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2023 TMGC Guidance

New England Fishery Management Council
September 26-29, 2022 Meeting
Gloucester, MA

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Cod

- **2023 TAC of 520 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2022	**571**	72%	**411**	28%	**160**
2023	**520**	74%*	**385***	26%*	**135**

- The TRAC applied the Data Limited Methods (DLM) Tool to identify a simple simulation method for providing advice. Based on the TMGC approved management procedure, the catch advice provided by TRAC for 2022 is **520 mt**.
- TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined TAC for Eastern Georges Bank Cod for 2022 is **520 mt**, which is an **8% decrease** from 2022. This TAC is consistent with the TRAC catch advice for 2023.
- The status of stock remains poor.
- Apparent improvement in growth and abundance of young fish must be monitored to see if this signal persists
- **Note: a typo was noted after this table was presented at the Groundfish Committee. % Shares/Country & Canada TAC has been corrected; US TAC has not changed.*

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Cod

Special Considerations

- Estimated removals in recent years in USA catches are a source of uncertainty. Further investigation is needed into the ecological role of cod and the potential implications of these changes on the recent productivity trends of Cod. In addition, investigation into the recent levels of natural mortality on eastern Georges Bank is recommended.
- The US commercial fishery data processing system is undergoing a change.
- The DLMtool approach was used to provide catch advice for 2022 and 2023. TRAC highlighted the need to continue annual evaluation of whether the assumptions made in the projections of this tool remain realistic, and the TRAC continued to strongly recommend a benchmark for this stock. DLM should only be a short-term, interim solution.
- The USA is conducting a Research Track Assessment for Atlantic Cod. Additionally, a Canadian domestic assessment is being considered to meet Canadian science needs for management.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

- **2023 TAC of 200 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2022	**200**	39%	**78**	61%	**122**
2023	**200**	47%	**94**	53%	**106**

- For 2023, the TRAC used the limiter approach to provide advice.
- TMGC agreed with the TRAC recommendation of 200mt, developed using the limiter tool.
- The 2023 TAC of 200 mt is status quo from 200 mt in 2022, and is consistent with the TRAC recommendation for 2023.
- The declining trend of the stock remains, despite reductions in catch to historically low amounts, indicates a poor state of the resource.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

Special Considerations

- Available information suggests that current levels of catch are not the primary factor impacting stock rebuilding and the continued efforts by both countries to keep catch well below the TAC are necessary to prevent higher levels of exploitation rate.
- The average survey biomass for 2022 (1,500 mt) is near the lower bound of the Limiter Approach (1,000 mt). The TMGC will continue development of a strategy to be applied in a year when average survey biomass falls outside the bounds, if this occurs.

Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

- **2023 TAC not yet agreed upon**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2022	**14,100**	53%	**7,473**	47%	**6,627**
2023	**?**	58%	**?**	42%	**?**

- The U.S. and Canadian delegations were unable to come to agreement at the conclusion of the TMGC meeting. The Canadian proposal is 4,000 mt, while the U.S. proposal is 3,238 mt.
- The U.S. noted that the upcoming domestic Management Track assessment for haddock, may potentially offer room for further negotiation and also provide further clarification on timing of further negotiations.
- It was decided that further attempts to come to an agreement could occur after the Management Track and prior to DFO industry consultations in early October (GOMAC).

Other Business and Planning

- Planned TMGC Intersessionals:
  - September:
    - Further Negotiation for EGB Haddock. Must occur prior to October 7
  - March/April 2023:
    - Updates on domestic Atlantic cod assessment(s)
    - Yellowtail Limiter Strategy (for survey biomass outside bounds)

TRAC Timing Paper

- Further development in Fall 2022 to establish a 2023 TRAC date
- Discussions for longer term improvements to timing in Spring 2023