

**Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee
Assessment of Georges Bank Cod, Haddock and Yellowtail**

July 19-23, 2010

**NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory
Stephen H. Clark Conference Room**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

The TRAC annually obtains requests for harvest advice on transboundary resources from the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC).

For the following resources:

Eastern Georges Bank cod
Eastern Georges Bank haddock
Georges Bank yellowtail flounder

- Apply the benchmark assessments to report on the status of the stocks, updating results for the latest information from fisheries, including discard estimates, and research surveys, including recently estimated calibration coefficients for the NOAA FSV Bigelow and Albatross IV, and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
- Given that the 2000 and 2003 year-classes of haddock will represent a larger component of the plus group than previous year classes, investigate how this impacts the calculation of fishing mortality. A workshop prior to the July TRAC may be required.
- Evaluate temperature and depth preference of yellowtail flounder on Georges Bank and any associated temporal and spatial trends.
- Describe any adjustments to benchmark assessment models applied during the TRAC including impacts on advice given to TMGC.
- Evaluate and quantify, if possible, scientific uncertainty of the assessment output (stock status determination and catch projection), discussing current practices of characterization and alternative methods of evaluation.

- For a range of total catch values in 2011, estimate the risk that the 2011 fishing mortality rate would exceed 0.18 (cod), 0.26 (haddock) and 0.25 (yellowtail flounder) respectively. Include a table showing the 2011 catches corresponding to low (25%), neutral (50%) and high (75%) probability that the F would exceed 0.18 (cod), 0.26 (haddock) and 0.25 (yellowtail flounder) respectively.
- If stock condition is poor, for a range of total catch values in 2011, estimate the risk that the biomass at the beginning of 2012 would not achieve a 0%, 10% or 20% increase compared to the beginning of 2011.
- Review the biomass distribution relative to the USA/Canada boundary, updating results with the 2009 survey information, and apply the allocation shares formula.
- Draft terms of reference for the 2011 TRAC assessment of cod, haddock and yellowtail.
- Other matters.

Outputs

TRAC Transboundary Status Reports the eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder management units.
 TRAC Reference Documents for eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder management units.
 TRAC Proceedings of meeting discussion

Participants

DFO Maritimes scientists and managers
 NMFS Northeast Region scientists and managers
 Canadian and US fishing industry
 US State and Canadian Provincial representatives (NB and NS)
 NEFMC representatives
 Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) representatives