CORRESPONDENCE

ASSOCIATED FISHERIES OF MAINE

PO Box 287, South Berwick, ME 03908

September 28, 2020

Dr. John Quinn, Chair New England Fishery Management Council

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Dr. Quinn:

I write regarding the preferred alternative in Scallop Amendment 21 to increase the LA ITQ possession limit from 600 lbs./day to 800 lbs./day in the access areas approved by the Scallop Committee on Friday September 25.

When the Committee discussed this decision, I raised the concern that increasing the possession limit for the access areas could have safety implications. The number of LA ITQ trips allocated in the access area is determined by dividing the LA ITQ quota by the possession limit, with the assumption that each trip realizes the full possession limit. Therefore, the higher the possession limit, the fewer allocated trips.

Travis Ford, GARFO staff responded by suggesting there might be a different way to calculate the number of trips that would minimize a reduction.

Following the meeting, I corresponded with Travis, and he provided to me a representation of the decrease in allocated trips had the possession limit been 800 lbs. versus 600 lbs. in fishing year 2020. As you can see, there would have been 711 fewer trips at the 800 lb. possession limit.

Number of trips

-		
	2020 @ 600	2020 @ 800
Closed Area 1	571	429
Nantucket – North	571	429
Nantucket – South	571	429
Mid Atlantic	1142	857
Total	2855	2144

We hope that the Council will consider the potential race to fish that could result from increasing the possession limit and reducing the number of trips. If there is an alternative bookkeeping method that would minimize a reduction in number of trips, we hope the Council will urge GARFO to explore that bookkeeping method prior to the implementation of Amendment 21.

Sincerely,

M. Raymond

Maggie Raymond, Executive Director Associated Fisheries of Maine



Dr. John F. Quinn Chairman, New England Fishery Management Council 315 Hamilton-Allenton Road North Kingstown, RI 02852 October 6, 2020

Dear Chairman Quinn:

In the coming days you will be asked to rank your priorities for the 2021 work program for the New England Fishery Management Council. The Scallopers Campaign requests that you support "Conduct scoping and/or listening sessions on a LA DAS and AA trips leasing program to assess the need for a leasing program and whether to move forward with developing an amendment" as a high priority.

It is clear in the Council wording that the purpose of the scoping or listening sessions is to inform the Council about whether to move forward with an amendment. There would have to be a vote by the Council at a future date to initiate any amendment. As Council staff explained, under the new CEQ guidelines, the Council can scope an issue without first making a decision to initiate an amendment. The guidelines also provide that, "scoping may include appropriate pre-application procedures or work conducted prior to publication of the notice of intent (NOI)."

The Scallopers Campaign supports using the term "scoping," as it is a well understood term; it commits the Council to placing this issue on the 2021 work program and dedicating resources to it. We also understand that the insertion of "listening sessions" into the priority reinforces that the Council will need to vote separately to initiate an amendment, and for that reason we support the current language.

It's time for the Council to seriously discuss and consider the development of a leasing program. We are confident the Council will learn about the great need for the kind of flexibility leasing can provide. Whether that process is called scoping meetings or listening sessions, the Scallopers Campaign asks you to rank leasing a high priority in 2021. That process may not be completed in 2021, but by making scoping and/or listening sessions on leasing a priority, the Council and NMFS will dedicate time and resources in 2021 to begin the process.

ROR

Thank you and best regards,

Jeff Pike

Rick Robins

October 20, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Jonathan Hare

Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

FROM: Katherine (KB) McArdle

Branch Chief, Fisheries Monitoring Operations Branch (FMO)

SUBJECT: Update on Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP), At-Sea

Monitor (ASM) and Industry Funded Scallop (IFS) program sea day

accomplishments through September 2020

Enclosed please find the 2020 Calendar Quarter 3 (Jul - Sep) Observer Sea Day Summary Report.

This report is completed quarterly, in a standard format, and provided to the Directorate as an update on completed observer sea days, in comparison to the targets. This includes coverage rates for At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) and Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) sea day targets for the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) – including groundfish fleets, and the Industry Funded Scallop (IFS) Observer program.

We are currently through the second quarter of the 2020 SBRM year.

Highlights:

- Due to COVID 19, NOAA Fisheries waived the requirement to carry fishery observers and at-sea monitors from 3/20/20-8/14/20.
- Due to COVID 19 challenges and restrictions, recruiting obstacles for the observer providers, training constraints, and low retention of experienced observers, seaday accomplishments for the 2020 SBRM year will be lower than in prior years.
- In July 2020, NOAA Fisheries published national criteria for COVID waivers. As of 10/13 over 110 waivers have been issued.
 - Regionally, the FMRD prioritized coverage of fisheries due to limited observer availability.
 - o Minimum pilot coverage of SBRM days is first priority.
 - o Minimum pilot coverage of IFS days is second priority.
 - o Remaining SBRM coverage is third priority.
 - o ASM coverage is fourth priority.
- SBRM & MMPA Coverage: Due to the factors listed above, the NEFOP provider has not met the threshold of 90% quarterly accomplishment of tasked sea days required by the NEFOP contract with an estimated 10% of tasked sea days accomplished from July through September.

- Groundfish Sector Coverage: Currently combined NEFOP and ASM sector coverage ranges from 0.2-33.9%, depending on the sector.
 - FMO is concerned that progression towards reaching 40% sector coverage has slowed, current levels of coverage leave a substantial amount of days that will need to be made up in the second half of the fishing year.

Things to note:

- 5% of the total SBRM days needed to monitor fish discards across both regions (to date) have been completed (Table 2).
- In calendar quarter 3 (Jul Sep) 2020: 2 refusal reports were submitted to the program.
 - O Neither of these has been referred to the OLE. 1 was closed with FMO outreach and 1 is under review.
- NEFOP Groundfish coverage is well below target and we do not expect the provider to be able to achieve the days needed for the year (Figure 3).
- The FMO conducted a hybrid remote and on-site IFS and NEFOP training in September to assist with meeting sea day and coverage needs for the NEFOP and IFS programs. This training included the safety 1 module for IFS and NEFOP trainees.
 - The first remote HVF IFM cross training was conducted in May in support of the IFM amendment.

CC: Amanda McCarty Michael Simpkins

The following tables and figures report on the progress of 2020-2021 sea day¹ accomplishments for the NEFOP, IFS and ASM programs through September 2020. All figures presented in this report are preliminary in-season estimates and may be subject to change.

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 $^{^{1}}$ For the purpose of this report a sea day is defined as (date land – date sail) + 1.

NEFOP Sea Day Accomplishments

Table 1. Estimated NEFOP Sea Day Accomplishments, CY Quarter 3 (Jul-Sep), 2020

The table reflects sea days tasked to the NEFOP service provider for the months of July, August and September. Coverage Type: denotes funding source and region, NE (New England) or MID (Mid Atlantic) as defined by SBRM. Tasked: total sea days tasked for the quarter. Accomplished²: total sea days (DA) achieved within the given quarter. Difference: if negative, denotes days that were not accomplished, if positive, denotes that greater than the number of days tasked were accomplished. % Accomplished: percent of days tasked that were accomplished.

Coverage type	Tasked	Accomplished	Difference	% Accomplished
IFM*	0	0	0	0%
SBRM (NE)	660	63	-597	10%
SBRM (MID)	503	38	-465	8%
SBRM (PTNS)	322	53	-269	16%
SBRM	1485	154	-1331	10%
MMPA (NE)	0	0	0	0%
MMPA (MID)	58	1	-57	2%
MMPA (PTNS)	27	0	-27	0%
MMPA	85	1	-84	1%
Total:	1570	155	-1415	10%

^{*}IFM implementation delayed due to COVID 19.

Table 2. Current Total Accomplishment of 2020 NEFOP Sea Days by Allocation SourceThe table depicts total NEFOP sea days tasked and accomplished between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020. This summary includes SBRM and MMPA sea days tasked and accomplished through the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) on groundfish declared vessels.

Coverage Type	Tasked to Date	Accomplished To Date	Days Remaining	% Accomplished
SBRM	2748	154	2594	6%
MMPA	204	1	203	0%
IFM	0	0	0	0%
Total Days	2952	155	2797	5%

² Single trips may be counted towards accomplishments in multiple fleets if hauls within a trip fall within different strata (e.g. if an observed trip uses both small and large mesh trawl gear, the trip will be counted towards the accomplishment of both fleets tasked days). This can potentially lead to unavoidable over accomplishment of tasked days in some fleets. Accomplished days do not include aborted trips, transit trips, or trips with no mesh measurements.

Figure 1. New England Region; comparison of tasked vs achieved NEFOP Seaday Schedule sea days by month.

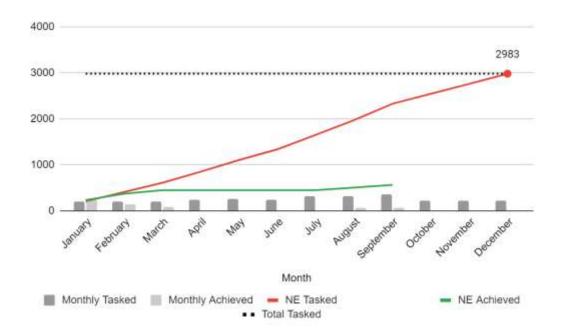


Figure 2. Mid-Atlantic Region; comparison of tasked vs achieved NEFOP Seaday Schedule sea days by month.



Groundfish Fleet Coverage, NEFOP and ASM

Table 3. Estimated Groundfish Sector Coverage

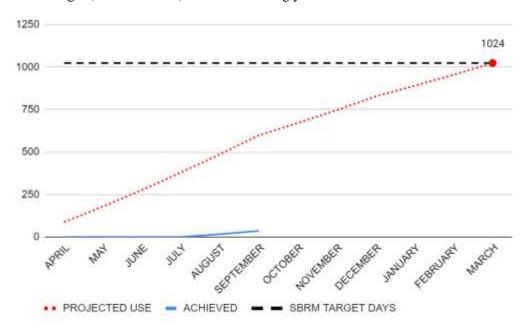
The following table summarizes NEFOP and ASM observer coverage of Northeast groundfish sector vessels. All observer coverage selections for these vessels are done through the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS). Groundfish sector vessels require 40% combined NEFOP and ASM observer coverage for the 2020 groundfish fishing year (May 2020 – April 2021). The NEFOP coverage target is currently 1024 sea days to meet SBRM requirements for 9 fleets, this will result in variable NEFOP coverage for each sector depending on its fleet composition. In order to hit the 40% coverage requirement any remaining coverage for each sector will be achieved via At-Sea Monitoring.

Program	Target % Coverage	Average (estimated) Sector Coverage ³ May- Sep 2020
NEFOP and ASM combined	40%	6.4%

Note: Estimated average sector coverage varies greatly by sector, currently individual sectors range from 0.2-33.9% combined coverage. The estimated sector coverage percentage does not take into account the blanket observer coverage waiver that was in place through from March 20 – August 14.

Figure 3: NEFOP Groundfish Sea Day Use

This figure shows how the NEFOP days deployed through the PTNS are observed throughout the SBRM year (April-March). The target number of days is 1024. The blue line shows how days are accomplished in relation to the target (red dotted line) across the fishing year.



³ Current percent coverage is taken from the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's coverage reporting tool (SIMM). Coverage is only calculated on sector trips that are considered ASM-eligible. Combined coverage is estimated by averaging estimated percent coverage across all sectors and individual sector coverage may vary significantly.

⁴ We expected vessels participating on groundfish trips to contribute about 1024 sea days to overall SBRM coverage needs but due to the need to shift days between PTNS and NEFOP Seaday schedule for some fleets, depending on effort, this number may be adjusted slightly throughout the year.

Industry Funded Scallop Coverage

The following tables summarize Industry Funded Scallop (IFS) observer coverage of the Northeast Sea Scallop fishing fleets from the beginning of the Sea Scallop fishing year, April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020. All vessel selection for observer coverage for these fleets is done through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. Vessels are selected with the goal of achieving a predetermined coverage rate ("Target Coverage") based on a joint GARFO/NEFSC Scallop Compensation Rate Analysis.

IFS observer coverage is stratified by "Area" and "Trip Category". "Area" is the scallop area fished, and includes open bottom and scallop access areas. "VMS Trips" is the total number of scallop fishing trips declared through a vessel's VMS unit. "Observed Trips" is the number of trips that sailed with an IFS Observer on board. "Achieved Coverage" is the realized observer coverage achieved (Observed Trips divided by VMS Trips), while "Target Coverage" is the observer coverage rate that FMO strived for and "% of Target Achieved" is the percentage of target coverage we achieved.

Table 4a. Limited Access Fleet (dredge gear)

Area	Observed Trips	Observed Sea Days	VMS Trips	Target Coverage	Achieved Coverage	% of Target Achieved
Nantucket Lightship West	0	0	34	10.00%	0%	0
Nantucket Lightship South Deep	4	33	133	10.00%	3%	30%
Nantucket Lightship North	3	21	136	10.00%	2.2%	22%
CA II Dredge	0	0	149	10.00%	0%	0%
MA/GB Open Areas Dredge	2	9	421	10.00%	0.5%	5%
CA I Dredge	0	0	4	10.00%	0%	0%
MAAA Dredge	5	40	245	5.00%	2%	41%

Total 14 103 1122

Table 4b. General Category Fleet⁵

Area	Observed Trips	Observed Sea Days	VMS Trips	Target Coverage	Achieved Coverage	% of Target Achieved
Nantucket Lightship North	5	15	293	10.00%	1.7%	17%
MA/GB Open Areas Dredge	1	1	733	5.00%	0.1%	3%
MA/GB Open Areas Trawl	0	0	7	3.50%	0%	0%
CA I Dredge	1	2	287	5.00%	0.4%	7%
MAAA Dredge	0	0	215	5.00%	0%	0%
MAAA Trawl	0	0	15	3.50%	0%	0%

Total 7 18 1550

⁵ Observer coverage for General Category vessels is assigned at the weekly level.

From: James Fletcher

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 9:30 AM

To: Jonathon Peros <iperos@nefmc.org>; Chris Kellogg <ckellogg@nefmc.org>

Subject: Short lived Scallop Southern Portion of Range

Mr Kellogg The new England Council has spent thousands of hours on Northern Gulf of Maine Scallops , will the council now discuss helping the incidental sea scallop permit holders develop a utilization for short lived scallops now wasted?

Utilization for short lived scallops to comply with executive order 13921.

Will the Plan Development team for Sea Scallops Comment / discuss short lived sea Scallops in southern portion of range? NOW GOING NON HARVESTED.

Scallops in southern portion of range Chinotigue VA South are documented to live one to two years reaching size of 80 to 200 count before a die off occurs.

David Rudders can confirm these scallops occur some years!

Can the Plan development team discuss allowing the harvest of these short lived scallops? Vessels with the 40# incidental scallop permits should be the only vessels to develop this fishery. Vessels would be allowed to net harvest these scallops to be machine shucked ashore. Net Harvest; shell stocked for Machine shucking on shore. Short lived scallops.

The current sea scallop management plan does not offer small sea scallops for the American Public. the current sea scallop plan allows the waste of these scallops when they occur.

AS PROPOSED HARVEST WOULD BRING EMPLOYMENT TO ONLY VESSELS WITH INCIDENTAL PERMITS & EMPLOYMENT TO THE SEAFOOD PROCESSORS IN MID ATLANTIC.

--

James Fletcher United National Fisherman's Association Manns Harbor, NC 27953



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 29, 2020

Mr. Michael Pentony Regional Administrator Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office National Marine Fisheries Service 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

On October 1, 2020, the Council passed the following motion after reviewing correspondence from fixed gear fishermen about gear conflicts between lobster fishermen and scallopers occurring south of Long Island.

That the Council send a letter to NMFS requesting that a bulletin be sent to all scallop permit holders (LA and LAGC IFQ) advising of fixed gear in the area of Lobster Area 4 and reminding vessels to avoid fixed gear, including details about how fixed gear is likely to be set.

Council agreed to by consensus with two abstentions.

The cumulative loss of lobster gear over the last two years for one vessel was estimated to be 400 traps. The Scallop Advisory Panel (AP) and the Scallop Committee discussed gear conflict issues in southern New England with these fishermen during their meetings on September 23rd and September 25th, 2020. Both the Scallop AP and Committee recommended that a bulletin to scallop permit holders from NMFS be the first step toward addressing this issue.

There are several pieces of information that I hope you will include in a bulletin to all scallop permit holders:

- 1. The lobster gear is set east-to-west in 30-pot trawls and marked by highflyers. Gear is set starting at the end of July and fished through December. Gear is typically tended every seven nights.
- 2. The area being fished is identified in Enclosure 1. When fishing in this area, mobile gear vessels should be mindful to avoid fixed gear and tune radar to be able to detect highflyers.
- 3. The penalty schedule for non-compliance.

Thank you for considering this request. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

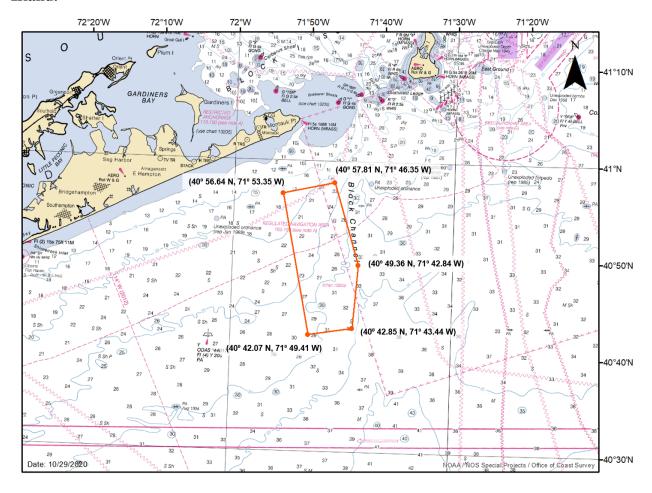
Sincerely,

Thomas A. Niel

Thomas A. Nies Executive Director

Enclosure: (1)

Enclosure 1-Approximate boundaries of fixed gear fishing area in proximity to Long Island.





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 30, 2020

Dr. Jonathan Hare Science and Research Director Northeast Fisheries Science Center 166 Water Street Woods Hole, MA 02543

Dear Jon:

I am writing to raise issues with the current focus, timing, and frequency of the Atlantic sea scallop management track assessments. As described in the *Description of the New England and Mid-Atlantic Stock Assessment Process*, "Management track assessments are designed to provide routine, scheduled, updated advice to directly inform management actions." I believe we should revise the current process for sea scallops so that it better meets manager's needs.

Atlantic sea scallops are unique among stocks managed by our Council in that in recent years, the Council updates catch advice annually. This practice is likely to continue for the near future given the value and importance of this fishery, the annual availability of new survey information, and the rotational management system that is used. That is the reason we adopted an annual management track assessment for sea scallops. Unfortunately, I do not believe the Council was clear on what we thought that meant: an annual assessment that would support the development of catch advice. As a result, we are getting an annual management track assessment that is not particularly useful.

Sea scallops are also unique in that the stock assessment models used to determine stock status are not directly used as the basis for catch advice. Instead, the catch-at-size-assessment (CASA) model and the stochastic yield model (SYM) are used to develop reference points and determine stock status. To develop catch advice, the Council's Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT) uses the scallop area management simulator (SAMS), a forward projection model that is initiated using the current year's survey data. The Council uses SAMS outputs to set the OFL and ABC and evaluate spatial management scenarios and allocations for upcoming fishing years. While at one time the SAMS inputs were "conditioned" using the CASA model, that no longer occurs. In addition to annual catch advice, the SAMS also provides scientists and managers a clear signal of the health of the sea scallop population.

Of the three models used in scallop management, the Council relies most on SAMS to recommend appropriate catch advice; however, the focus of the management track updates is on CASA and SYM. We do not need an annual stock status determination for scallops – even stocks in a rebuilding program are only required to have their status determined every two years. In lieu of

devoting resources to annual updates of the CASA and SYM models, we need to identify a way to give SAMS the resources and attention it warrants, including a periodic review of its performance. One option would be to include reviews of the SAMS in the management track cycle, but with terms of reference that are tailored to this model. Another would be to review and update SAMS outside the NRCC assessment program.

Whatever model is reviewed, holding the scallop management track assessment in the fall presents substantial logistical challenges for completing annual specifications in a timely manner. A fall management track assessment interferes with development of specifications and can delay implementation of new allocations beyond the start of the scallop fishing year on April 1. Updating CASA and SYM can delay the PDT's ability to review surveys and run SAMS in a timely manner. Holding management track assessments in June would still align with the Council's specifications setting process and would cause fewer conflicts with the work of NEFSC stock assessment scientists.

In light of these issues, as a starting point for discussion I offer the following schedule of management and research track assessments for Atlantic sea scallops from 2021 - 2025. This schedule suggests one approach for addressing SAMS, but there may be other options. Please note that the PDT would still be using SAMS each year to develop catch advice that would be presented to the Scientific and Statistical Committee for review.

	NRCC Planned	NEFMC Proposed
2021	September - Management Track	
	(CASA/SYM)	
2022	September - Management Track	June - Management Track
	(CASA/SYM)	(SAMS)
2023	September - Management Track	
	(CASA/SYMS)	
2024	March - Research Track	March - Research Track
	(CASA/SYMS)	(CASA/SYMS/SAMS)
	September - Management Track	
	(CASA/SYMS)	
2025	September - Management Track	
	(CASA/SYMS)	

In closing, I believe we can improve the assessment cycle for scallops while reducing the workload for NEFSC scientists and focusing on the projection model used to catch advice. We look forward to working with you on these issues.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Nies Executive Director

Thomas A. Niel

cc: Mr. Michael Pentony, GARFO Dr. Chris Moore, MAFMC

Mr. Bob Beal, ASMFC



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

November 3, 2020

Dear Mr. Nies,

In light of the deeply disappointing results of the Council's meeting on October 27, 2020, we write to request the Council reconsider its 2021 scallop work priorities at the earliest opportunity. By declining to include scoping/listening sessions for a potential LA scallop leasing program in its 2021 priorities, the Council subordinated the recommendations and expertise of the Scallop Advisory Panel, the Scallop Committee, the Regional Administrator, and its own staff.

The Council's enabling statute creates a public process that is designed to promote the public interest in the management of U.S. fisheries, and includes important provisions for public input. We are not aware of any fishery that has come before the Council with 70 percent of the fleet in support of discussing a request within the Council process, only to be denied an opportunity for a fair hearing. The Council's actions on October 27 subverted the public interest within the sea scallop fishery, and we urge the Council to take action at its December 2020 meeting to remedy the situation.

How we got to this point matters. More than three years ago, the East Coast Scallop Harvesters Association (ECSHA) asked the Council to address the need for flexibility and versatility within the LA scallop fishery as a 2019 work priority. On October 23, 2018, the Scallop Advisory Panel (AP) made a priority recommendation to pursue this issue, and a day later the Scallop Committee agreed and recommended to the Council that it "address problems and challenges in the scallop fishery as discussed by the AP." The Executive Committee (Ex Comm) did not recommend this work item to the Council, nor did it propose any other option to the scallop fishery to address its concerns.

Last year the ECSHA, frustrated by the lack of responsiveness from the Council, brought us in to assist the owners in requesting the Council include in its 2020 priorities a leasing project for the LA scallop fleet. Our position was clear: leasing DAS and AA trips would provide vessel owners with the flexibility they needed. This was also an approach with Council precedent, as the Council had previously authorized leasing in both the groundfish fishery and the LA general category scallop fishery.

At that time, over 50% of LA scallop vessels supported the Council taking up this issue. The Scallop AP again recognized the need for flexibility a leasing program would provide and voted in October *and* November 2019 to recommend bringing the leasing discussion into the Council process as a priority. Ultimately, the

Scallop Committee and Council did not recommend the project as a 2020 priority, due in large part to the fact that Amendment 21 and specifications were expected to fill the Council's scallop work schedule. *Again, the Ex Comm offered no other options to the scallop fishery to address its concerns.* Several Council members remarked on the significant industry support for the Council taking up leasing at the December 5, 2019 Council meeting. The Campaign and its supporters were advised to continue to build support and wait for the completion of Amendment 21 before adding leasing to the queue.

During this past year, the Scallopers Campaign did exactly what the Council suggested. We added supporters to a level where fully 70% of the LA fleet supported the Council taking up the issue and starting the conversation. We created a website and regularly emailed newsletters to better communicate with industry, the Council, and the public. We conducted an LA vessel owners' survey to gather operational information not previously available to the Council. Based on those survey results, we refined our recommendations for commonsense principles to inform the Council discussion. Through all these actions, we maintained open and transparent lines of communication with Scallop Committee and Council members, inviting questions, concerns, or suggestions at every stage. When the AP considered the issue of 2021 priorities, scoping for a possible plan amendment on leasing was recommended to the Committee. The Scallop Committee unanimously recommended including scoping on a LA leasing program in the Council's 2021 priorities.

At the September 2021 Council meeting, the Council amended the Committee's recommendation to reflect "scoping and/or listening sessions" to ensure clear understanding that the Council would not be obligated to initiate an action; that decision would come after hearing from the public through the listening sessions. The purpose of the scoping/listening sessions was to better inform the Council on the level of support and potential concerns or issues related to leasing.

When the Executive Committee met to review proposed 2021 priorities and make recommendations to the Council, Council staff recommended including scoping/listening sessions in the 2021 priorities, and indicated they had the capacity to conduct such sessions in their work plan. Some members of the Executive Committee moved to scuttle the informed recommendations of the Advisory Panel, the Scallop Committee, the Regional Administrator, and the Council staff, resulting in a lack of consensus on the scoping/listening session priority. *Once again, the Ex Comm offered no other option to the scallop fishery.* Furthermore, listening sessions/scoping was the only Scallop Committee priority left off the Ex Comm's recommended agenda. The importance of the Ex Comm failing to recommend listening sessions cannot be overstated; to get back on the priority list for 2021 required an amendment at the Council level.

The Council finalized 2021 priorities at its October 27 meeting, and the issue of listening sessions/scoping was again discussed. A motion to amend was made to add the action back into the 2021 priorities. That motion was supported by the majority of industry members who participated in the webinar. A substitute motion was then made to supersede the motion to amend by replacing scoping/listening sessions with a proposal to "evaluate rotational management program," a project not recommended by the AP, the Scallop Committee, the Regional Administrator, the Council Staff, or the scallop industry.

This was clearly offered as a "red herring," intended to stonewall the industry's repeated request for listening sessions. Staff time to undertake the rotational management agenda item was estimated to be

twice as much as the listening/scoping sessions. The rationale given for the substitute motion was that (1) "the Executive Director had a problem with math," speculating that the listening sessions would take much more time than estimated, (2) there was a "substantial" number of permit holders against leasing, even though 246 out of 350 LA permits support the Council initiating leasing discussions, and (3) rotational management was important to the Ex Comm, even though it did not recommend it to the Council. Notably, it was also not an item recommended by the Scallop Committee. On a vote of 11-6-0 the substitute passed; evaluation of the rotational management program became a 2021 priority, and the Council will not devote any resources to conducting listening/scoping sessions on a LA leasing program in 2021.

The Council bypassed and dismissed the informed, expert advice of the very groups it had formed and tasked with advising it on the management of one of the keystone fisheries of our nation, and it also turned a deaf ear to the scallop fleet's public input in the process, as well as a supporting letter from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

We request the Council reconsider the results of its scallop priorities from the October 27, 2020 webinar at the upcoming December Council meeting and add LA scallop leasing listening sessions to its 2021 schedule to provide the industry with a fair hearing.

As quotas decrease and costs—including insurance—sharply increase, the need for flexibility is greater than ever. The Scallopers Campaign has always been a supporter of the Council process, and has done everything the Council and staff have asked. In fairness to the industry, we believe a reconsideration of the 2021 scallop priorities to add listening sessions is in order. If the Council continues to deny this reasonable request as endorsed by the industry, the Scallop AP, the Scallop Committee, Council Staff, and the Regional Administrator, it would challenge our firm belief that the Council process is the proper avenue to serve the needs of the scallop fishery.

R 07

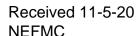
Sincerely,

Jeff Pike

Rick Robins

CC:

Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross
White House Director Office of Trade and Manufacturing Peter Navarro
NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Chris Oliver
NMFS Regional Administrator Michael Pentony
Congressman Jared Huffman, Chairman, Water, Oceans, Wildlife Subcommittee





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

Dear Mr. Nies and Council Staff,

My name is Kelly Cardoso and I am the Scallop Fleet Manger for Blue Harvest Fisheries' fifteen scallop vessels. I was discouraged to learn that the New England Fishery Management Council and its Executive Committee failed once again to respond to the needs of the scallop industry by abolishing the proposal that the Council conduct listening session on a leasing program. Not only did these officials fail our industry, I understand they ignored the advice of their own scallop advisors, the Scallop Committee and you, their Executive Director, all of whom recommended moving forward with listening sessions.

It never occurred to me the Council would ignore the advice and recommendations from so many experts, so I did not attend the actual webinar where all these recommendations were thrown aside. The same sort of disregard and political shenanigans happened last year too. In my mind, the Council system is broken when something like this happens. What don't these folks understand?

Limited Access vessels should have the same flexibility as the General Category vessels. Our vessel costs continue to soar, for vessels that spend 75% of the year tied to the dock! For my operations and my boats specifically, flexibility to allocate quota would allow for larger scale refits of our vessels. We would have the time to upgrade and refit our vessels without the pressure of missing a fishing season.

I urge the Council to reconsider its decision to ignore the needs of our industry. Council members need to do the right thing and put the discussion of leasing back on the 2021 agenda.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cardoso

Scallop Fleet Manager Blue Harvest Fisheries

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

November 4, 2020

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

Dear Tom:

We recently completed groundfish year-end accounting for the 2019 fishing year, and the final report is attached to this letter. In fishing year 2019, catch exceeded the total annual catch limit (ACL) of one stock, Atlantic halibut.

Atlantic Halibut

In fishing year 2019, catch exceeded the total ACL of 100 mt for Atlantic halibut by 2.9 percent, or 2.9 mt, but not the U.S. ABC of 104 mt. Therefore, the overage was not greater than the management uncertainty buffer, and as such, the halibut accountability measure is not triggered. Table 1 summarizes the Atlantic halibut ACL overage. Fishing years 2015 and 2018 had similar overages, where the ACL was exceeded, but not beyond the management uncertainty buffer.

Table 1. Fishing year 2019 Atlantic Halibut ACL and Catch

	Total ACL	Groundfish Fishery Sub-ACL	State Waters Sub- Component	Other Sub- Component
ACL or sub- ACL (mt)	100	75	21	4
Catch (mt)	102.9	79.8	21.6	1.5
Percent Caught	102.9%	106.4%	102.8%	38.4%

Regulations at 50 CFR 600.310(g)(7) state "If catch exceeds the ACL for a given stock or stock complex more than once in the last four years, the system of ACLs and AMs should be reevaluated, and modified if necessary, to improve its performance and effectiveness." Given that the Atlantic halibut ACL has been exceeded in three out of the last five years (2015, 2018, and 2019), we urge the Council to consider whether modified measures may be necessary to avoid additional overages in the future.

Scallop sub-ACLs

The scallop fishery exceeded two of its groundfish sub-ACLs in fishing year 2019: Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) yellowtail flounder and northern windowpane flounder.



These overages are shown in Table 2, below. The total ACL was not exceeded for either of these stocks, nor were the scallop fishery's sub-ACLs exceeded by more than 50 percent, and therefore, no AMs have been triggered. The other two stocks with scallop sub-ACLs (Georges Bank [GB] yellowtail flounder and southern windowpane flounder) did not have overages in fishing year 2019.

Table 2. Groundfish catch as a percentage of the sub-ACL for each groundfish stock allocated to

the scallop fishery.

	Scallop	Catch	Catch as a Percent of
Stock	Fishery sub-	(mt)	the Scallop Fishery
	ACL (mt)		sub-ACL
GB yellowtail flounder	1.8	1.7	96.0%
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	2	2.1	112.6%
Northern windowpane flounder	18	25.4	140.9%
Southern windowpane flounder	158	57.7	36.5%

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 2019

- 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 2017 through FY 2019 GOM cod and haddock recreational catch evaluation
- Table 11: Sector carryover
- Tables 12 through 17: U.S./Canada stocks catch evaluation

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.

NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Table 1: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Percent of Annual Catch Limit Caught (%)

	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AMs)								Sub-components: No AMs	
Stock	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	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
GB Cod	36.9	34.0	35.0	3.5					78.1	61.4
GOM Cod	59.6	60.1	80.3	53.3	36.3				61.4	17.1
GB Haddock	9.6	9.9	10.1	0.1		0.0			0.8	4.2
GOM Haddock	35.2	34.6	43.1	13.7	13.3	0.1			164.6	23.7
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4.7	3.1	3.2	-			96.0	1.5	NA	NA
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	10.4	6.3	7.0	3.2			112.6		2.3	11.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	47.2	36.7	37.4	23.9					83.5	104.1
Plaice	56.8	57.3	58.2	14.2					38.6	56.3
Witch Flounder	87.3	89.5	91.6	12.7					51.1	78.0
GB Winter Flounder	41.9	39.6	41.3	-					NA	189.7
GOM Winter Flounder	34.3	16.6	16.9	9.9					126.6	47.7
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	42.2	27.8	30.4	11.8					12.4	130.7
Redfish	44.3	45.2	45.4	0.7					4.3	0.5
White Hake	74.7	75.5	75.8	32.3					1.7	80.4
Pollock	9.3	8.3	8.3	6.3					50.0	70.3
Northern Windowpane	79.0	34.5	NA	NA			140.9		8.4	689.5
Southern Windowpane	76.6	61.7	NA	NA			36.5		56.9	111.8
Ocean Pout	54.8	19.8	NA	NA					17.1	202.6
Halibut	102.9	106.4	NA	NA			-		102.8	38.4
Wolffish	3.1	3.0	NA	NA					6.3	7.7

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office October 20, 2020, run date of September 17, 2020

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.

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Table 2: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Limits (mt)

	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs: With Accountability Measures (AMs)								Sub-components: No AMs	
Stock	Total ACL	Groundfish	Sector ¹	Common Pool ¹	Recreational	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery ²	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other
	A to H	A+B+C	A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
GB Cod	1,741	1,568	1,514	54					18	155
GOM Cod	666	610	350	11	220				47	9
GB Haddock	55,249	53,276	52,432	844		811			581	581
GOM Haddock	11,803	11,506	8,216	96	3,194	116			91	91
GB Yellowtail Flounder	103	99.8	96.9	2.9			1.8	2.0	NA	0.0
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	66	45	36	9			2		2	17
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	490	398	377	21					51	41
Plaice	1,532	1,467	1,436	31					32	32
Witch Flounder	948	854	831	23					40	55
GB Winter Flounder	786	774	742	32					NA	12
GOM Winter Flounder	428	355	337	18					67	7
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	700	518	444	74					73	109
Redfish	11,208	10,972	10,915	57					118	118
White Hake	2,794	2,735	2,714	21					29	29
Pollock	38,204	37,400	37,152	248					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	75	NA	75					21	4
Wolffish	84	82	NA	82					1	1

¹To account for an overage of the 2017 ACL for GOM cod, the sector and common pool sub-ACLs for GOM cod were reduced in Framework 58.

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020

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²The Southern New England/Mid Atlantic and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder sub-ACLs for the scallops fishery were reduced by 13.1 mt and 15.2 mt, respectively, and the groundfish sub-ACLs were increased by the same amount, by mid-year transfers from the scallops fishery to the groundfish fishery.

Values in metric tons of live weight

Table 3: FY 2019 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	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
GB Cod	641.7	532.4	530.5	1.9					14.1	95.2
GOM Cod	396.8	366.4	280.9	5.8	79.8				28.9	1.5
GB Haddock	5323.4	5294.1	5293.5	0.6		0.2			4.8	24.3
GOM Haddock	4152.3	3980.8	3544.4	13.1	423.2	0.1			149.8	21.6
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4.8	3.1	3.1	-			1.7	0.0	-	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	6.9	2.8	2.5	0.3			2.1		0.0	1.9
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	231.4	146.2	141.1	5.1					42.6	42.7
Plaice	870.9	840.6	836.1	4.5					12.3	18.0
Witch Flounder	827.3	764.0	761.0	2.9					20.4	42.9
GB Winter Flounder	329.0	306.2	306.2	-					-	22.8
GOM Winter Flounder	146.9	58.7	56.9	1.8					84.8	3.3
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	295.4	143.8	135.1	8.7					9.1	142.5
Redfish	4963.0	4957.3	4956.9	0.4					5.1	0.6
White Hake	2088.0	2064.2	2057.4	6.8					0.5	23.3
Pollock	3569.6	3085.6	3070.1	15.6					201.2	282.7
Northern Windowpane	68.0	21.8	21.7	0.0			25.4		0.2	20.7
Southern Windowpane	350.0	32.7	30.0	2.7			57.7		15.9	243.6
Ocean Pout	65.7	18.6	18.4	0.2					0.5	46.6
Halibut	102.9	79.8	76.6	3.2					21.6	1.5
Wolffish	2.6	2.4	2.4	0.0					0.1	0.1

¹Based on scallop fishing year April 2019 through March 2020

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 20, 2020, run date of September 17, 2020 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.

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.

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Table 4: FY 2019 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	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
GB Cod	621.1	524.5	522.8	1.7					13.1	83.5
GOM Cod	325.5	296.3	268.7	4.4	23.3				28.5	0.6
GB Haddock	5080.7	5070.9	5070.3	0.6		0.2			0.1	9.6
GOM Haddock	3922.4	3767.2	3452.5	13.0	301.6	0.1			147.6	7.6
GB Yellowtail Flounder	2.9	2.9	2.9	-			-	-	-	-
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2.7	2.6	2.4	0.3			-		0.0	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	174.1	131.3	127.0	4.3					42.3	0.4
Plaice	802.2	791.1	787.0	4.1					10.9	0.1
Witch Flounder	745.7	726.0	723.1	2.9					19.4	0.4
GB Winter Flounder	306.0	305.3	305.3	-					-	0.7
GOM Winter Flounder	141.8	57.0	55.3	1.7					84.3	0.4
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	153.4	141.2	132.6	8.6					8.8	3.3
Redfish	4919.9	4915.7	4915.3	0.4					4.0	0.2
White Hake	2056.1	2054.6	2047.8	6.8					0.2	1.3
Pollock	3209.8	3011.9	2996.3	15.6					116.9	81.0
Northern Windowpane	-	-	-	-			-		-	-
Southern Windowpane	10.7	0.0	-	0.0					10.7	0.0
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-					-	-
Halibut	54.0	32.7	29.5	3.2					20.3	1.0
Wolffish	-	-	-	-					-	-

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 20, 2020, run date of September 17, 2020

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.

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.

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Table 5: FY 2019 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	В	C	D	Е	F	G	Н
GB Cod	20.6	7.9	7.7	0.2					1.0	11.7
GOM Cod	71.3	70.1	12.2	1.4	56.5				0.3	0.9
GB Haddock	242.7	223.2	223.2	0.0		-			4.7	14.7
GOM Haddock	229.8	213.7	91.9	0.1	121.6	-			2.2	14.0
GB Yellowtail Flounder	1.9	0.1	0.1	-			1.7	0.0	-	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	4.2	0.2	0.2	0.0			2.1		0.0	1.8
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	57.3	14.8	14.0	0.8					0.2	42.3
Plaice	68.7	49.4	49.1	0.4					1.4	17.9
Witch Flounder	81.5	37.9	37.9	0.1					1.1	42.5
GB Winter Flounder	23.0	0.9	0.9	-					-	22.1
GOM Winter Flounder	5.1	1.7	1.7	0.1					0.5	2.9
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	142.0	2.6	2.5	0.2					0.2	139.1
Redfish	43.1	41.5	41.5	0.0					1.1	0.4
White Hake	31.9	9.6	9.6	-					0.3	22.0
Pollock	359.8	73.8	73.7	0.0					84.3	201.7
Northern Windowpane	68.0	21.8	21.7	0.0			25.4		0.2	20.7
Southern Windowpane	339.3	32.7	30.0	2.7			57.7	·	5.2	243.6
Ocean Pout	65.7	18.6	18.4	0.2					0.5	46.6
Halibut	48.9	47.1	47.1	0.0					1.2	0.5
Wolffish	2.6	2.4	2.4	0.0					0.1	0.1

Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020, run date of September 17, 2020

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.

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Table 6: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Estimated State Water Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)

		Total			Commercial			Recreational	
Stock	Catch	Landings	Discard	Total Catch	Landings ¹	Discard ¹	Total Catch	Landings	Discard
	A+B+C+D	A+C	B+D	A+B	A	В	C+D	С	D
GB Cod	14.1	13.1	1.0	3.1	2.9	0.2	11.0	10.2	0.8
GOM Cod	28.9	28.5	0.3	28.9	28.5	0.3	_*	_*	_*
GB Haddock	4.8	0.1	4.7	4.8	0.1	4.7			
GOM Haddock	149.8	147.6	2.2	149.8	147.6	2.2	_*	_*	_*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-			
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	42.6	42.3	0.2	42.6	42.3	0.2			
Plaice	12.3	10.9	1.4	12.3	10.9	1.4			
Witch Flounder	20.4	19.4	1.1	20.4	19.4	1.1			
GB Winter Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-			
GOM Winter Flounder	84.8	84.3	0.5	67.1	67.1	0.0	17.7	17.3	0.5
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	9.1	8.8	0.2	8.9	8.7	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Redfish	5.1	4.0	1.1	5.1	4.0	1.1			
White Hake	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3			
Pollock	201.2	116.9	84.3	3.1	0.7	2.4	198.1	116.2	81.9
Northern Windowpane	0.2	-	0.2	0.2	-	0.2			
Southern Windowpane	15.9	10.7	5.2	15.9	10.7	5.2			
Ocean Pout	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5			
Halibut	21.6	20.3	1.2	21.6	20.3	1.2			
Wolffish	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1		_	

^{*}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.

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 20, 2020, run date of October 16, 2020

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.

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¹January through April 2020 commercial catches are estimated.

Table 7: FY 2019 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	95.2	3.7	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	0.0	-	0.2	-	0.3
GOM Cod	1.5	0.2	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	-	-	0.5
GB Haddock	24.3	7.2	0.3	-	0.1*	-	0.2	-	0.1	-	9.4
GOM Haddock	21.6	-	-	-	1.5*	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	7.2
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	_*	-	-	0.0*	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.9	_*	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	42.7	10.8	-	-	5.7	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.3
American Plaice	18.0	11.2	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.1
Witch Flounder	42.9	23.9	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.4	-	0.0	0.0	0.2
GB Winter Flounder	22.8	22.7	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	3.3	1.3	-	-	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.2
SNE Winter Flounder	142.5	39.0	5.4	-	1.0	0.0	2.4	-	0.1	-	0.4
Redfish	0.6	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.1
White Hake	23.3	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	-	0.0	0.0	1.2
Pollock	282.7	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.2
Northern Windowpane	20.7	_*	-	-	0.4	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Southern Windowpane	243.6	_*	39.3	-	0.8	-	2.7	-	0.5	-	0.0
Ocean Pout	46.6	3.7	0.2	-	0.6	-	1.1	-	0.0	-	0.0
Halibut	1.5	0.5	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Wolffish	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.0

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020, run date of Sept 17, 2020

These criteria are used by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) 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.

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¹Based on scallop fishing year April 2019 through March 2020

²Landings 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.

Table 7: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Catch Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	95.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.6	88.9
GOM Cod	1.5	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.0	-	0.1	0.4	_*
GB Haddock	24.3	0.2	0.0	5.2	0.4	0.2	-	0.0	1.2	
GOM Haddock	21.6	-	-	0.3	5.3	0.0	-	2.3	4.9	_*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-	_*	0.0*	0.0	-	-	-	0.0*	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.9	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	42.7	-	-	2.1	15.9	0.9	-	3.1	3.7	
American Plaice	18.0	0.1	0.0	4.8	0.4	0.2	-	0.0	0.9	
Witch Flounder	42.9	0.7	0.1	12.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	3.1	
GB Winter Flounder	22.8	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
GOM Winter Flounder	3.3	-	-	0.0	0.6	0.0	-	0.3	0.5	0.2
SNE Winter Flounder	142.5	3.4	0.5	66.4	4.8	2.9	-	0.0	16.0	0.2
Redfish	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.1	
White Hake	23.3	0.1	0.1	14.9	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	2.5	
Pollock	282.7	-	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	281.3
Northern Windowpane	20.7	-	-	17.3	1.5	0.2	-	0.2	1.0	
Southern Windowpane	243.6	27.5	0.5	101.8	7.6	6.0	-	0.0	56.8	
Ocean Pout	46.6	0.1	0.2	31.9	2.4	1.0	-	0.1	5.3	
Halibut	1.5	-	-	0.0	0.1	-	-	-	0.0	
Wolffish	0.1	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional

Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020, run date of Sept 17, 2020

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

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Table 8: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Landings Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCALLOP ¹	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	LOBSTER/ CRAB	MACKEREL	MENHADEN	MONKFISH	REDCRAB	RESEARCH
GB Cod	83.5	0.1	0.0	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.1	-	0.3
GOM Cod	0.6	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.5
GB Haddock	9.6	0.0	0.0	-	.0*	-	-	-	0.1	-	9.4
GOM Haddock	7.6	-	-	-	_*	0.0	-	-	-	-	7.2
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	_*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	_*	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	0.4	-	-	-	_	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.3
American Plaice	0.1	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
Witch Flounder	0.4	0.2	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.1
GB Winter Flounder	0.7	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	0.4	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.2
SNE Winter Flounder	3.3	0.6	0.6	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	0.3
Redfish	0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1
White Hake	1.3	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	1.2
Pollock	81.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2
Northern Windowpane	_	_*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Windowpane	0.0	_*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halibut	1.0	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional

Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020, run date of Sept 17, 2020

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¹Based 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.

Table 8: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Landings Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	83.5	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	0.3	82.5
GOM Cod	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	_*
GB Haddock	9.6	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.1	
GOM Haddock	7.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	_*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
American Plaice	0.1	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	
Witch Flounder	0.4	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.0	
GB Winter Flounder	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GOM Winter Flounder	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2
SNE Winter Flounder	3.3	0.0	-	0.3	0.1	-	-	-	1.2	0.2
Redfish	0.2	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
White Hake	1.3	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
Pollock	81.0	-	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	0.1	80.7
Northern Windowpane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Southern Windowpane	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	
Ocean Pout	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Halibut	1.0	-	-	0.0	0.1	-	-	-	0.0	
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

*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

October 20, 2020, run date of Sept 17, 2020

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Table 9: FY 2019 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	11.7	3.6	0.0	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	0.2	-	0.0
GOM Cod	0.9	0.2	-	-	0.1	NA	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
GB Haddock	14.7	7.2	0.2	-	.1*	NA	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.0
GOM Haddock	14.0	-	-	-	1.5*	NA	0.0	1	•	-	0.0
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	_*	-	-	0.0*	NA	0.0	-	ı	-	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.8	_*	0.2	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	42.3	10.8	-	-	5.7	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
American Plaice	17.9	11.2	0.1	-	0.1	NA	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.0
Witch Flounder	42.5	23.7	0.9	0.0	0.2	NA	0.4	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
GB Winter Flounder	22.1	22.0	-	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	2.9	1.3	-	-	0.2	NA	-	-	-	-	0.0
SNE Winter Flounder	139.1	38.3	4.8	-	1.0	NA	2.4	-	0.1	-	0.0
Redfish	0.4	0.0	-	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	-	-	0.0
White Hake	22.0	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.3	NA	0.5	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pollock	201.7	-	-	-	0.0	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Northern Windowpane	20.7	_*	-	-	0.4	NA	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0
Southern Windowpane	243.6	_*	39.3	-	0.8	NA	2.7	-	0.5	-	0.0
Ocean Pout	46.6	3.7	0.2	-	0.6	NA	1.1	-	0.0	-	0.0
Halibut	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	NA	-	-	-	-	-
Wolffish	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	NA	0.0	-	-	-	0.0

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020, run date of Sept 17, 2020

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.

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¹Based on scallop fishing year April 2018 through March 2019

²Discard 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.

Table 9: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Other Sub-Component Estimated Discards Detail (mt)

Stock	Total	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	SQUID/ WHITING	SURFCLAM	WHELK/ CONCH	WHITING	UNCATEGORIZED	RECREATIONAL
GB Cod	11.7	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	ı	0.0	0.3	6.4
GOM Cod	0.9	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.0	-	0.1	0.4	_*
GB Haddock	14.7	0.2	0.0	5.2	0.4	0.2	ı	0.0	1.1	
GOM Haddock	14.0	-	-	0.3	5.3	0.0	-	2.3	4.5	_*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	-	-	0.0*	0.0*	-	-	-	0.0*	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	1.8	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	42.3	-	-	2.1	15.9	0.9	-	3.1	3.7	
American Plaice	17.9	0.1	0.0	4.8	0.4	0.2	-	0.0	0.9	
Witch Flounder	42.5	0.7	0.1	12.0	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.1	3.1	
GB Winter Flounder	22.1	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	0.0	
GOM Winter Flounder	2.9	-	-	0.0	0.6	0.0	-	0.3	0.5	-
SNE Winter Flounder	139.1	3.4	0.5	66.1	4.8	2.9	-	0.0	14.8	0.0
Redfish	0.4	-	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.1	
White Hake	22.0	0.1	0.1	14.8	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	2.4	
Pollock	201.7	-	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	0.2	200.5
Northern Windowpane	20.7	-	-	17.3	1.5	0.2	-	0.2	1.0	
Southern Windowpane	243.6	27.5	0.5	101.8	7.6	6.0	-	0.0	56.8	
Ocean Pout	46.6	0.1	0.2	31.9	2.4	1.0	-	0.1	5.3	
Halibut	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Wolffish	0.1	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	

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Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional

Fisheries Office

October 20, 2020, run date of Sept 17, 2020

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

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.

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Table 10: FY 2017 - 2019 GOM Cod and Haddock Recreational Catch Evaluation (mt)

				Recreational	Catch	
Stock	Fishing Year	Catch	Landings	Discard	Recreational sub-	
	J	A + B A B		ACL	Limit Taken	
GOM Cod	2017	245.4	26.6	218.8	157	156.3
	2018	146.9	4.3	142.6	220	66.8
	2019	79.8	23.3	56.5	220	36.3
	Average	157.4	18.1	139.3	199	79.1
GOM Haddock	2017	795.0	533.7	261.3	1,160	68.5
	2018	595.0	423.9	171.1	3,358	17.7
	2019	423.2	301.6	121.6	3,194	13.3
	Average	604.4	419.7	184.7	2,571	23.5

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 20, 2020

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

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Table 11: FY 2019 Northeast Multispecies Sector Carryover (mt)

	FY 2019 Av	ailable Annua	l Catch Entitl	ement (ACE)	Available Carryover from FY 2019 to FY 2020		
Stock**	FY 2019 Initial ACE	FY 2018 Carryover	FY 2019 Total ACE	Total ACE as a Percent of Initial ACE	de minimis	Maximum	
	A	В	C = A + B	C/A	D	Е	
GB Cod	1,513	83	1,596	105.5	10	57	
GOM Cod	349	28	377	108.0	3	29	
GB Haddock	52,432	2,865	55,297	105.5	1,194	5,241	
GOM Haddock	8,215	687	8,902	108.4	116	812	
GB Yellowtail Flounder	96.9	NA*	96.9	100.0	NA*	NA*	
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	36	2	38	105.5	0	1	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	376	21	397	105.6	7	36	
Plaice	1,436	77	1,513	105.4	28	137	
Witch Flounder	831	35	865	104.2	12	65	
GB Winter Flounder	742	24	766	103.2	5	16	
GOM Winter Flounder	336	19	355	105.7	3	15	
SNE Winter Flounder	444	27	471	106.1	5	28	
Redfish	10,915	577	11,492	105.3	110	591	
White Hake	2,714	144	2,858	105.3	18	106	
Pollock	37,151	1,968	39,119	105.3	233	1,263	

This table shows sector carryover as has been calculated since fishing year 2013, in accordance with the regulations at 50 CFR 648.87(b)(1)(i)(C) as of September 2, 2020. *Carryover of GB yellowtail flounder is not allowed because this stock is jointly managed with Canada.

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 6, 2020

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

Table 12: FY 2019 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - Percentage of U.S. TACs Caught (%)

	% of U.S.		Percent of Each Fishery Component U.S. TAC Caught									
Stock	TAC	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other		
	A to H	A+B+C	A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н		
Eastern GB Cod	34.9	34.9	36.1	0.0					NA	NA		
Eastern GB Haddock	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0		NA			NA	NA		
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4.6	3.1	3.2	0.0			96.0	1.5	NA	NA		

Values in percent live weight (%) Includes estimate of missing dealer reports Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office August 12, 2020

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.

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Table 13: FY 2019 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. TACs (mt)

			Fishery Component TAC									
Stock	U.S. TAC	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery ¹	Small-Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other		
	A to H	A+B+C	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н		
Eastern GB Cod	189	189	183	6								
Eastern GB Haddock	15,000	15,000	14,762	238								
GB Yellowtail Flounder	106.0	99.8	96.9	2.9			1.8	2.0		0.0		

¹The Georges Bank yellowtail flounder sub-ACL for the scallops fishery was reduced by 15.2 mt, and the groundfish sub-ACL was increased by the same amount, by a mid-year transfer from the scallops fishery to the groundfish fishery.

Values in live weight

Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office September 2, 2020 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.

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Table 14: FY 2019 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Catch (mt)

			U.S. Catch by Fishery Component										
Stock	U.S. Catch	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other			
	A to H	A+B+C	A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н			
Eastern GB Cod	66.0	65.9	65.9	1					1	0.0			
Eastern GB Haddock	715.8	715.7	715.7	1		-			-	0.1			
GB Yellowtail Flounder	4.8	3.1	3.1	-			1.7	0.0	-	0.0			

Values in live weight Includes estimate of missing dealer reports August 12, 2020

Table 15: FY 2019 End of Year Transboundary U.S./Canada Vessels, Trips, DAS Used, and Observers

	Number of Vessels		Number	of Trips	DAS U	sed	Number of Observed Trips	
Area ¹	Sector	Common	Sector	Common Pool	Sector	Common		Common
	Sector	Pool	Sector	Collinon Fool	Sector	Pool		Pool
Eastern U.S./Canada Area	30	0	149	0	858	0	21	0
Western U.S./Canada Area	43	0	399	0	2,189	0	89	0
Total	47	0	434	0	2,327	0	90	0

¹Area 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 12, 2020

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.

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Table 16: FY 2019 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Landings (mt)

	TI C		U.S. Catch by Fishery Component										
Stock	U.S. Landings	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other			
	A to H	A+B+C	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н			
Eastern GB Cod	63.0	63.0	63.0	1					-	-			
Eastern GB Haddock	667.0	667.0	667.0	ı		-			-	-			
GB Yellowtail Flounder	2.9	2.9	2.9	ı	-		-	-	-	-			

Values in live weight Includes estimate of missing dealer reports Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office August 12, 2020

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Table 17: FY 2019 End of Year Accounting of Transboundary U.S./Canada Stocks - U.S. Discards (mt)

	TI C		U.S. Catch by Fishery Component										
Stock	U.S. Discards	Groundfish	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational	Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	Small Mesh Fisheries	State Water	Other			
	A to H	A+B+C	A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н			
Eastern GB Cod	2.9	2.9	2.9	-					-	0.0			
Eastern GB Haddock	48.8	48.7	48.7	-		-			-	0.1			
GB Yellowtail Flounder	1.9	0.1	0.1	-			1.7	0.0	-	0.0			

Values in live weight Includes estimate of missing dealer reports Source: NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office August 12, 2020

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.

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