

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

**2012**

**Woods Hole**

**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.
- For a range of total catch values in 2013, estimate the risk that the 2013 fishing mortality rate would exceed 0.18 (cod), 0.26 (haddock) and 0.25 (yellowtail flounder) respectively. Include a table showing the 2012 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.
- For a range of total catch values in 2013, estimate the risk that the biomass at the beginning of 2014 would not achieve a 0%, 10% or 20% increase compared to the beginning of 2013.
- Review the biomass distribution relative to the USA/Canada boundary, updating results with the 2011 survey information, and apply the allocation shares formula.
- Document the source of Fref for cod and haddock and determine the suitability in light of changes in the fishery, biological characteristics, and current assessment methods. Recommend revision to Fref if needed.
- Draft terms of reference for the 2013 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 US fishing industry  
US State and Canadian Provincial (NB and NS) representatives  
NEFMC representatives  
Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) representatives