

2022 Terms of Reference

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

July 12-14, 2022

Virtual

EGB Cod, EGB Haddock, and GB YT Flounder

Meeting Chair: Paul Rago

TRAC Co-chairs: Tara McIntyre (Canada) and Talya ten Brink (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 Georges Bank management area with previously missing 2020-2021 data, as well as available 2021-2022 data: condition factor, swept area survey biomass indices, fishery and survey catch at length and age, relative F, total mortality (Z), and catch.
- Provide an update on any recent assessments for bordering or overlapping stocks
- Compare the length-weight, growth and maturity assumptions in DLMtool against the available survey data. Determine if the assumptions remain valid.
- Comment on changes in survey and fishery indicators and provide advice within the range identified by the Management Procedures selected by TMGC.
- Develop criteria to determine when DLM outputs would be considered invalid.

Haddock:

- Update the following biological and fishery indicators of the state of haddock in the Eastern Georges Bank management area with previously missing 2020-2021 data, as well as available 2021-2022 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 2021 TRAC).
- If available for Eastern Georges Bank management area, provide catch advice for 2023 based on the research track assessment model.
 - One year of projections
- If the research track assessment cannot be applied, comment on applying the 2021 TRAC's 2022 catch advice for 2023 and consider information available from the EGB Haddock Research Track working group report and peer review report.
- Recommend fishing reference points based on the EGB haddock analytical assessment.

Yellowtail Flounder:

- Update results for the latest information from NMFS and DFO fisheries survey, including discard estimates and research surveys, and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
- Provide catch advice for 2023 based on the limiter approach and exploitation rate (i.e. ratio of 2023 quota /2022 survey biomass). Describe any adjustments to the limiter, including impacts on the advice given to TMGC.
- Update and comment on trends in realized exploitation, relative F, and total mortality (Z)
- Examine available results funded by the research set aside program that could provide context to the TRAC catch advice.

Allocation Shares:

- Review the biomass distribution relative to the U.S./Canada boundary, and update results with the 2021 survey information.

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.
- 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
- Update on the Atlantic Cod research track working group.
- Draft terms of reference for the 2023 TRAC assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Atlantic Cod, Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder.

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 and Eastern Georges Bank haddock

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