FMP NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES (GROUNDFISH)
STOCK(S) Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder (one stock)
LAST ASSESSMENT TRAC 2017

Assessment Model, Terminal Year	Description of Assessment Model	Overfishing?/ Overfished?	In Rebuilding Program?	OFL	ABC/ABC CR	ACL	ACT
Empirical, 2017	Averages estimates of biomass from the bottom trawl surveys and applies exploitation rate	Unknown/ Unknown	Yes 2006-2032	unknown	300 mt in 2017	201 mt (US) in FY 2017 and 93 mt (Canada) in CY 2017	N/A for groundfish
				MSY/OY	AMs	Discards	State Waters
Low productivity, historic low catches, and fishery bycatch interactions.				Unknown	In-season closures and lb-lb payback for commercial groundfish vessels; area closures for scallop fishery; gear requirements for small-mesh fisheries	7 mt (US) in FY 2016 and 10 mt (Canada) in CY 2016	0 mt

Availability of Biological and Assessment Data	*Used in Assessment :* survey (2016 NEFSC fall survey, 2017 Canada DFO winter survey, and 2017 NEFSC spring survey) and fisheries (U.S. and Canadian commercial catches) data, updated survey catchability value (0.31) based on recent field studies; *Other Data : U.S. and Canadian* commercial catches; bycatch avoidance program; RAMP studies; Industry Based Survey; video survey of Georges Bank; seasonal bycatch study; net efficiency studies
Recent Performance Against Harvest Control Rule	28.4% of the US ACL was harvested in FY 2015.
Current Management Program	The Total ACL is divided between several sub-ACLs and sub-components. The commercial sub-ACL is further divided between the sector sub-ACL and the common pool sub-ACL. The majority of commercial permits participate in 1 of 17 sectors, fishing under quotas. The common pool operates under days-at-sea, with trip limits and trimester TACs controlling catch. The herring mid-water trawl fleet receives a sub-ACL of both hadock stocks. The scallop fleet receives sub-ACLs for several yellowtail flounder stocks and southern windowpane flounder. The small-mesh fisheries receive a sub-ACL for GB yellowtail flounder. State waters and the other sub-component round out the final components of the total ACL. Landings and discards from all fisheries count against the applicable sub-ACL or sub-component, which are monitored throughout the year. If an overage occurs, an accountability measure is triggered for a subsequent fishing year.
Variability in Catch/Revenues?	Gross US Commercial Groundfish Revenue (2010$): $83,212,207 in FY2010, $88,821,349 in FY2011, $67,815,297 in FY2012, $55,220,469 in FY2013. US Groundfish ave price/lb (2010$): $1.42/lb in FY2010, $1.43/lb in FY2011, $1.43/lb in FY2012, $1.31/lb in FY2013.Total US groundfish landings (all trips): 58.7 million lbs in FY2010, 62.3 million lbs in FY2011, 47.4 million lbs in FY2012, 42.2 million pounds in FY2013. US GB yellowtail flounder Catch (landings + discards): 809.7 mt in FY2010, 1,117.0 mt in FY2011, 384.9mt in 2012, 93.3 mt in FY2013, 122.8 mt in FY2014
Data - Vessels, Permits, Dealers, Processors, Employment	FY 2013: 780 limited access groundfish permits; 605 with limited access groundfish permits and revenue from any species; 258 with limited access groundfish permits and revenue from at lease one groundfish trip, 175 inactive (no landings). Employment in the groundfish fishery FY 2013: 2,039 total crew positions; 106,700 total crew trips and 157,600 total crew days. 776 open access Category K (small mesh) permitted vessels with 34 reporting landings. 348 limited access scallop permits reporting landings.
% Food, % Recreational	82% of the US ABC is allocated to the commercial groundfish fishery. There is no recreational sub-ACL.
Fishing Communities	
Other Economic/Social Factors	Food consumption; market demand; ex-vessel price; sector ACE lease value (influenced by suite of ACLs for all groundfish stocks, market liquidity, transaction costs, operating rules)
Major Sources of Scientific Uncertainty	Inconsistencies between relative fishing mortality trends and trends in total mortality from the surveys; some biomass estimates of the entire Georges Bank are lower than independent biomass estimates for only a portion of the Bank; declining trend in survey biomass despite reductions in catch; lack of assessment model; variability and uncertainty in survey estimates
Major Sources of Management Uncertainty	Management uncertainty is set at 3%, instead of the typical 5% for most other groundfish stocks, due regulatory flexibility to adjust management measures in-season to prevent an overage, based on increased monitoring with Amendment 16, and no state waters catch. The incorporation of an in-season adjustment capability in the FMP is essentially an in-season accountability measure. Further work is needed on the amount of management uncertainty to assign to the yellowtail flounder sub-component for the scallop fishery, including whether the adjustment should be determined by the scallop or groundfish FMPs.
How is the probability of overfishing addressed?	
What is the consequence of overfishing?	Reduction in biomass, yield, and net economic benefits over long-term; low GB yellowtail flounder catch limits reduce scallop yield and harvest of other groundfish stocks on Georges Bank
How are expected net benefits to the Nation currently measured/evaluated?	XXX
Interactions with Other Fisheries/Stocks, Bycatch Issues	The scallop fishery and small-mesh fisheries each receive a sub-ACL of GB yellowtail flounder (16% and 2% of the total ABC, respectively).
Ecosystem Considerations: Trophic Interactions	XXX
Ecosystem Considerations: Habitat	XXX
Ecosystem Considerations: Climate	XXX
Other Important Considerations/Notes	XXX