

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

**June 25-27, 2013  
St. Andrews, NB**

**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 and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
- 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.
- Provide sensitivity analyses to account for retrospective bias on stock biomass and fishing mortality estimates for cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, if appropriate.
- For a range of total catch values in 2014, estimate the risk that the 2014 fishing mortality rate would exceed  $F_{ref}$  values, i.e. 0.18 (cod), 0.26 (haddock) and 0.25 (yellowtail flounder) respectively. Include a table showing the 2014 catches corresponding to low (25%), neutral (50%) and high (75%) probability that the  $F$  would exceed  $F_{ref}$ .
- For a range of total catch values in 2014, estimate the risk that the biomass at the beginning of 2015 would not achieve a 0%, 10% or 20% increase compared to the beginning of 2014.
- Review the biomass distribution relative to the U.S./Canada boundary, updating results with the 2012 survey information, and apply the allocation shares formula.
- For Georges Bank yellowtail flounder, update the US biomass reference point ( $SSB_{msy}$ ) from the benchmark assessment results
- For Georges Bank yellowtail, conduct preliminary scoping of alternative modeling approaches to address retrospective bias observed in the current benchmark assessment, to be used only as a sensitivity analysis for catch advice

- Draft terms of reference for the 2014 TRAC assessment of cod, haddock and yellowtail.
- Other matters.

### **Expected Publications**

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 U.S. fishing industry

U.S. State and Canadian Provincial (NB and NS) representatives

NEFMC representatives

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) representatives