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Transboundary Management Guidance Committee

Guidance Document 2011/01 Addendum

The Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), established in 2000, is a government – industry committee comprised of representatives from Canada and the United States. The Committee's purpose is to develop guidance in the form of harvest strategies, resource sharing and management processes for Canadian and U.S. management authorities for the cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder transboundary resources on Georges Bank.

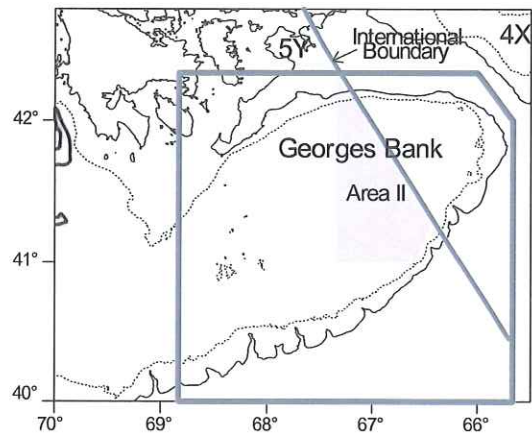
In September of 2011 the TMGC's guidance for the 2012 fishing year was conveyed to both countries. The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) met in September of 2011 to consider the recommendation of the TMGC, but based on advice on the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) level from its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Council rejected the guidance of the TMGC and recommended a higher catch level for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder.

In light of the Council's recommendation, U.S. managers requested the TMGC reconsider its guidance for the 2012 TAC for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. Discussions relied upon the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) Status Report, 2011/01, and the mutually-agreed upon TMGC harvest strategy for the stock. This addendum documents the guidance resulting from further consideration by the TMGC (via teleconference) on October 6, 2011.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder [5Zhjmn; 522,525, 551, 552, 561, 562]

Original Guidance:

The TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined Canada/U.S. TAC for Georges Bank yellowtail for the 2012 fishing year is 900 mt. The re-emergence of the retrospective pattern led the TMGC to consider sensitivity analyses consistent with the TRAC advice. A 2012 TAC of 900 mt is less than the low probability catch of exceeding F_{ref} from the approved model (Split Series). With this catch, biomass is expected to increase. The annual allocation shares between countries for 2012 are based on a combination of historical catches (10% weighting) and resource distribution based on trawl surveys (90% weighting). Combining these factors entitles the U.S. to 49% and Canada to 51% of the TAC, resulting in a national quota of 441 mt for the U.S. and 459 mt for Canada.



Basis for Reconsideration:

Based on the TRAC advice, and in consideration of the SSC recommendation on the ABC and U.S. industry needs, the Council recommended a combined Canada/ U.S. TAC



for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder of up to 1,150 mt for the 2012 fishing year. As a result, U.S. managers requested the TMGC reconsider its guidance for the 2012 TAC for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder.

Revised Guidance:

The TMGC concluded that an appropriate combined Canada/ U.S. TAC for Georges Bank yellowtail for the 2012 fishing year is 1,150 mt. The TRAC advice indicated a wide range of catch values for 2012 and concluded that catch in the range of 900-1,400 mt would balance the risk of exceeding F_{ref} and the desire to maintain stock biomass. Based upon the catch advice from the approved model (Split Series), a 2012 TAC of 1,150 mt would result in a low probability of exceeding F_{ref} and biomass would be expected to increase. A catch of 1,150 mt is consistent with the TRAC advice to consider the additional source of uncertainty in the stock assessment (due to the retrospective pattern) because it is lower than the Split Series catch levels (for F_{ref}), and in the lower range of catches relative to changes in median biomass.

The annual allocation shares between countries for 2012 are based on a combination of historical catches (10% weighting) and resource distribution based on trawl surveys (90% weighting). Combining these factors entitles the U.S. to 49% and Canada to 51% of the TAC, resulting in a national quota of 564 mt for the U.S., and 586 mt for Canada.