	13
	2029	1,618	1,157	31	1,126	0	6		1,120	1,120		1,107	13
	2030	1,943	1,393	31	1,362	0	6		1,178	1,178		1,165	14
Pollock	2026	14,583	11,170		11,170	670	614		9,885	9,885		9,777	108
	2027	13,383	10,252		10,252	615	564		9,073	9,073		8,974	99
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
N. Windowpane Flounder	2026		136		136	0	7	29	101	101			101
	2027												
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
S. Windowpane Flounder	2026	284	213		213	6.4	98	77	32	32			32
	2027												
	2028												
	2029												
	2030												
Ocean Pout	2026	125	87		87	0.9	30		56	56			56
	2027	125	87		87	0.9	30		56	56			56
	2028	125	87		87	0.9	30		56	56			56
	2029	125	87		87	0.9	30		56	56			56
	2030	125	87		87	0.9	30		56	56			56
Atlantic Halibut	2026		106	71	35	9	1.6		24	24			24
	2027		106	71	35	9	1.6		24	24			24
	2028												

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	Sub-ABC values								
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh
	2029													
	2030													
Atlantic Wolffish	2026	124	93		93	0	0		93	93			93	
	2027	124	93		93	0	0		93	93			93	
	2028	124	93		93	0	0		93	93			93	
	2029	124	93		93	0	0		93	93			93	
	2030	124	93		93	0	0		93	93			93	

ACLs

Once the U.S. ABC is distributed to the various fishery components, sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs) are set by reducing the amount of the ABC distributed to each component to account for management uncertainty (i.e., the likelihood that management measures will result in a level of catch greater than the catch target). For each stock, management uncertainty is estimated using the following criteria: Enforceability and precision of management measures, adequacy of catch monitoring, latent effort, and catch of groundfish in non-groundfish fisheries.

The following default management uncertainty buffers are used for groundfish stocks:

- 3% for stocks with no state waters catch;
- 7% for zero possession stocks;
- 7% for recreational allocations; and
- 5% for all other stocks/components of the fishery.

Stock specific sub-ACL adjustment values are shown in Table 9.

Review of Management Uncertainty Buffers

Management Uncertainty Buffer for Sectors

Amendment 23 revised the default management uncertainty buffer for sectors under certain conditions², such that the management uncertainty buffer for sectors for allocated stocks would be removed when the at-sea monitoring (ASM) coverage target is set at 100%. Through Amendment 25 (Revised), the Council established default management uncertainty buffers for the new cod stocks and proposed the management uncertainty buffer for sectors would not be removed for SNE cod even under 100% ASM coverage target.³

The Council's proposal in FW72 would remove the management uncertainty buffer for sectors for white hake if the ASM target coverage rate is set at 90% or greater. This would remain in place through the next specifications cycle.

² See Amendment 23, located here: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-23>

³ See Amendment 25 (Revised), located here: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/northeast-multispecies-groundfish-amendment-25>

Table 9- ACL adjustments.

Stock	ACL Percentages							
	State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	MWT or Small Mesh
EGOM Cod	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
WGOM Cod	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.95	1
GB Cod	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
SNE Cod	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.95	1
GB Haddock	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.93
GOM Haddock	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.93
GB Yellowtail Flounder	1	1	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.97	0.93
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
American Plaice	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Witch Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
GB Winter Flounder	1	1	1	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	1
GOM Winter Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Redfish	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
White Hake	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Pollock	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
N. Windowpane Flounder	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.93	1
S. Windowpane Flounder	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.93	1
Ocean Pout	1	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.93	1
Atlantic Halibut	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Atlantic Wolffish	1	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.95	1

Incidental Catch TACs

Part of the commercial non-sector ACL is allocated to the incidental catch TACs that limit catches of stocks of concern in the Category B (regular) DAS program and certain SAPs. The incidental catch TACs in FW53 have been carried forward for most stocks (Table 10 and Table 11). Incidental catch TAC values for stocks of concern have remained consistent since 2010, though the list has been modified as the status of some stocks improved (see FW 44, FW47, FW50, FW53, and FW56). FW59 adjusted the GB cod incidental catch TAC to 1.68% of the Common Pool ACL, removing the allocation to the CAI HGH SAP, and adjusting the allocation to the Regular B DAS Program and Eastern U.S./CA Haddock SAP to 60% and 40% of the incidental catch TAC, respectively. Amendment 25 extends an incidental catch TAC of 1% to the new cod stocks of EGOM, WGOM, and SNE.

Table 10– Incidental catch TACs for major stocks of concern (mt). TACs are for the fishing year. TACs shown are metric tons, live weight.

	Percentage of Common Pool ACL
EGOM cod	1%
WGOM cod	1%
GB cod	1.68%
SNE cod	1%
GB Yellowtail	2%
CC/GOM Yellowtail	1%
American Plaice	5%
Witch Flounder	5%
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1%

Table 11- Allocation of incidental catch TACs for major stocks of concern to Category B DAS programs (shown as percentage of the incidental catch TAC).

	Category B (regular) DAS Program	Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP
EGOM cod	100%	NA
WGOM cod	100%	NA
GB cod	60%	40%
SNE cod	100%	NA
CC/GOM yellowtail	100%	NA
Plaice	100%	NA
White Hake	100%	NA
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	100%	NA
Witch Flounder	100%	NA
GB Yellowtail	50%	50%