

2020 Terms of Reference

Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

**July 7-9, 2020
Webinar
Hosted by USA**

Meeting Chair:

TRAC Co-chairs: Michelle Greenlaw (Canada) and Tara Trinko Lake (United States of America)

Objectives

The Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (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, and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder:

Cod:

- Update the following biological and fishery indicators of the state of cod in the eastern GB management area with 2019-2020 data: condition factor, swept area survey biomass indices, fishery and survey catch at length, relative F, total mortality (Z), and catch.
- Identify and comment on changes in survey and fishery indicators (relative to the 2019 TRAC).
- Determine if there is a need to revisit the 2018 TRAC advice.
- Report on the progress in the development of the DLMTTools approach in reference to the timeline drafted by TMGC (Fall 2019)

Haddock:

- Update the following biological and fishery indicators of the state of haddock in the eastern GB management area with 2019-2020 data: condition factor, swept area survey biomass indices, fishery and survey catch at length and age, relative F, total mortality (Z), and catch.
- Identify and comment on changes in survey and fishery indicators (relative to the 2019 TRAC).
- Provide catch advice for 2021 by evaluating the 2020 quota, and comparing relative F values, weights at age and survey trends.

Yellowtail Flounder:

- Apply the benchmark assessment (i.e., empirical approach) for yellowtail flounder, update results for the latest information from fisheries, including discard estimates and research surveys, and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
- Provide catch advice for 2020 based on the empirical approach for a range of exploitation rates for 2020.
- Describe any adjustments to the benchmark assessment model applied during the TRAC, including impacts on the advice given to TMGC.
- Consistent with 2019 TSR, update and comment on trends in relative F, and total mortality (Z).
- Review analyses of catchability to determine if a new estimate of Q for yellowtail is appropriate to incorporate into the assessment and describe the implications of this new estimate on the range of exploitation rates used for catch advice by TRAC.
- Explain the approach used to determine the average quota/biomass ratio and develop criteria used to determine when TRAC will recommend changes to current approach to providing catch advice.
- Discuss potential of providing multi-year catch advice and provide recommendations to the TMGC on its appropriateness.

Allocation Shares:

- Review the biomass distribution relative to the U.S./Canada boundary, update results with the 2019 survey information, and apply the allocation shares formula.

Other:

- Report on any changes to the surveys that might impact the assessments such as changes to vessels, timing, area coverage, etc. Describe any potential impacts of these changes.
- Provide an update, if any are available, on targeted research that would help identify mechanisms contributing to changes in stock productivity
- Report on progress of the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group
- Draft terms of reference for the 2021 TRAC assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Atlantic Cod, Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder.
- Update on planning and research progress for upcoming benchmarks/research assessments
- Discuss, as appropriate, the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions in each country on achieving or completing work on any ToRs, including any alternatives to address data shortfalls

Expected Publications

- **TRAC Transboundary Status Reports** for the Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, Eastern Georges Bank Cod and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder management units.
- **TRAC Reference Documents** for Allocation Shares

- **TRAC Proceedings** of meeting discussion.

Participation

- 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
- Public and stakeholders/rightsholders