Groundfish Operational Assessments 2017

NOAA FISHERIES
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

New England Fishery Management Council

Gloucester, MA

September 27, 2017

http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/groundfish/operational-assessments-2017/

Presentation Overview

Describe the Operational Assessment Process

Summarize Key Findings of the 2017 Groundfish Operational Assessments

Next steps

Operational Assessment Timeline

Outreach

- Discuss assessment process, cooperative research opportunities, and efforts to engage industry in the assessment process moving forward
- Diverse participants – Stakeholders, Assessment scientists, Cooperative research program, Port agents, Regional office staff, and New England Fishery Management Council staff
  - 8/15 Chatham, MA: Cape Cod Commercial Fisheries Alliance
  - 8/16 New Bedford, MA: New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center
  - 8/17 Portland, ME: Portland Fish Exchange
  - 8/18 Gloucester, MA: Sawyer Free Library
  - 8/28 Point Judith, RI: Superior Trawl/NESTCO Conference Room
  - 8/30 Montauk, NY: Montauk Public Library
  - 9/6 Portsmouth, NH: Portsmouth Public Library
  - 9/7 Plymouth, MA: John Carver Inn Conference Room
- Primarily identified questions, research needs, and improvements
- Some relevant feedback mentioned during peer review

Generic TORs - few changes allowed

- Update the data
- Run the models to estimate stock size and fishing mortality
- Update the values of Biological Reference Points
- Evaluate Stock Status
- Estimate Overfishing Limit or other Catch Advice
- Sources of Uncertainty and Research Needs
- Plan B if model fails
- Consider catchability estimates, incorporate directly into relevant empirical assessments

Peer Review - the Players

Assessment Peer Review Panel

- Patrick Sullivan (Co-Chair) – Cornell University
- Patrick Lynch (Co-Chair) – NOAA Science & Techology
- Gary Nelson - MADMF
- Jim Berkson - NOAA-Sea Grant

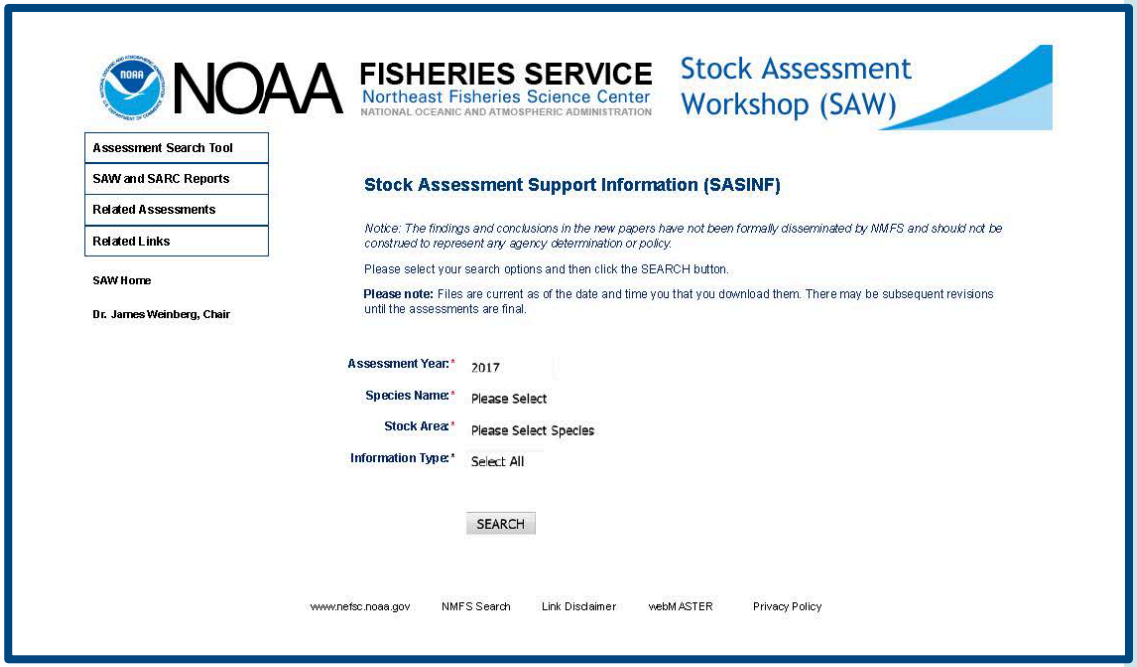
Other Key Participants

- Assessment Oversight Panel: J McNamee, J Boreman, R Brown
- Catchability Peer Review Panel: S Cadrin, M Dean, G DeCelles, J Gartland
- SAW/SARC Chair – James Weinberg (NEFSC)
- Stock Assessment Leads (NEFSC)
- Jamie Cournane—NEFMC (at review table)
- Large audience in Woods Hole and on Webinar

Review of Each Stock

- Acceptability (or not) of assessment as scientific basis for management advice
- Recommendation of alternative basis for catch if assessment is not accepted
- Key sources of uncertainty
- Research needs
- *Note: Peer review reports are still being finalized.*

Data Portal



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Data Portal Output

Search Criteria
- Assessment Year
- Species
- Stock
- Information Type

OUTPUTS
- Zip File=Everything
- Assessment Report
- Figures
- Tables
- Model info: inputs, outputs, diagnostics
- Maps—Survey
- Maps –Commercial
- Background Reports

Stock Assessment Models

VPA

- Georges Bank haddock
- Plaice
- Georges Bank winter flounder
- Cape Cod-Gulf of Maine yellowtail flounder

OTHER

- GB cod
- Ocean Pout
- Witch flounder
- N Windowpane
- S Windowpane
- GOM winter flounder
- Wolffish
- GB yellowtail flounder

ASAP

- Gulf of Maine cod
- Gulf of Maine haddock
- Pollock
- Redfish
- White hake
- Southern New England-Mid Atlantic winter flounder
- Southern New England-Mid Atlantic yellowtail flounder

Enhancements to Process – Plan Bs, Catchability, and Ecosystem Context

- Alternative basis for catch advice developed in advance for all analytical assessments – reviewed and approved by AOP
- Meeting started with presentation on ecosystem indices and trends applicable to the suite of stocks
  - Panel considered this context and commented extensively on ecosystem-related research needs
- "Flatfish day" started with presentation on cooperative research on survey catchability
  - Catchability estimates directly used in three empirical assessments (GOM winter, witch, GB yellowtail flounders)
  - Catchability info provided for context/comparison/diagnostics for analytical assessments

Reviewers Findings (finalizing drafts)

- All 19 stock assessments were judged as an acceptable scientific basis for management advice
- Recommended stock status improved for one stock and did not change for the rest
- Catch advice recommended for each stock
- Catchability information was valuable in evaluating analytical assessments and was directly used in several empirical assessments
- Ecosystem information was helpful and panel provided several related research recommendations

Recommended Status Score Card

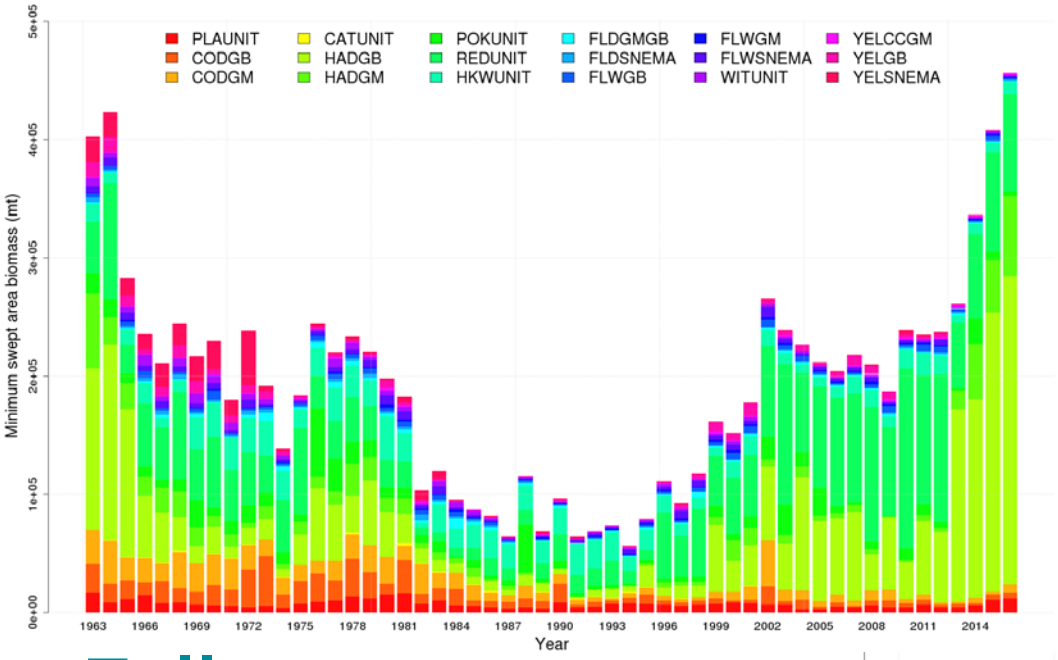
Overfished and Overfishing (4) GOM Cod Cape Cod/GOM Yellowtail Flounder GB Yellowtail Flounder* SNE Yellowtail Flounder	**Not Overfished and Overfishing (0)**
Overfished but No Overfishing (4) SNE Winter Flounder Wolffish Northern Windowpane Ocean Pout	**Not Overfished and No Overfishing (8)** GB Haddock GOM Haddock GB Winter Flounder (improved) Plaice Redfish White Hake Pollock Southern Windowpane Flounder
Overfished and Overfishing Unknown (2) GB Cod Witch Flounder	**Unknown and No Overfishing (1)** GM Winter Flounder

*GB Yellowtail Flounder was reviewed by the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee, so the Operational Assessment Peer Review Panel did not comment on status. The indication here is based on prior status determination.

Retrospective Adjustments

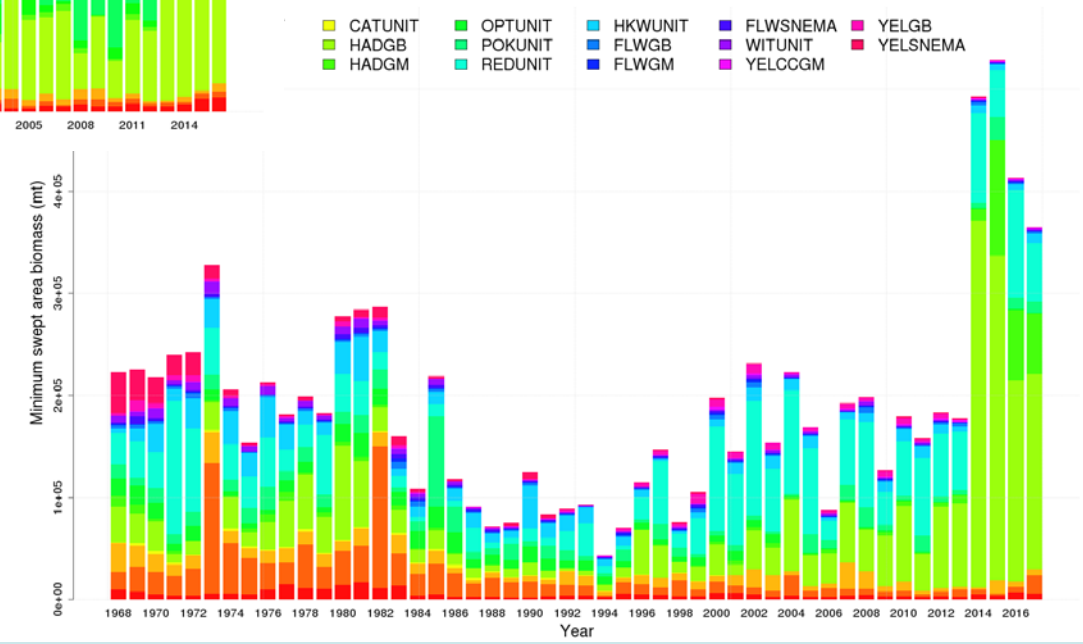
- Retrospective Pattern—a consistent pattern (bias) of over or under estimating terminal year biomass and fishing mortality
- Retrospective adjustment applied when the retrospective pattern/bias is major (outside the uncertainty of the original estimate)
- Stocks with retro adjustments increased from 7 to 8
  - Five of those retros are “improving” (less bias)

Minimum swept area biomass



Spring

Fall



Next Steps

- PDT analyses underway
- SSC to determine OFLs and set ABCs
- Consideration by Council committees
- Review at December 5-7 Meeting of Council

- NMFS to review status recommendations and make final status determinations (for unknowns)

Questions?