

Haddock Assessment and Management Measures 1976-1979

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1976

Assessment

Declines in abundance to an apparent all-time low in 1973-1974, with increases since then.
Autumn 1975 young-of-year index highest since 1963.
Projected increase in stock size for 1977 but still well below long term average.
Supporting Document: ICNAF Res. Doc. 76/35, June, 1976

Management Decisions

STACRES (ICNAF) recommended a zero TAC for 1977 (bycatch only) to maximize potential for stock recovery by allowing the 1975 year class to spawn.
ICNAF proposed 6,000 ton TAC (commercial only)

1977

Spawning stock remains well below long term average but should significantly increase in 1978.
Survey indices for 1975 year class at age 1 results in estimates of the 1975 year-class being one of the highest on record.
Supporting Document: NEFC Lab. Ref. Doc. 77-13, July, 1977

Feb. 22-23: NERFMC approved Groundfish FMP prepared by NMFS which set an OY of 6,200 MT (commercial plus recreational) and extended previous closed area/season and mesh size regulations implemented under ICNAF.

Nov. 9: In response to Council request an emergency amendment to regulations raised haddock OY to 10,500 MT.

Dec. 30: In response to Council request emergency regulations went into effect for 45 days under which an incidental OY of 5,000 MT was allowed.

1978

Stock size (age2+) increased to about long-term average in 1977 due to recruitment of 1975 year-class.
Georges Bank estimate for 1975 year class one of highest on record.
Estimates for 1976 and 1977 year classes low.
NEFC calculations (April-June) indicate an OY of 20,000 tons (all areas) can be taken annually during 1978-1980 and keep spawning stock through this period at or above the long-term average.
Supporting Documents: NEFC Lab. Ref. Doc. 78-05, Jan, 1978; NEFC Lab. Ref. Doc. 78-20, March, 1978

Feb. 13: Emergency regulation of Dec. 30 extended second 45 days to March 31.

March 31: Council's amended plan implemented by emergency regulation effective April 1 under which incidental OY was raised to 8,000 MT.

June 30: Final regulations approved for implementation July 1, 1978.

July 19: Emergency amendment to regulations by Council request raised OY to 20,000 MT.

Oct. 4: By emergency regulation at Council request, new fishing year started effective Oct. 1 with a commercial fishing OY of 14,900 MT (reflects 20,000 MT OY when combined with anticipated Canadian and recreational catch)

Nov. 15: Oct. 1 emergency regulation extended to Dec. 29.

1979

1975 year-class estimate at age 2 similar to that reported in 1977.
1975 year-class age 3 estimate significantly lower implying significant discard losses.
1978 year-class estimate the second strongest since 1963 year-class.
Spawning stock size in 1978 approximately equal to long-term average.
Spawning stock size declined moderately in 1979.
Catches in order of 24,000 tons from Georges Bank (plus 8,000 tons Gulf of Maine = 32,000 tons) in 1979-1980 would result in further declines in 1980 followed by increase to about long-term average in 1981.
Supporting Document: NEFC Lab. Ref. Doc. 79-05, Jan., 1979

Jan. 3: Oct. 1 emergency regulations made final for Oct. 1, 1978-Sept. 30, 1979 fishing year. Commercial OY continues at 14,900 MT.

March 15: Council voted to recommend OY for 32,500 MT for all areas, split 30% Gulf of Maine, 70% Georges Bank and south. This and other groundfish OYs and proposed regulations are now in the public hearing process.