

Groundfish #1



New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2010
TO: Science and Statistical Committee
FROM: Paul Howard, Director
SUBJECT: **Terms of reference – Development of ABC Recommendations to Council; Review Northeast Multispecies Acceptable Biological Catches (Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder)**

Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder

GARM III attempted to assess GOM winter flounder but none of the alternative assessment models was accepted by the review panel. Panelists concluded "...it is highly likely that biomass is below B_{MSY}, and that there is a substantial probability that it is below ½ B_{MSY}." The SSC set the FY 2010 – FY 2012 ABC as 75 percent of the three-year average catch.

In June 2010, the Council asked the SSC to examine any recent fisheries independent and fisheries dependent data collected since GARM III for GOM winter flounder and to evaluate whether this new information would affect their current ABC recommendation for GOM winter flounder. In August, 2010, the SSC reviewed data provided by the Groundfish PDT as well as a suggested approach for setting the ABC. The SSC asked the PDT to provide additional information.

Terms of Reference for the review of the GOM winter flounder ABCs FY 2010 – 2012 (note the addition of 2010):

1. Review GOM winter flounder catches for 2009 and additional survey information collected since GARM III and evaluate whether this information affects the current ABC recommendation. If so, provide an updated ABC recommendation for FY 2010 – 2012.

References:

1. TOR memorandum to the SSC from Paul Howard
2. Steve Cadrin memo dated September 20, 2010: ABC recommendations for Pollock, Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder, Southern Windowpane Flounder, Northern Windowpane Flounder, Ocean Pout, and Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder
3. Groundfish PDT memo dated October 28, 2010
4. Groundfish PDT document for Gulf of Maine winter flounder (undated attachment from the Groundfish PDT memo dated August 6, 2010)
5. GOM winter flounder powerpoint presented at the August, 2010 SSC meeting