

Foreword

The Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) process has three parts: preparation of stock assessments by the SAW Working Groups and/or by ASMFC Technical Committees / Assessment Committees; peer review of the assessments by a panel of outside experts who judge the adequacy of the assessment as a basis for providing scientific advice to managers; and a presentation of the results and reports to the Region's fishery management bodies.

Starting with SAW-39 (June 2004), the process was revised in two fundamental ways. First, the Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) became smaller panel with panelists provided by the Independent System for Peer Review (Center of Independent Experts, CIE). Second, the SARC provides little management advice. Instead, Council and Commission teams (e.g., Plan Development Teams, Monitoring and Technical Committees, Science and Statistical Committee) formulate management advice, after an assessment has been accepted by the SARC. Starting with SAW-45 (June 2007) the SARC chairs were from external agencies, but not from the CIE. Starting with SAW-48 (June 2009), SARC chairs are from the Fishery Management Council's Science and Statistical Committee (SSC), and not from the CIE. Also at this time, some assessment Terms of Reference were revised to provide additional science support to the SSCs, as the SSC's are required to make annual ABC recommendations to the fishery management councils.

Reports that are produced following SAW/SARC meetings include: An *Assessment Summary Report* - a summary of the assessment results in a format useful to managers; an *Assessment Report* – a detailed

account of the assessments for each stock; and the SARC panelist reports – a summary of the reviewer's opinions and recommendations as well as individual reports from each panelist. SAW/SARC assessment reports are available online at

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/publications/series/crdlist.htm>. The CIE review reports and assessment reports can be found at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/saw/>?

The 57th SARC was convened in Woods Hole at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, July 23-26, 2013 to review benchmark stock assessments of: summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentata*) and striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). CIE reviews for SARC57 were based on detailed reports produced by NEFSC Assessment Working Groups. This Introduction contains a brief summary of the SARC comments, a list of SARC panelists, the meeting agenda, and a list of attendees (Tables 1 – 3). Maps of the Atlantic coast of the USA and Canada are also provided (Figures 1 - 5).

Outcome of Stock Assessment Review Meeting:

Text in this section is based on SARC-57 Review Panel reports (available at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/saw/> under the heading "SARC-57 Panelist Reports").

Regarding **summer flounder**, all eight of the stock assessment Terms of Reference (TORs) were met. The stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing in 2012. Fishing mortality has decreased since 1997, and is below the new F_{MSY} proxy.

SSB in 2012 was 82% of the biomass target. The population was modeled with ASAP, a forward projecting age-structured model. A variety of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent surveys were available to characterize the stock. Annual projections were provided for 3 years with no retrospective adjustment.

Regarding **striped bass**, six of the seven stock assessment TORs were met and one TOR which dealt with Biological Reference Points was partly completed. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. A variety of fishery-independent and fishery-dependent surveys were available to characterize the stock. The present assessment uses a statistical catch-

at-age (SCA) model to estimate F, recruitment, total abundance and stock biomass. There was a slight retrospective pattern. The SARC Panel encourages development of a sex-disaggregated model. Management of striped bass has a long history and ad hoc reference points, such as SSB_{1995} .

SARC-57 concluded that each of the assessments (**summer flounder** and **striped bass**) was effective in delineating stock status, determining BRPs and proxies, and in projecting probable short-term trends in stock biomass, fishing mortality, and catches.

Table 1. 57th Stock Assessment Review Committee Panel.

SARC Chairman (MAFMC SSC):

Dr. Cynthia Jones
Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology, Director
Old Dominion University
Virginia
USA
cjones@odu.edu

SARC Panelists (CIE):

Dr. Robin Cook
Senior Research Fellow,
MASTS Population Modelling Group
University of Strathclyde
Glasgow
UK
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Dr. John Simmonds
Ardgour, Kirk Rd.
Stonehaven
Aberdeenshire
UK
Email: ejsimmonds@gmail.com

Dr. Henrik Sparholt
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DK-1553
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Denmark
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Table 2. Agenda, 57th Stock Assessment Review Committee Meeting.

July 23-26, 2013

Stephen H. Clark Conference Room – Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Woods Hole, Massachusetts

AGENDA* (version: 16 July 2013)

TOPIC	PRESENTER(S)	SARC LEADER	RAPPORTEUR
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Tuesday, July 23

10 – 10:30 AM

Welcome	James Weinberg , SAW Chair
Introduction	Cynthia Jones , SARC Chair
Agenda	
Conduct of Meeting	

10:30 – 12:30 PM

Assessment Presentation (A. Summer flounder)		
Mark Terceiro	TBD	Brian Linton

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 – 3:30

Assessment Presentation (A. Summer flounder)		
Mark Terceiro	TBD	Brian Linton

3:30 – 3:45

Break

3:45 – 5:45

SARC Discussion w/ Presenters (A. Summer flounder)		
Cynthia Jones , SARC Chair		Charles Adams

5:45 – 6

Public Comments (A. Summer flounder)

Wednesday, July 24

9 – 10:45 AM

Assessment Presentation (B. Striped bass)		
Gary Nelson	TBD	Jessica Blaylock
Heather Corbett		
Alexei Sharov		

10:45 – 11 AM

Break

11 – 12:30 PM

(cont.) Assessment Presentation (B. Striped bass)		
Gary Nelson	TBD	Jessica Blaylock
Heather Corbett		

Alexei Sharov

12:30 – 1:45 PM	Lunch	
1:45 – 3:30	SARC Discussion w/presenters (B. Striped bass) Cynthia Jones, SARC Chair	Toni Chute
3:30 – 3:45	Public Comments (B. Striped bass)	
3:45 -4	Break	
4 – 6	Revisit with presenters (A. Summer flounder) Cynthia Jones, SARC Chair	Kiersten Curti
7	(Social Gathering)	

Thursday, July 25

8:30 – 10:15 AM	Revisit with presenters (B. Striped bass) Cynthia Jones, SARC Chair	Anthony Wood
10:15 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 12:45	Review/edit Assessment Summary Report (B. Striped bass) Cynthia Jones, SARC Chair	Anthony Wood
12:45 – 2 PM	Lunch	
2 – 2:45	(cont.) edit Assessment Summary Report (B. Striped bass) Cynthia Jones, SARC Chair	Toni Chute
2:45 – 3	Break	
3 – 6	Review/edit Assessment Summary Report (A. Summer flounder) Cynthia Jones, SARC Chair	Julie Nieland

Friday, July 26

9 AM – 5 PM	SARC Report writing. (closed meeting)
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*All times are approximate, and may be changed at the discretion of the SARC chair. The meeting is open to the public, except where noted.

Table 3. 57th SAW/SARC, List of Attendees

Name	Affiliation	Email
Adams Charles	NEFSC	charles.adams@noaa.gov
Blaylock Jessica	NEFSC	Jessica.Blaylock@noaa.org
Bochenek Eleanor	NEFSC	bochenek@hsrl.rutgers.edu
Brooks Liz	NEFSC	liz.brooks@noaa.gov
Celestino Michael	NJ DFW	Mike.celestino@dep.state.nj.us
Cook Robin	University of Strathclyde	melford@clara.co.uk
Corbett Heather	NJ DFW	heather.corbett@dep.state.nj.us
Curti Kiersten	NEFSC	kiersten.curti@noaa.gov
Dancy Kiley	MAFMC	kdancy@mafmc.org
Diodati Paul	MA DMF	paul.diodati@state.ma.us
Drew Katie	ASMFC	kdrew@asmfc.org
Hasbrouck Emerson	Cornell Marine Program	ech12@cornell.edu
Jones Cynthia	ODU	cjones@odu.edu
Karp Bill	NEFSC	bill.karp@noaa.gov
Legault Chris	NEFSC	chris.legault@noaa.gov
Nieland Julie	NEFSC	julie.nieland@noaa.gov
Linton Brian	NEFSC	brian.linton@noaa.gov
McNamee Jason	RIDFW	jason.mcnamee@dem.ri.gov
Martell Steve	IPHC	stevem@iphc.int
Meserve Nichola	MA DMF	nichola.meserve@state.ma.us
Nelson Gary	MADMF	Gary.nelson@state.ma.us
Nitschke Paul	NEFSC	paul.nitschke@noaa.gov
O'Brien Loretta	NEFSC	Loretta.O'Brien@noaa.gov
Palmer Mike	NEFSC	Michael.Palmer@noaa.gov
Rago Paul	NEFSC	Paul.Rago@noaa.org
Rootes-Murdy Kirby	ASFMC	Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org
Richards Anne	NEFSC	anne.richards@noaa.gov
Serchuk Fred	NEFSC	fred.serchuk@noaa.gov
Sharov Alexei	MD DNR	asharov@dnr.state.md.us
Simmonds John	ICES	ejsimmonds@gmail.com
Sosebee Kathy	NEFSC	katherine.sosebee@noaa.gov
Sparholt Henrik	ICES	henriks@ices.dk
Terceiro Mark	NEFSC	mark.terceiro@noaa.gov
Waine Mike	ASMFC	mwaine@asmfc.org
Weinberg James	NEFSC	James.Weinberg@noaa.org
Wood Tony	NEFSC	anthony.wood@noaa.gov

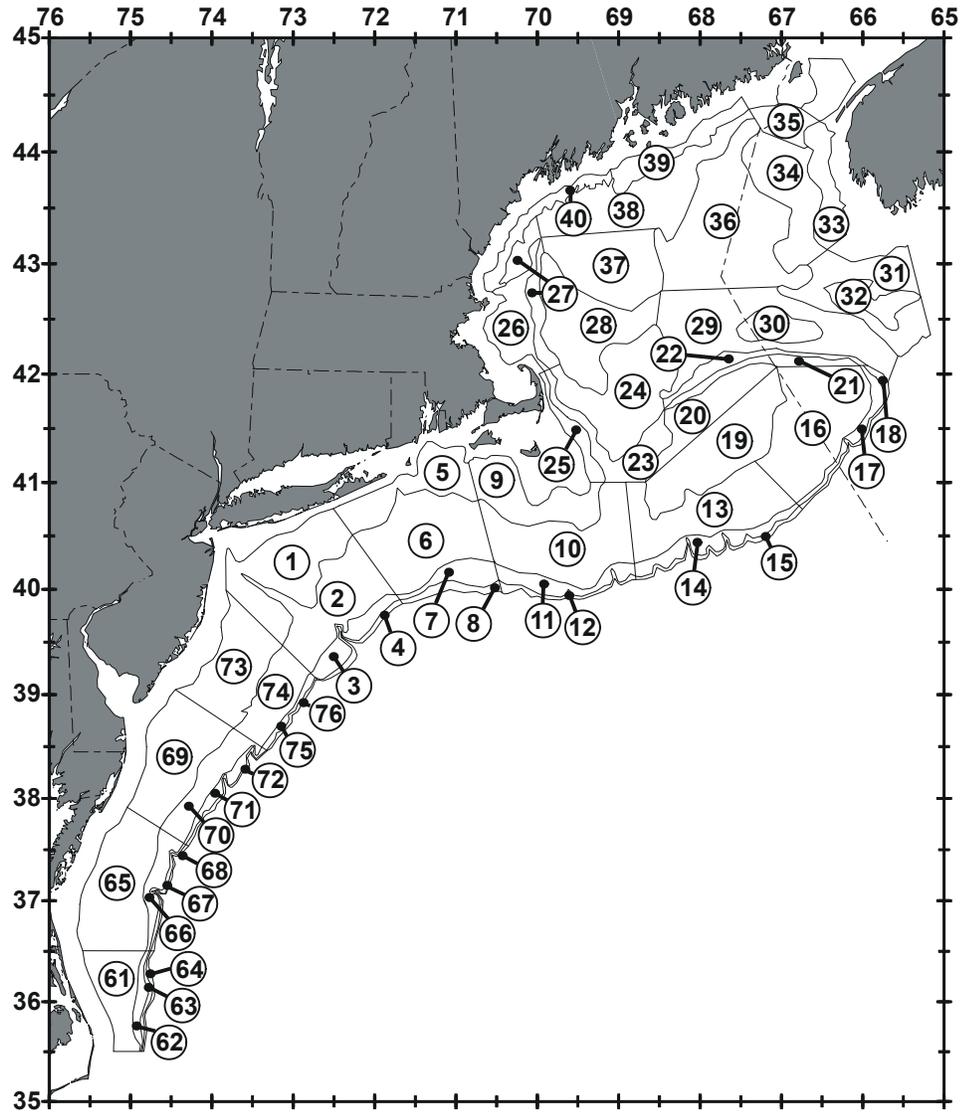


Figure 1. Offshore depth strata that have been sampled during Northeast Fisheries Science Center bottom trawl research surveys. Some of these may not be sampled presently.

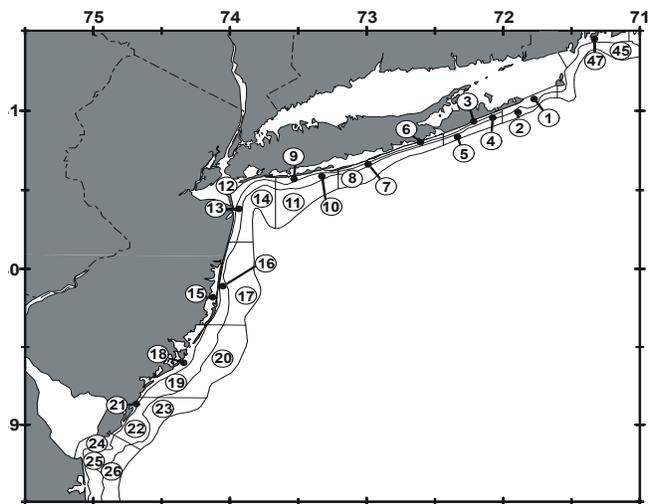
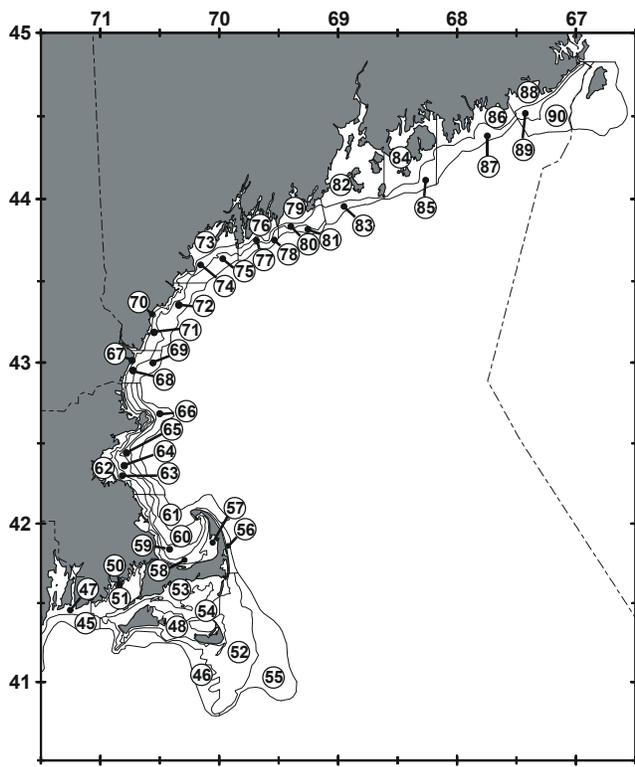
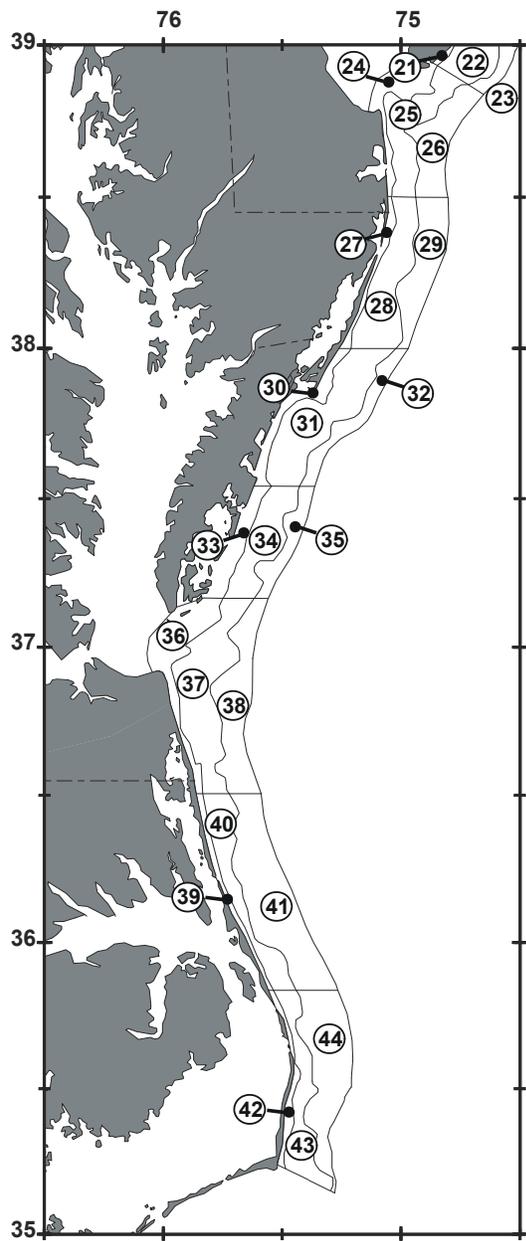


Figure 2. Inshore depth strata that have been sampled during Northeast Fisheries Science Center bottom trawl research surveys. Some of these may not be sampled presently.

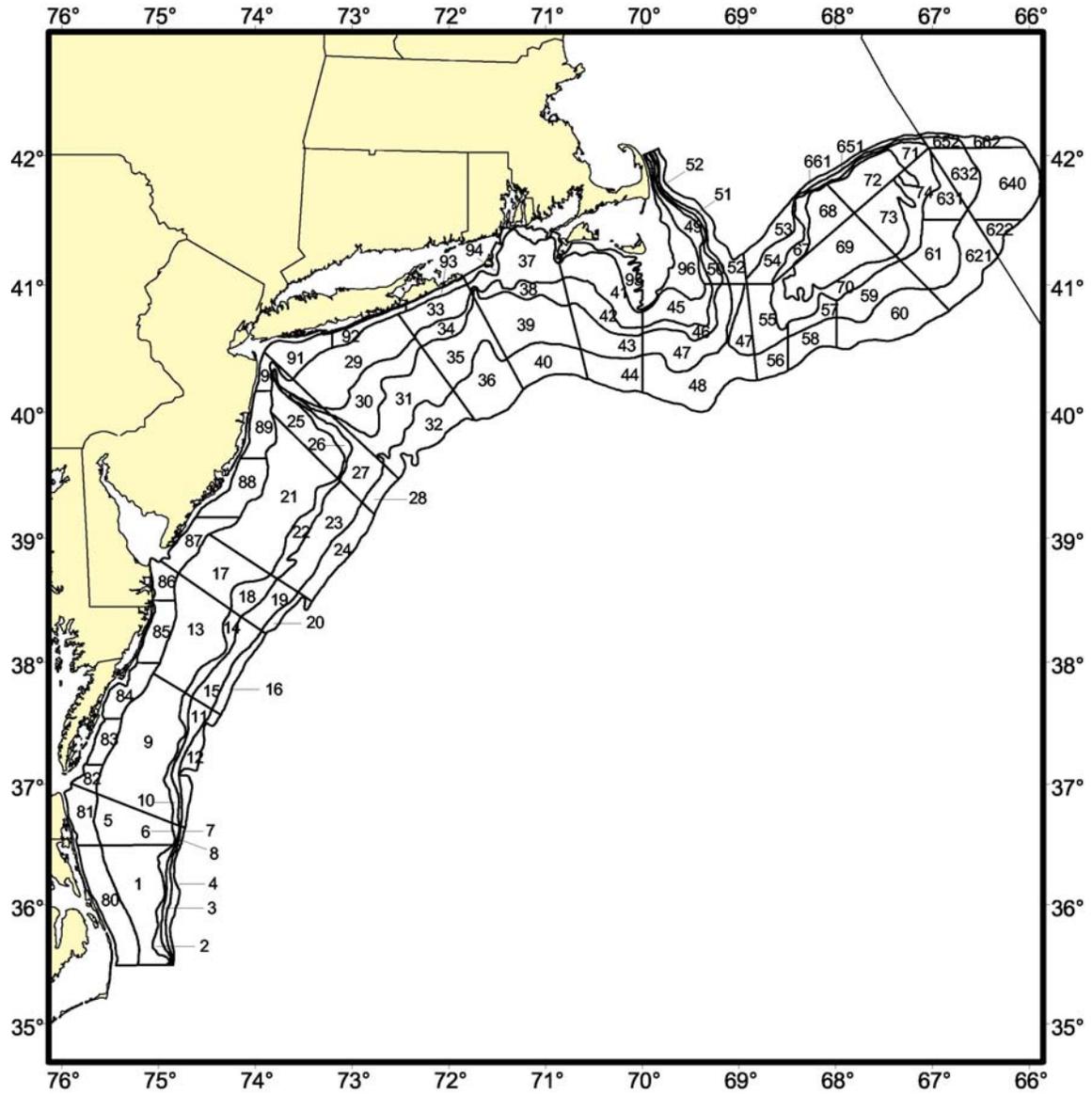


Figure 3. Depth strata sampled during Northeast Fisheries Science Center clam dredge research surveys.

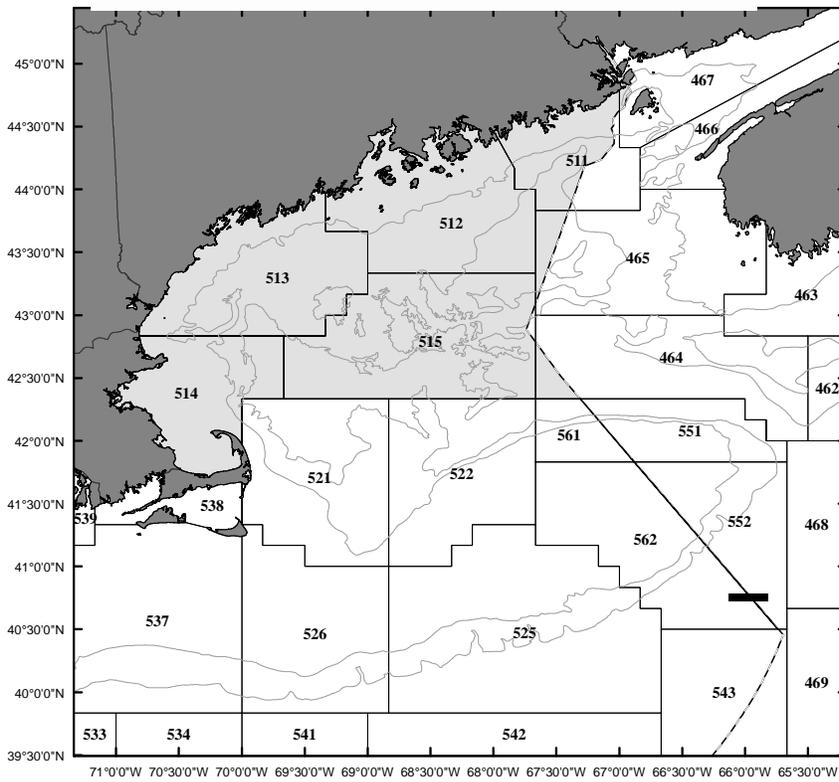
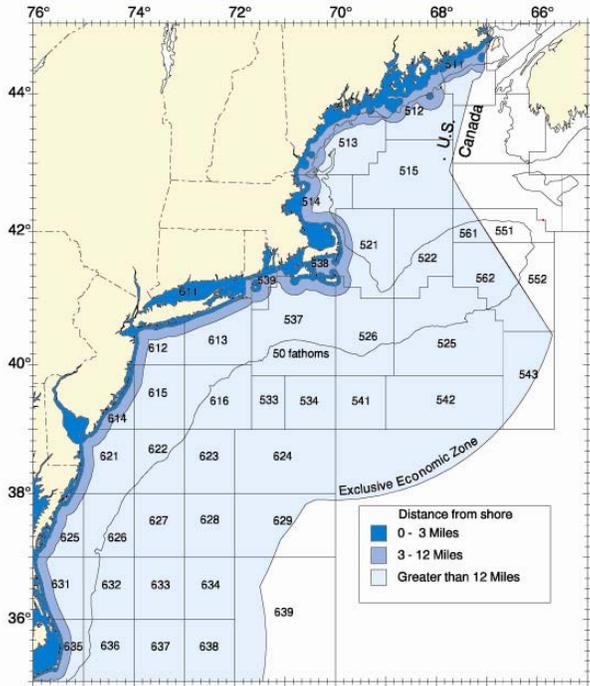


Figure 4. Statistical areas used for reporting commercial catches.

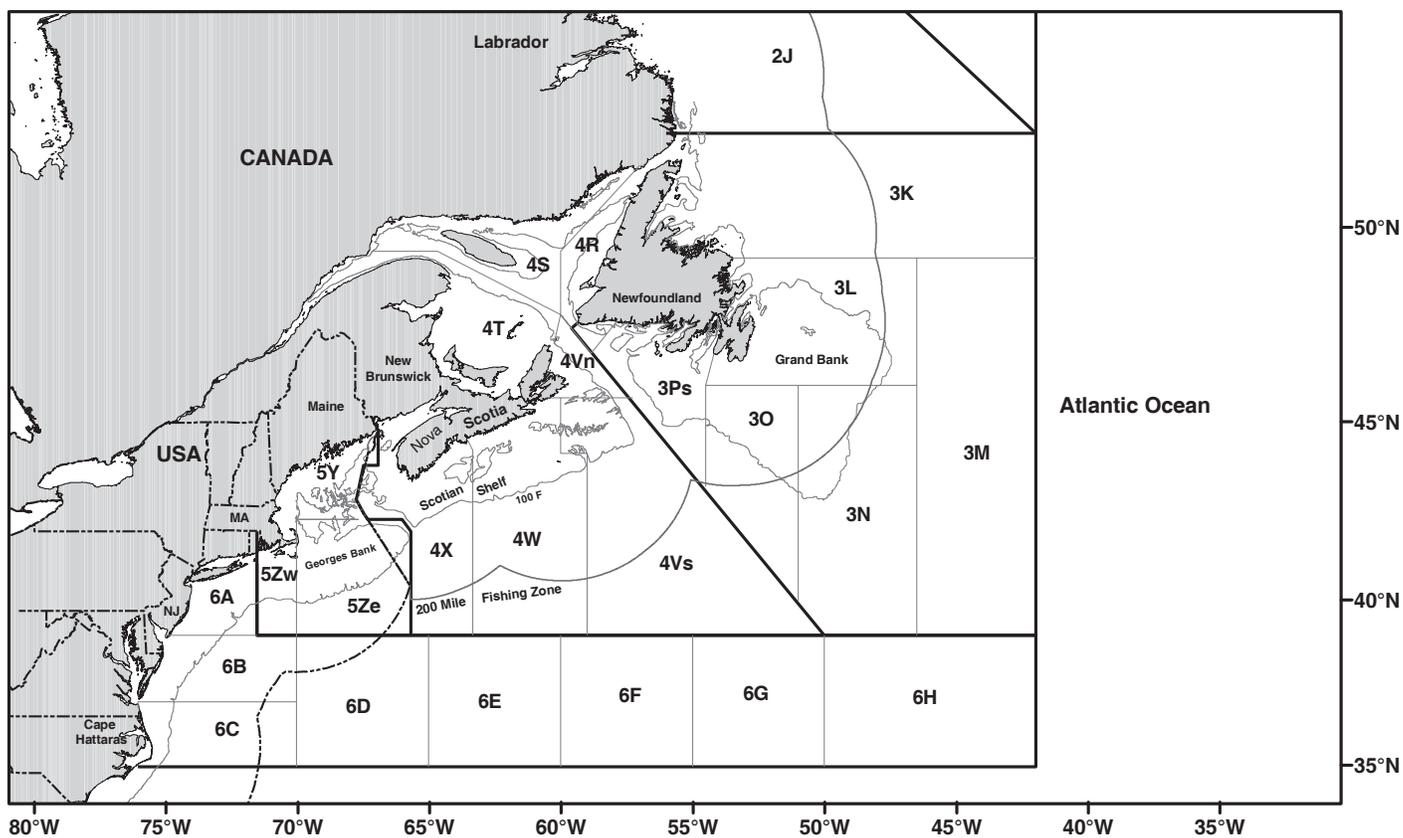


Figure 5. Catch reporting areas of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) for Subareas 3-6.