

Gulf of Maine Cod 2014 Assessment Update Peer Review

August 28-29, 2014

Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel

250 Market St

Portsmouth, NH

Terms of Reference

1. Update all fishery-dependent data (landings, discards, catch-at-age, etc.) and all fishery-independent data (research survey information) used as inputs in the baseline model or in the last operational assessment. Update SARC 55 analyses of the spatial distribution of fishing effort. Summarize the time series of presence/absence of cod in the NEFMC and MA DMF surveys.
2. Estimate fishing mortality and stock size for the current year, and update estimates of these parameters in previous years, if these have been revised. Compare the results from the two model formulations used at the last benchmark.
3. Evaluate the diagnostics of the model and the model fit to the data. Identify and quantify data and model uncertainty that can be considered for setting Acceptable Biological Catch limits.
4. If appropriate, update the values of biological reference points (BRPs).
5. Evaluate stock status with respect to updated status determination criteria.
6. Provide a historical retrospective analysis of the performance of the assessment models and associated projections.
7. Perform short-term projections, taking into account recent recruitment observations; compare results to rebuilding schedules.
8. Comment on whether assessment diagnostics—or the availability of new types of assessment input data—indicate that a new assessment approach is warranted (i.e., referral to the research track).
9. Should the baseline model fail when applied in the operational assessment, provide guidance on how stock status might be evaluated. Should an alternative assessment approach not be readily available, provide guidance on the type of scientific and management advice that can be.