



NOAA
FISHERIES

Northeast Fisheries
Science Center

Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Process

TOR 3 Peer Review

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TRAC Overview

- TRAC conducts stock assessments necessary to support management activities for shared resources across the USA Canada boundary in the Gulf of Maine-Georges Bank region (GB Yellowtail Flounder, EGB cod, and EGB haddock)
- Since 1998, conducts annual assessments, with periodic data and model benchmark reviews prior to the annual assessment cycle ; complies with NS2 guidelines
- Provides catch advice to the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), the NEFMC, and the SSC (only GB YT ABC determined by SSC)

TRAC Process

- TRAC conducted by co-chairs (1 US, 1 CA)
- ToR approved by TMGC (and US-CA Steering Committee)
- Integrated peer-review: both independent reviewers and co-experts interact to reach final agreement on benchmark assessment
- Benchmark assessment applied at each annual TRAC assessment meeting
- Each assessment developed by co-experts (NMFS & DFO)

TRAC Products

- TRAC Proceedings: documents all working papers, TRAC discussion, and recommendations
- TRAC Status Report (TSR): assessment summary & TRAC recommended catch advice for TMGC
- Research documents: assessment working papers & WPs addressing specific ToR topics

TRAC Products

- Allocation Shares:
 - TMGC quota allocated to each country based on the *sharing allocation agreement*.
 - Each year, TRAC determines the resource distribution (% biomass in US and CA waters)
 - Percentage applied in the sharing formula, along with historical utilization, to determine US and CA quota share.

TRAC Recent Benchmarks

EGB cod benchmark ; April 2013

- Applied age structured models: VPA and ASAP
- Could not agree to benchmark model
- Agreed to use VPA (with $M = 0.8$) for catch advise provided a consequence analysis with ASAP ($M=0.2$) results was also presented to TMGC

TRAC Recent Benchmarks

GBYT Diagnostic and Empirical Approach; April 2014

- reviewed influence of catchability (q), M , and catch on model diagnostics (i.e. retrospective bias)
- agreed to an empirical approach to be applied in June 2014 in conjunction w/VPA to determine 2015 catch advice

TRAC Communication

- TSRs presented to the TMGC
- TMGC quota determinations presented to the NEFMC
- GBYT assessment results and TMGC quota presented to SCC
 - for determination of ABC
 - if ABC different than TMGC quota, re-negotiated in TMGC

TRAC Communication

All documents available at TRAC and TMGC websites:

<http://www2.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/trac/rd.html>

<http://www2.mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/tmgc/TMGC-e.html>

Questions ?