

Framework Adjustment 46

New England Fishery
Management Council
April 28, 2011

Overview

- Background
 - Brief data review
 - Framework purpose
- Alternatives Under Consideration
- Summary of Impacts
 - Biological
 - Economic
 - Bycatch

Decision Needed

Identification the proposed action

Data Overview

- Haddock catches primarily come from MWT fleet on GB in late summer/fall
- Estimates of recent catches on GB range from ~50 to ~280 mt
- Discards of haddock are low since 2006
- Appears to be decline in catches not brought on board in 2010 (“slippage”)

FW 46 Purpose

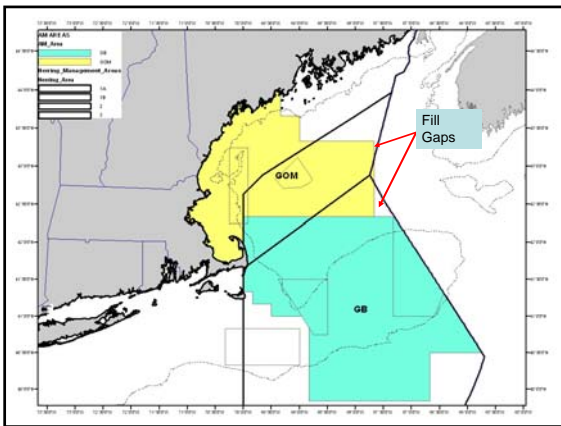
- (1) To maximize the chance for Georges Bank (Area 3) herring TAC to be caught;
- (2) To provide incentives to fish offshore;
- (3) To provide incentives to fish in a manner, at times, and in areas when and where haddock bycatch is none to low; and
- (4) To reduce the impact of a haddock cap on the entire herring fishery.

Option 1: No Action

- Combined cap of 0.2% of GOM and GB haddock ABC
- Only haddock catches that are documented count against the cap (no expansion to overall catch)
- Only catches by Category A and B permits are counted.
- When cap is reached all herring permits limited to 2,000 lbs. herring in most of GOM and on GB.

Option 2: Stock Specific 1% Committee Preferred Alternative

- Applies to MWT only
- Stock-specific cap of 1% of GOM and GB haddock
- Observer data expanded to estimate of total catch
- Portions of haddock stock area closed if cap reached
- Reporting changes



Option 3: Other Sub-Components

- No specific haddock sub-ACL for the herring fishery
- Council action needed if other sub-components catch exceeds amount allocated (*currently 4 percent in EEZ*)
- Sub-options would adopt a preplanned response to address an overage more quickly

Option 3 Sub-Options

- Option 2 implemented in immediately following year if stock-specific trigger exceeded
- Once adopted, Option 2 stays in place
- Two options for trigger:
 - MWT exceeds 1% and other sub-components total exceeds 4%
 - MWT exceeds 1%

Biological Impacts - Haddock

- GOM
 - Option 1: Negligible; slight overfishing risk if entire cap caught in GOM
 - Option 2: Negligible; benefit to stock specific cap
 - Option 3: Negligible; but risk slightly higher (w/o sub-options)
- GB: Negligible

Biological Impacts: Herring

- Option 1: Negligible, but reduced mortality because Area 3 TAC unlikely to be caught
- Option 2: Negligible, but Area 3 TAC more likely to be caught
- Option 3: Negligible, but Area 3 TAC more likely to be caught

Economic Impacts - Groundfish

- Option 1: Negligible
- Option 2 and 3: Negligible, unless increased MWT effort displaces groundfish fishing activity
 - Preliminary examination of observed groundfish activity near MWT tow locations did not identify this effect

Economic Impacts – Herring

- Option 1
 - Greatest potential for lost herring yield from Area 3
 - AM impacts all elements of herring fishery without regard to where haddock caught or what component caught haddock
- Option 2
 - Less risk of lost herring yield from Area 3
 - Cap/AM affect group most likely to catch it
 - Does not close entire GOM/GB area

Economic Impacts – Herring (cont.)

- Option 3
 - Least risk of lost herring yield
 - If sub-option triggered, similar to Option 2

Bycatch

- M-S Act definition:
"The term "bycatch" means fish which are harvested in a fishery, but which are not sold or kept for personal use, and includes economic discards and regulatory discards."
- National Standard 9
"Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch."

Assessing Practicability

- (1) Population effects for the bycatch
- (2) Ecological effects due to changes in the bycatch of that species (effects on other species in the ecosystem).
- (3) Changes in the bycatch of other species of fish and the resulting population and ecosystem effects.
- (4) Effects on marine mammals and birds.
- (5) Changes in fishing, processing, disposal, and marketing costs.
- (6) Changes in fishing practices and behavior of fishermen.
- (7) Changes in research, administration, and enforcement costs and management effectiveness.
- (8) Changes in the economic, social, or cultural value of fishing activities and non-consumptive uses of fishery resources.
- (9) Changes in the distribution of benefits and costs.
- (10) Social effects.

Option 1

- Lowest nominal haddock catch authorized
- No firm control on total haddock catch – only on catch observed
- Dependent on observer coverage
- Large impact on herring fishing activity
- Greatest incentive to avoid haddock

Option 2

- More firm control on haddock catch since observations expanded to total catch
- More likely to harvest herring TAC than Option 1

Option 3

- Least direct control on haddock catch (unless sub-option adopted)
- Largest possible haddock catch
- Not as much incentive to avoid haddock (unless sub-option included)

Questions?
