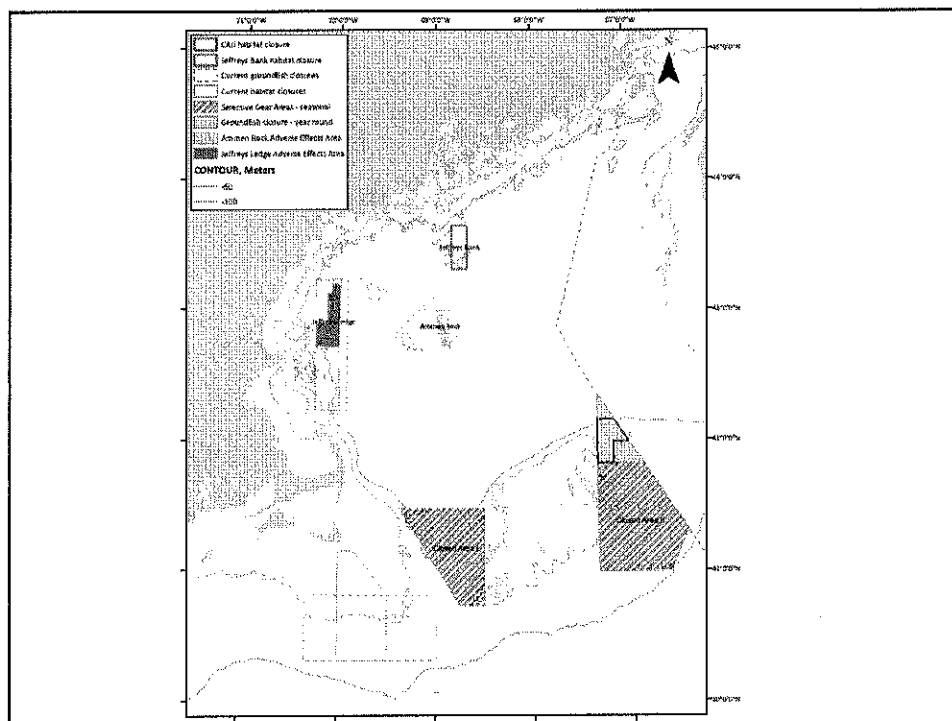


Groundfish Oversight Committee

New Bedford, MA
September 19, 2012

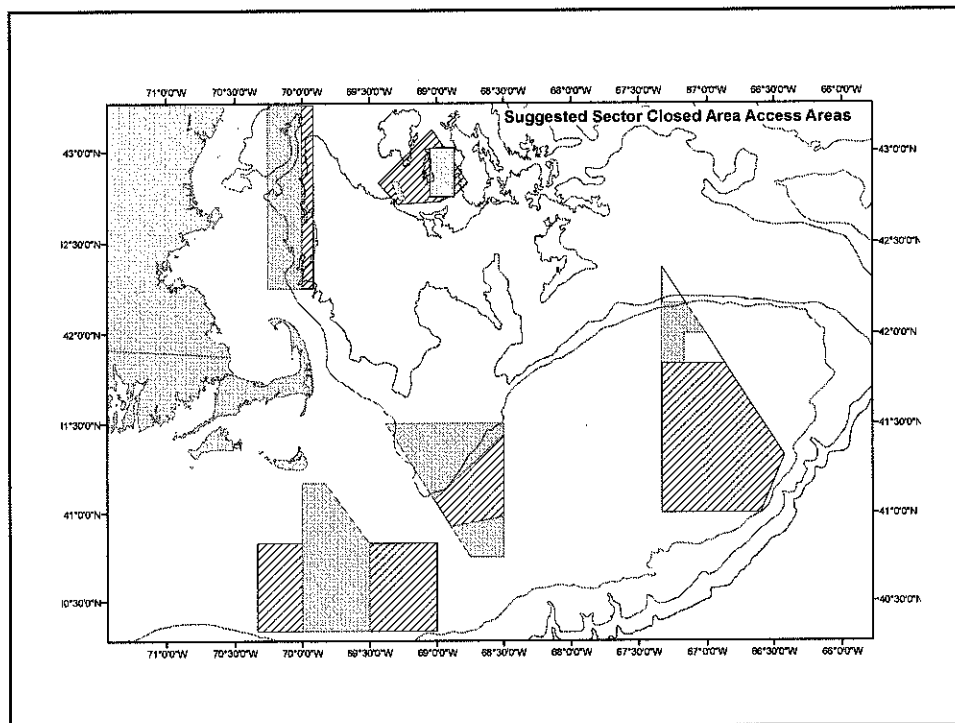
Closed Area Access

- Expect low ACLs in FY 2013 for many stocks
- Committee passed motion to allow access to many groundfish closed areas
 - CAI and CAII: seasonal, specific gears
 - NLCA, WGOM, Cashes ledge: year round, all groundfish gears
- Purpose: increase access to pollock, redfish, GB haddock ,etc.



Issues

- Because motion alters habitat areas, would require an amendment and EIS
- Not possible to complete an amendment and EIS in time to affect FY 2013 fishing year
- Alternative:
 - Allow sectors to request narrowly defined access
 - Incorporate into sector Ops Plans



TMGC Recommendations

- EGB Cod: 600 mt (96 mt US, 16%)
 - Average of neutral risk of exceeding Fref based on rho-adjusted catches
- EGB Haddock: 10,400 mt (3,952 mt, 38%)
 - Neutral risk of exceeding Fref
- GB Yellowtail Flounder: 500 mt (215 mt, 43%)
 - Lower than neutral risk of exceeding Fref, partly accounts for retrospective pattern

ABCs/ACLs

	Groundfish Catch		Groundfish
	FY2010	FY2011	ACL
Stock			
GB cod	2,829.7	3,542.0	637
GOM cod	5,497.1	7,333.2	3,195
GB Haddock	8,340.2	5,354.8	26,196
GOM Haddock	774.0	677.3	261
	757.6		102
GB Yellowtail Flounder		950.2	181
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	171.9	276.5	479
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	596.7	722.9	495
Fluke	1,536.4	1,574.3	1,405
Winter Flounder	725.3	910.2	692

ABCs/ACLs

	Groundfish Catch		Groundfish
	FY2010	FY2011	ACL
Stock			
GB Winter Flounder	1,391.7	1,888.1	3,384
GOM Winter Flounder	166.1	149.3	7150
SNE Winter Flounder	47.4	95.4	337
Redfish	2,181.3	2,215.4	9823
White Hake	2,259.6	2,852.8	3283
Pellock	5,601.1	7,310.4	12,791
Northern Windowpane	153.5	158.4	112
Southern Windowpane	73.6	63.9	102
Ocean Pout	65.2	49.6	197
Habitat	27.8	38.7	40
Waifish	22.4	31.7	62

Monitoring

PDT Progress

- Working with GMRI to consider “Catch proportional monitoring”
 - Higher coverage rates on trips that produce more discards (Rate or total? By stock or overall?)
 - Issues of stratification, bias, mechanism to implement need further development
- Related issue: ASM for trips that rarely encounter groundfish
- Evidence of monitoring effects

Next Steps

- What does evidence of monitoring effect imply about discards?
- Resolve two studies and bring forward coverage level alternatives
 - October Committee meeting
- Fallback: recommend how existing standard should be applied and continue work going forward

Questions for Committee

- Should small amounts of ACE be subject to the same monitoring standards as larger amounts?
- Is the goal of sector monitoring to make sure that sectors do not exceed their ACE, or to make sure that catch estimates are accurate and precise?
- Focusing observer coverage on vessels that generate the most discards may shift the burden of observer coverage from some groups of vessels to others. What does the Committee think of the equity issues?