



New England Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 31, 2012
TO: Groundfish Oversight Committee
FROM: Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT)
SUBJECT: **FW 48; PDT Meeting October 12, 2012 and Conference Call, October 24, 2012**

1. The Groundfish Plan Development Team met October 12, 2012 and held a conference call on October 24, 2012. PDT members discussed the distribution of ACL sub-components for FY 2013 – 2015 and the timing of scallop fishery access to the GB closed areas. Participating in the meeting and/or call were Tom Nies, Rachel Feeney, and Fiona Hogan (NEFMC), Chad Demarest, Evan Bing-Sawyer, and Paul Nitschke (NEFSC), Sarah Heil, Melissa Hooper, Michael Ruccio, and Dan Caless (NERO), Sally Roman (SMAST) and Steve Correia (MASS DMF).

ABC/ACL Distribution

2. Groundfish ABCs and ACLs are distributed to various components of the fishery. The ABC is first divided into fishery components, and then the ACLs are set by adjusting the ABC components downwards to account for management uncertainty. The amount of the ABC reserved for the state waters component and the other sub-component can be adjusted when the specifications are set along with the management uncertainty buffer used for each fishery component. These values were first established in FW 44 and were adjusted in FW 47 in a few instances. Components of the fishery with sub-ACLs – such as the amount of GOM cod allocated to the commercial and recreational groundfish fisheries, or the amount of yellowtail flounder allocated to the scallop fishery – are specified by the Council and were not revisited by the PDT.

3. The PDT first discussed the management uncertainty buffer – the difference between the ABC and the ACL. Most groundfish stocks and components use a buffer of 5 percent. GB yellowtail flounder uses a buffer of 3 percent, and SNEMA winter flounder uses a buffer of 7 percent. The 3 percent buffer was originally adopted for GB yellowtail flounder because there are no state waters catches, observer coverage in the US/CA area had been high (reducing uncertainty about discards), and there are in-season measures that can be adjusted to reduce the probability that the overall ACL is exceeded. The 7 percent buffer is also used for other stocks that are discarded (windowpane flounder, ocean pout, wolffish) and for

recreational catches of GOM haddock and cod. This increased buffer is because of the increased uncertainty in estimating catches of these stocks, which are almost entirely composed of discards.

4. The PDT discussed increasing the management uncertainty buffer for all stocks because of evidence that the behavior of fishermen on observed and unobserved trips is different. The rationale would be to increase the buffer because of suspected bias in discard estimates that could result in an underestimate of discards. Such an approach, however, would require an estimate of the amount of suspected bias in order to establish the correct buffer. The PDT has been unable to identify this bias estimate. In addition, total catches of most allocated stocks have been below 90 percent of the total allocated ACL – in essence reducing the risk that the actual catch exceeds the ACL if there is a bias in the discard estimates.

5. A second reason to consider a change in the management uncertainty buffer is because FW 48 may modify the minimum size limits for many groundfish species. This could lead to a change in selectivity to younger fish. If the change in selectivity does occur, then ABCs/ACLs that are set assuming a different selectivity pattern may be too high. This issue was examined by the PDT for a few illustrative stocks and the analysis suggested that in the short term this is not a major concern as long as the shift is in the range of one year or so. Over the long-term, however, a shift in selectivity will affect potential yields and status determination criteria. As long as assessment updates are performed within a few years, the shift should be detected and quotas can be adjusted accordingly.

6. For these reasons the PDT does not recommend a general increase in management uncertainty buffers. With a few exceptions the PDT agreed that the management uncertainty buffer should be 3 percent for stocks with no state waters catch, 7 percent for zero possession stocks, and 5 percent for most other stocks/components of the fishery based on the reasons above. Using this rationale, the PDT recommends a decrease in the uncertainty buffer for GB winter flounder to 3 percent (from 5 percent). Similar to GB yellowtail flounder, this stock does not have a state waters component. The PDT also recommends reducing the uncertainty buffer for groundfish catches of SNE/MA yellowtail flounder to 5 percent (from 7 percent). The higher buffer was originally adopted because the target TAC for this stock had been exceeded for several years. Recent catches have been below the ACL so an adjustment seems warranted. The buffer for the scallop fishery remains unchanged at 7 percent because nearly all the catch is discarded.

7. The PDT next reviewed FY 2010 and 2011 catches of each stock to determine if changes were needed to the amount of the ABC expected to be caught by other federal waters sub-components, or to the amount assumed for state waters catches. Catches were examined to determine if they exceeded the amount assigned, and to determine if the average FY 2010-2011 catch exceeded the amount that would be deducted from the ABC in FY 2013 if there were no changes in the percent allowed. The PDT's recommendations are summarized below (Table 6).

a. No changes are recommended for GB haddock, GOM haddock, SNEMA yellowtail flounder, GOM winter flounder, SNEMA winter flounder, GOM/GB windowpane flounder, SNE/MA windowpane flounder, ocean pout, or Atlantic wolffish.

b. GOM and GB cod: No changes are recommended at the present time for GOM cod and GB cod. If the ABC for either of these stocks is less than 2,000 mt, an increase in the percentage allowed for state waters catches may be necessary.

c. GB yellowtail flounder: The other sub-component catches of GB yellowtail flounder were 43 mt in FY 2011. Of this amount, 38.5 mt was from otter trawl trips using 3 inch mesh – gear used in the squid and whiting fisheries. Most of this – 34 mt – was attributed to the whiting fishery. This is

similar to the catch from FY 2010, when the other sub-components catch was 34 mt. The average for the two years is 39 mt. The other sub-components catch would need to be increased to 18 percent of the ABC in FY 2013 to cover the average catch, and 20 percent to cover the FY 2011 catch. The PDT recommends increasing the other subcomponents amount to 18 percent (based on a U.S. ABC of 215 mt that would be consistent with the TMGC recommendation of 500 mt for a combined U.S. and Canada catch). This value is large enough that should these catches continue the Council may need to consider a sub-ACL for the squid/whiting fisheries or other measures that may reduce catches of GB yellowtail flounder (such as requiring use of a raised footrope trawl in the whiting fishery on GB).

d. CC/GOM yellowtail flounder: State waters catches in FY 2011 were 3.5 times the amount allowed for state waters catches. The PDT recommends increasing the amount allowed for state waters to 6 percent. The PDT was concerned that an expected increase in scallop fishing activity in SA 521 in FY 2013 may result in an increase in the catch in the other sub-components category. The PDT discussed this issue with the Scallop PDT. Scallop effort in SA 521 is expected to increase and the Scallop PDT estimated that CC/GOM yellowtail flounder catches may double as a result. An adjustment to the other sub-components does not appear necessary for FY 2013- 2015.

e. Plaice: Only ten percent of the other sub-components amount was caught in FY 2011. The reduction in the ABC/ACL for FY 2013 suggests that state waters catches might exceed the current amount. The PDT recommends reducing the other sub-components by 2 percent (to 2 percent of the ABC), increase the state waters amount by 1 percent to (to 2 percent of the ABC), and increase the groundfish amount by 1 percent.

f. Witch flounder: Catches in state waters were 1.6 times the amount expected, and other sub-component catches were 2.9 times the amount expected. The state waters catches seemed unusual, as witch flounder is usually found in deeper water. The PDT examined this catch estimate and concluded it was accurate, and further noted that witch flounder are caught in the DMF inshore survey. The other sub-components amount is being driven by an increase in discards in the squid and whiting fisheries, which discarded 62 mt in FY 2011. This may be the result of an increase in the squid quota from 2010 to 2011. In order to account for these catches the PDT recommends increasing the other-sub-components category to 15 percent (from 4 percent). This is large enough that the Council may need to consider adopting an additional sub-ACL for this stock in a future action.

g. GB winter flounder: Fifty percent of the other sub-components amount was caught in FY 2011. The PDT recommends reducing this share to 3 percent for FY 2013-2015.

h. GOM winter flounder: The PDT discussed the possibility of reducing the state waters sub-component since FY 2011 catches were only about 70 percent of the amount expected. If FY 2011 catches were similar to catches expected in FY 2013, the state waters sub-component could be reduced. However, the ASMFC is considering an increase in the state waters trip limit from 250 lbs. to 500 lbs., consistent with the increase in the ABC/ACL and change in stock status. Given the likelihood that the state waters trip limit will increase this year, the PDT does not recommend changing the percentage for state waters until the effect of the trip limit change can be evaluated.

i. Redfish: Only 4 percent of the other-sub-component amount was caught in FY 2011. The PDT recommends reducing this share to 2 percent. The state waters allowance was also not caught, but the PDT does not recommended reducing the share below the current 1 percent.

- j. White hake: Less than 10 percent of the allowance for state waters and other sub-components amounts were caught. The PDT recommends reducing the state waters allowance to 1 percent and the other sub-components amount to 2 percent. These changes may need to be revisited if the upcoming assessment results in a dramatic change in stock status.
- k. Pollock: Ninety percent of the state waters allowance was caught in FY 2011, but only 52.5 percent of the other sub-components amount. The PDT recommends increasing the state waters allowance to 6 percent and reducing the other sub-components allocation to 7 percent.
- l. SNE/MA windowpane flounder: No changes are recommended at this time. If additional sub-ACLs are adopted for the scallop fishery and/or other non-groundfish fisheries, the percentage for the other sub-component will be adjusted.
- m. GOM/GB windowpane flounder: Scallop fishery catches of this stock are expected to increase to 50 mt in FY 2013. For this reason, the PDT recommends increasing the other sub-components to 29 percent. If scallop fishery catches continue to account for 25 percent of the catch, the Council may need to consider a scallop fishery sub-ACL for this stock.
- n. Halibut: Only 18 percent of the state waters allowance was caught in FY 2011. The PDT recommends reducing this estimate to 40 percent.

Timing of Scallop Fishery Access to GB Closed Areas

- 8. Scallop FW 24 will be a joint action that considers changing the dates that scallop vessels are allowed access to the GB access areas (CAI, CAII, NLCA). The PDT reviewed the following sources of information to evaluate the impact of the alternatives on groundfish resources (primarily yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder).
 - a. “An analysis of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder monthly catch rates in closed area 1 and closed area 2 from the bycatch survey”; PDT analysis prepared by Steve Correia. This report uses data from “Optimizing the Georges Bank Scallop Fishery by Maximizing Meat Yield and Minimizing Bycatch; Final Report prepared for the 2011 Sea Scallop Research Set Aside”; Smolowitz, Ronald, Kathryn Goetting, Farrell Davis, and Dan Ward; 2011.
 - b. “An analysis of Georges Bank windowpane monthly catch per tow in Closed Area 2 from the scallop dredge bycatch survey”; PDT analysis prepared by Steve Correia. This report uses data from Smolowitz et al. 2011.
 - c. Scallop fishery time/area closure to reduce yellowtail flounder bycatch on Georges Bank in 2007; Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat Science Response 2007/001.
 - d. Evaluation of Closed Areas Using Yellowtail Flounder Tagging Studies; summary of a presentation given by Dr. Steve Cadrin at the Northeast Regional Tagging Symposium, 2008
 - e. NMFS/NOAA EFH Source Documents for yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder
- 9. The PDT’s discussion focused on two issues. The first was the likely effects of changing the access dates on catches of yellowtail and windowpane flounder. The second was on the likely effects of

changing the access dates on the effects of scallop fishing on yellowtail flounder spawning activity. The two yellowtail stocks that may be most affected by the changes are SNE/MA yellowtail flounder (NLCA) and GB yellowtail flounder (CAI and CAII). GB YTF is overfished and in a rebuilding program; overfishing is occurring. Recent recruitment is the lowest on record (TRAC 2012). SNEMA YTF is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring (SAW 54, 2012). Compared to historic levels, the stock is at a low stock size, partly as the result of poor recruitment for the last 20 years. Northern windowpane flounder is overfished and overfishing was occurring in 2010.

Discards

10. The main source for information on seasonal differences in scallop dredge catches of yellowtail and windowpane flounder are the two papers prepared by Steve Correia (attached). These papers analyze data from an ongoing experiment that uses commercial scallop dredges to sample stations in CAI and CAII. The conclusions are comparable to a different analytic approach used by the Scallop PDT. Because of inconsistent sampling of stations in CAI, the PDT does not believe that conclusions can be drawn about seasonal changes in catch rates. Only some of the stations in this area were sampled each month and they cover only part of the area fished by the scallop industry. In CAII, most of the stations were sampled each month and generally the stations not sampled were in areas that are not typically fished by scallop vessels. The stations used for the analyses are shown in Figure 1. The results cited below are only applicable for the consistently sampled stations.

11. In CAII, the experimental results indicate that yellowtail flounder catch rates per tow are lowest in the May – July period, and are highest in the August – October period. Pairwise comparisons of catch by month indicate that catch rates in August – October are significantly different (higher) than catch rates from March through July. Catch rates in May/June/July are not significantly lower than catch rates in March and April. Figure 2 gives a quick overview of these results.

12. In CAI, the months with the highest discard rates are May, June, July, and December; months with lower rate are April, August, and September. Because of small sample sizes and inconsistent sampling, the PDT does not believe that statistical inferences are sound for this area.

13. In CAII, windowpane flounder catch rates peaked in March. Other months where catches were high included April and December. Windowpane flounder catches were lowest from June through September. Figure 3 gives a quick overview of these results. There were insufficient data to draw conclusions for CAI.

14. There is no new information for the seasonal trends of yellowtail flounder catches in the NLCA. Analyses in FW 11 (1999) concluded that catch rates were highest in the spring and early summer.

Spawning of Yellowtail Flounder

15. Numerous sources document that yellowtail flounder spawning on GB peaks in May and June on Georges Bank. There is little detailed information on the location of spawning aggregations. There is no information on whether fishing activity – including scallop dredges - interferes with spawning behavior of yellowtail flounder. This is different than the case for cod, where some studies suggest that fishing activity disrupts spawning activity.

16. Since the mid-1990's, the NMFS surveys have indicated that yellowtail flounder is primarily located in survey stratum 16, which overlaps CAII. In the last four or five years there has been some expansion into stratum 13. If yellowtail flounder aggregated in CAII during spawning season, though, the

expectation would be that the catch rates in the ongoing experiment would peak in May and June. This was not the case; as shown in Figure 2, catches in May and June were lower than in other months. While a high percentage of fish in these months were developing or ripe and running, the experiment suggests that spawning aggregations may be located elsewhere.

Recommendations

17. The PDT was advised that FW 24 will consider the following options for the timing of access to the GB access areas. Some of the options are considering slight variations of the dates shown.

- a. No Action (access allowed June 15 – January 31)
- b. Modify dates:
 - i. Option 1: areas closed October 1 – April 30
 - ii. Option 2: areas close September 1 – November 30
 - iii. Option 3A: NLCA closed September 1 – November 30 and March 1 – April 15; CAI and CAII closed September 1 – April 15
 - iv. Option 3B: CAII closed August 15 – November 15; no closure for CAI and the NLCA
- c. No access date restrictions

18. For CAII, From the standpoint of groundfish bycatch, the months of May, June, and July appear to be those most likely to minimize catches of YTF and windowpane flounder. For YTF, the months of August – November should be avoided to reduce catches of YTF. For WINP, the months of March and April should be avoided.

19. At present, scallop fishery catches of GOM/GB windowpane flounder are small but not inconsequential. In FY 2011, catches were estimated as 33 mt out of the total catch of 161 mt, or 20 pct. The scallop experiment catch per tow in CAII increased by a factor of ten in March and April when compared to June and July. This is a concern as the ACL was exceeded in FY 2011 and the stock is overfished. It is possible that allowing dredge activity in CAII in March and April could accelerate the need to allocate a sub-ACL for this stock to the scallop fishery.

20. From the standpoint of avoiding any possible interference with YTF spawning, the months to avoid fishing in GB access areas are May/June. However, to date the PDT has not found research on the impacts of fishing activity on YTF spawning and no research is available that identifies specific spawning locations within the CAI or CAII scallop access areas. The PDT also notes that FW 48 will consider allowing groundfish sectors to request access to parts of CAI, CAII, and the NLCA between May 1 and February 15; the PDT is doubtful that scallop dredges will have greater impacts on spawning activity than groundfish trawls.

21. Scallop management options 1 and 3A address concerns over GOM/GB windowpane flounder to some extent. . Options 2, 3A, and 3B would reduce activity in CAII during the period when yellowtail flounder catch rates would be expected to be highest.

22. In the context of a system that allocates a sub-ACL to the scallop fishery, it can be argued that the seasonal differences in catch rates are unimportant as long as the scallop fishery is held to the sub-ACL through effective AMs. The PDT notes, however, that the Council may base the allocation on the amount the scallop fishery is expected to catch. In this case, then, moving the fishery to periods of lower catches may benefit the groundfish fishery by reducing the expected catch. More problematic is the difference in accountability between the two fisheries. If the scallop fishery exceeds its sub-ACL, and this leads to an overage of the overall ACL, the provisions of the US/CA Understanding require a 1 for 1 reduction in the

quota the following year. This immediately results in a reduction in the quota available to the groundfish fleet, even if that fleet stayed within its sub-ACL. The scallop fishery AM, on the other hand, does not get implemented until the following year and while it may limit access to certain areas it does not necessarily reduce overall scallop fishing effort.

ASM Issues

ELM Sink Gillnet and Dogfish Longline Trips

23. At an earlier meeting the PDT agreed to examine data from ELM sink gillnet trips and longline trips to see if there are trips that are assigned observer coverage because they are sector trips, but that only catch limited amounts of groundfish. NERO provided plots of these trips by area and season (spring, summer, winter, fall). None of the trips in SA 537 or 539 caught more than 5 percent regulated groundfish.

24. With respect to ELM sink gillnet trips, the analysis showed there are differences between trips in SNE and those in the GOM/GB areas. In all seasons, the trips in the SNE area catch very little groundfish. This is not the case in the GOM/GB area. This is likely the result of both targeting behavior and relative groundfish abundance.

25. The PDT prepared a draft document that addresses the Committee's direction to create an alternative that would allow a different ASM coverage rate for these trips (see enclosure (1)). All of the observed trips in FY 2011 caught little groundfish. The document explains the issues that need to be addressed and offers suggested text. While this is one way to address the concern that ASM resources are being unnecessarily spent on these trips, an alternative approach would be to identify an exempted fishery for these trips. An exempted fishery consideration should examine trips from other years as well. The establishment of an exempted fishery would simplify some of the ASM issues, as these trips would no longer be considered sector trips.

26. With respect to bottom longline trips, there is not as clear a difference. Trips in the GOM and GB frequently catch groundfish. In the summer, there are trips in Cape Cod Bay and off Chatham that do not catch groundfish. Presumably these are trips targeting dogfish, but it does not appear a season/area criteria can easily identify these trips. The PDT noted that an exempted fishery has been proposed for these trips, and suggests that there is no longer a need to address the issue in FW 48.

27. There may be implications to this approach that need to be further explored. It is not clear what the implications are for discard estimates if different components of the fleet are allowed to target a different coverage rate.

ASM Coverage Standard

28. The PDT discussed the ASM coverage standard option that was to propose a coverage level sufficient to detect changes in monitoring effects. The PDT no longer believes this is a reasonable alternative for consideration and recommends it not be considered. The issue is that it is not clear that such a coverage level can be defined. The method used to detect monitoring effects rely trips that occur in certain sequences. In order to detect effects, a minimum number of these sequences must be analyzed.

Any identified coverage rate does not affect the number of trips taken and there is no certainty that the requisite number of sequences will occur. In addition, the PDT does not have a method for determining whether changes in monitoring effects (if observed) are statistically significant.

29. The PDT is concerned that this leaves FW 48 with one alternative to No Action for the level of ASM coverage. This alternative primarily clarifies how the CV standard is to be applied and acknowledges that accuracy needs to be considered, but gives little technical advice on how to do so. It could be argued that the use of the CV standard is not appropriate at all, since some of the PDT work on monitoring effects indicates that observed trips may be different than the unobserved trips. This would indicate the observed samples may not be from the same population and as a result a calculated CV may not be informative.

30. It is clear that additional work needs to be done on this issue, but there is insufficient time to do so before FW 48 needs to be approved. With the lack of a technical basis for defining the level of observer coverage the Committee may wish to consider a policy decision on the issue. The PDT work explored the interaction of discard rates, catches, CV, and possible bias. The Committee could use those analyses to inform a recommendation on a desired level of observer coverage.

31. The PDT has crafted another alternative for ASM coverage that would keep coverage at the level that NMFS can fund during FY 2013 in order to give another year to further explore defining an appropriate coverage level. This text is in enclosure (2). While this may be an imperfect solution, it would help define coverage for FY 2013.

32. The inability to resolve the issue of the appropriate coverage ASM level has frustrated the PDT. With the expected low ACLs in FY 2013, the incentives to discard constraining stocks may increase. If as a result discard estimates are biased, the long-term effects on the fishery may be larger than the cost of adequate ASM coverage.

Enclosures:

- (1) ASM Coverage Rates for ELM Sink Gillnet and Bottom Longline Trips
- (2) ASM Coverage Level Alternative
- (3) "An analysis of Georges Bank yellowtail flounder monthly catch rates in closed area 1 and closed area 2 from the bycatch survey"; PDT analysis prepare by Steve Correia. Separate document.
- (4) "An analysis of Georges Bank windowpane flounder monthly catch rates in closed area 2 from the bycatch survey"; PDT analysis prepare by Steve Correia. Separate document.

Table 1 – FY 2011 Northeast Multispecies Catch Detail (mt live weight)

Stock	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs; (with accountability measures (AMs))							sub-components: No AMs	
	Total Groundfish Catch	Groundfish Fishery	Sector	Common Pool	Recreational*	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery**	Scallop Fishery	State Water	Other
	A to G	A+B+C	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
GB cod	3,405.9	3,276.7	3,215.3	61.5				38.9	90.2
GOM cod	6,347.1	6,101.8	4,368.0	93.4	1,640.3			216.4	28.8
GB Haddock	4,252.0	3,840.5	3,828.8	11.7		101.8		3.9	305.8
GOM Haddock	737.6	724.1	483.7	1.9	238.5	0.2		4.9	8.4
GB Yellowtail Flounder	1,117.0	990.0	988.0	2.0			83.9	0.0	43.2
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	514.9	376.2	364.0	12.2			110.9	1.1	26.7
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	853.1	806.5	795.1	11.4				38.5	8.1
Plaice	1,660.7	1,636.1	1,631.6	4.5				12.1	12.6
Witch Flounder	1,186.0	997.1	992.9	4.2				22.5	166.4
GB Winter Flounder	1,984.8	1,925.4	1,924.2	1.1				0.0	59.4
GOM Winter Flounder	287.3	160.8	158.2	2.6				113.3	13.2
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	298.7	93.9	86.9	7.0				40.0	164.9
Redfish	2,720.6	2,706.7	2,703.2	3.6				3.6	10.2
White Hake	3,035.5	3,028.5	3,014.4	14.1				2.6	4.4
Pollock	9,064.0	7,612.4	7,543.1	69.2				694.0	757.6
Northern Windowpane	191.3	156.5	156.2	0.3				0.0	34.8
Southern Windowpane	504.1	111.5	83.0	28.5				16.6	376.0
Ocean Pout	90.2	60.7	56.3	4.4				0.0	29.5
Halibut	52.1	42.6	41.4	1.2				7.1	2.5
Wolffish	33.0	32.9	32.2	0.7				0.0	0.1

Catch includes any FY 2010 carryover caught by sectors in FY 2011.

*Recreational estimates based on Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.

**Landings extrapolated from observer data.

Sector and common pool include estimate of missing dealer reports

Source: NMFS Northeast Regional Office; October 22, 2012

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Any value for a non-allocated species may include landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories. These are SNE winter flounder, northern windowpane, southern windowpane, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

Table 2 – FY 2011 Northeast Multispecies percent of components taken

Stock	Components with ACLs and sub-ACLs; (with accountability measures (AMs))							sub-components: No AMs	
	Total Groundfish*	Groundfish Fishery*	Sector*	Common Pool	Recreational**	Midwater Trawl Herring Fishery	Scallop Fishery	State Water	Other
GB cod	68.0	68.8	68.9	66.1				81.1	47.2
GOM cod	69.2	74.1	83.4	89.9	58.1			36.3	9.6
GB Haddock	1.3	-	0.0	6.3		32.0		1.1	22.3
GOM Haddock	57.7	59.4	52.6	24.3	77.4	1.7		54.6	24.1
GB Yellowtail Flounder	78.9	86.7	88.1	10.1			41.8	NA	59.1
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	76.7	67.3	84.3	10.2			135.2	15.6	98.9
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	78.9	78.3	79.4	42.1				384.8	19.3
Plaice	42.3	43.8	44.7	6.4				35.5	9.1
Witch Flounder	84.8	74.1	75.3	16.8				161.0	302.5
GB Winter Flounder	85.1	86.9	87.4	8.2				NA	53.5
GOM Winter Flounder	52.4	45.0	46.5	16.5				69.5	41.3
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	35.5	12.9	NA	NA				55.6	366.4
Redfish	25.7	26.9	27.0	9.9				4.3	3.1
White Hake	88.9	93.5	93.9	50.4				7.9	3.3
Pollock	46.1	43.0	42.8	66.6				90.3	52.4
Northern Windowpane	118.8	142.2	NA	NA				0.5	71.0
Southern Windowpane	224.0	72.4	NA	NA				829.1	544.9
Ocean Pout	35.7	25.4	NA	NA				0.0	268.5
Halibut	68.6	129.1	NA	NA				18.1	61.6
Wolffish	42.8	45.1	NA	NA				0.0	2.4

*The percent of the FY 2011 catch limits caught does not include any FY 2010 carryover caught by sectors in FY 2011. FY 2010 carryover caught is not applied to the FY 2011 ACL.

Any value for a non-allocated species may include landings of that stock; misreporting of species and/or stock area; and/or estimated landings (in lieu of missing reports) based on vessel histories. These are SNE winter flounder, northern windowpane, southern windowpane, ocean pout, halibut, and wolffish.

"-" for values greater than zero and less than 0.05

Source: NMFS Northeast Regional Office; October 22, 2012

Table 3 – FY 2011 Northeast Multispecies state waters catches (mt live weight)

Stock	Total			Commercial			Recreational		
	Catch	Landings	Discard	Catch	Landings ¹	Discard ²	Catch	Landings	Discard
	A+B+C+D	A+C	B+D	A+B	A	B	C+D	C	D
GB cod	38.9	38.9		38.9	38.9		0.0	0.0	NA*
GOM cod	216.4	216.4		216.4	216.4		-**	-**	NA*
GB Haddock	3.9	3.9		3.9	3.9		NA*	NA*	NA*
GOM Haddock	4.9	4.9		4.9	4.9		-**	-**	NA*
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	1.1	1.1		1.1	1.1				
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	38.5	38.5		38.5	38.5				
Plaice	12.1	12.1		12.1	12.1				
Witch Flounder	22.5	22.5		22.5	22.5				
GB Winter Flounder	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GOM Winter Flounder	113.3	76.9	36.3	22.4	22.4		90.8	54.5	36.3
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	40.0	32.1	7.9	24.9	24.9		15.1	7.2	7.9
Redfish	3.6	3.6		3.6	3.6				
White Hake	2.6	2.6		2.6	2.6				
Pollock	694.0	694.0		36.8	36.8		657.3	657.3	NA*
Northern Windowpane	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0				
Southern Windowpane	16.6	16.6		16.6	16.6				
Ocean Pout	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0				
Halibut	7.1	7.1		7.1	7.1				
Wolffish	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0				

*Estimates not applicable. Recreational amounts are not attributed to the ACL consistent with the most recent assessments for these stocks

**Some or all landings attributed to recreational sub-ACL for the stock, not the state sub-component.

¹CY 2012 commercial landings are estimated

FY 2011 GOM cod state recreational landings are estimated at 536.1 metric tons.

²Commercial discard estimate not available

FY 2011 GOM haddock state recreational landings are estimated at 12.3 metric tons.

Source: NMFS Northeast Regional Office; October 22, 2012

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 4 – FY 2011 Northeast Multispecies other-subcomponents catches (mt, live weight)

Stock	Total	SCALLOP ¹	FLUKE	HAGFISH	HERRING	'LOBSTER/ CRAB'	MENHADEN	MONK FISH	RED CRAB	RESEARCH
GB cod	90.2	5.7	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	12.3
GOM cod	28.8	-	0.6	0.0	2.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	8.7
GB Haddock	305.8	2.4	8.2	-	14.4**	2.3	-	0.1	-	18.1
GOM Haddock	8.4	-	0.0	0.0	2.6**	0.1	-	-	-	0.2
GB Yellowtail Flounder	43.2	-**	0.1	0.0	1.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	26.7	-**	8.5	-	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.4
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	8.1	2.9	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	2.5
Plaice	12.6	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.5
Witch Flounder	166.4	18.0	19.5	0.0	7.2	1.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	1.1
GB Winter Flounder	59.4	38.4	0.3	-	0.4	0.0	-	-	-	-
GOM Winter Flounder	13.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	-	-	-	0.2
SNE Winter Flounder	164.9	60.3	16.4	0.0	2.6	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.0	3.5
Redfish	10.2	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
White Hake	4.4	2.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
Pollock	757.6	-	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
Northern Windowpane	34.8	33.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
Southern Windowpane	376.0	135.3	75.9	-	1.6	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0
Ocean Pout	29.5	6.4	6.5	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Halibut	2.5	0.8	0.1	-	0.1	0.4	-	0.0	-	0.0
Wolffish	0.1	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹Based on scallop fishing year March, 2011 through February, 2012

**Some or all catch attributed to a separate sub-ACL and not to the other sub-component.

Source: NMFS Northeast Regional Office; October 22, 2012

These criteria are used by the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) to categorize trips to attribute groundfish catch for groundfish ACL accounting. By necessity these rules cannot capture the full complexity of categorizing every trip taken by vessels fishing in the Northeast. Further analysis should be completed to definitively attribute groundfish catch to an FMP for management purposes.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 4 – FY 2011 Northeast Multispecies other-subcomponents catches (cont.)

Stock	SCUP	SHRIMP	SQUID	'SQUID/ WHITING'	SURF CLAM	TILEFISH	'WHELK/ CONCH'	WHITING	UNKNOWN	RECREATIONAL
GB cod	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.2	54.6
GOM cod	2.5	0.7	0.4	3.1	0.0	-	0.0	2.6	7.3	-**
GB Haddock	5.5	0.1	98.8	52.0	-	-	-	0.9	102.9	NA*
GOM Haddock	-	0.5	0.0	0.8	-	-	0.0	1.9	2.4	-**
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.2	0.0	0.2	40.7	-	-	0.0	-	1.0	
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	4.5	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	-	0.0	0.3	0.9	
Plaice	0.8	0.0	2.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	
Witch Flounder	13.0	0.2	35.3	20.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	48.3	
GB Winter Flounder	1.2	0.0	0.2	16.7	-	-	-	0.1	2.2	
GOM Winter Flounder	-	0.0	0.0	0.1	-	-	0.0	0.2	0.2	10.3
SNE Winter Flounder	8.3	0.0	19.5	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	34.9	11.7
Redfish	2.1	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	
White Hake	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	
Pollock	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	748.5
Northern Windowpane	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	-	0.0	0.1	0.1	
Southern Windowpane	48.7	0.0	17.8	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	80.5	
Ocean Pout	4.4	0.0	2.7	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	6.9	
Halibut	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	-	-	-	0.0	0.5	
Wolffish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	

Estimates not applicable. Recreational amounts are not attributed to the ACL consistent with the assessments for these stocks used to set FY 2011 quotas.

**Some or all catch attributed to separate sub-ACL as shown in Tables 1 through 5, and so is not counted above.

Source: NMFS Northeast Regional Office; October 22, 2012

These criteria are used by the Northeast Regional Office (NERO) to categorize trips to attribute groundfish catch for groundfish ACL accounting. By necessity these rules cannot capture the full complexity of categorizing every trip taken by vessels fishing in the Northeast. Further analysis should be completed to definitively attribute groundfish catch to an FMP for management purposes.

These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Data sources for this report include: (1) Vessels via VMS; (2) Vessels via vessel logbook reports; (3) Dealers via Dealer Electronic reporting. Differences with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

Table 5. FY 2010-2011 State Waters and Other sub-Component Catch (mt live weight)

Stock	State Waters Catch			Other sub-component catch		
	FY 10	FY 11	Average	FY 10	FY 11	Average
GB cod	27.7	38.9	33.3	171.4	90.2	130.8
GOM cod	190.3	216.4	203.3	57.8	28.8	43.3
GB Haddock	1.6	3.9	2.7	131.0	305.8	218.4
GOM Haddock	8.5	4.9	6.7	1.6	8.4	5.0
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.4	43.2	38.8
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	6.7	1.1	3.9	23.1	26.7	24.9
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	33.2	38.5	35.8	41.6	8.1	24.8
Plaice	25.1	12.1	18.6	46.2	12.6	29.4
Witch Flounder	23.5	22.5	23.0	83.7	166.4	125.0
GB Winter Flounder	0.0	0.0	0.0	140.1	59.4	99.7
GOM Winter Flounder	64.2	113.3	88.8	23.2	13.2	18.2
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	181.0	40.0	110.5	141.8	164.9	153.3
Redfish	10.5	3.6	7.1	5.2	10.2	7.7
White Hake	25.3	2.6	13.9	59.6	4.4	32.0
Pollock	1,059.8	694.0	876.9	871.1	757.6	814.4
Northern Windowpane	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	34.8	21.9
Southern Windowpane	31.0	16.6	23.8	430.3	376.0	403.1
Ocean Pout	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.1	29.5	33.3
Halibut	6.6	7.1	6.8	1.8	2.5	2.2
Wolffish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1

Table 6. Summary of ABC Distribution to state and other sub-components (percent of ABC shown)

Stock	State sub-component			Other sub-component		
	FW 44 (FY 10-11)	FW 47 (FY 12)	FW 48 (FY13-15)	FW 44 (FY 10-11)	FW 47 (FY 12)	FW 48 (FY13-15)
GB cod	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.04
GOM cod	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.05
GB Haddock	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.04
GOM Haddock	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.04	<u>0.03</u>	0.03
GB Yellowtail Flounder	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	<u>0.04</u>	0.18
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.04
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.04	<u>0.02</u>	0.02
Plaice	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.04	<u>0.02</u>
Witch Flounder	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.15
GB Winter Flounder	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	<u>0.03</u>
GOM Winter Flounder	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.05	0.05	0.05
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	0.08	0.28	0.28	0.05	0.20	0.20
Redfish	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	<u>0.02</u>
White Hake	0.01	0.02	<u>0.01</u>	0.04	0.03	<u>0.02</u>
Pollock	0.06	<u>0.05</u>	0.06	0.06	0.09	<u>0.07</u>
Northern Windowpane	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.29	<u>0.19</u>	0.29
Southern Windowpane	0.01	0.10	0.10	0.29	0.70	0.70
Ocean Pout	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.09	0.09
Halibut	0.50	0.50	<u>0.40</u>	0.05	0.05	0.05
Wolffish	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.04

Note: Changes in the percentage relative to the previous year are shown in bold font as follows: red/italic text indicates increase to sub-component percentage; green/underlined text indicates decrease.

Figure 1 – Stations sampled during scallop bycatch experiment. Red dots represent stations sampled on all 14 trips from October 2010 to April 2012.

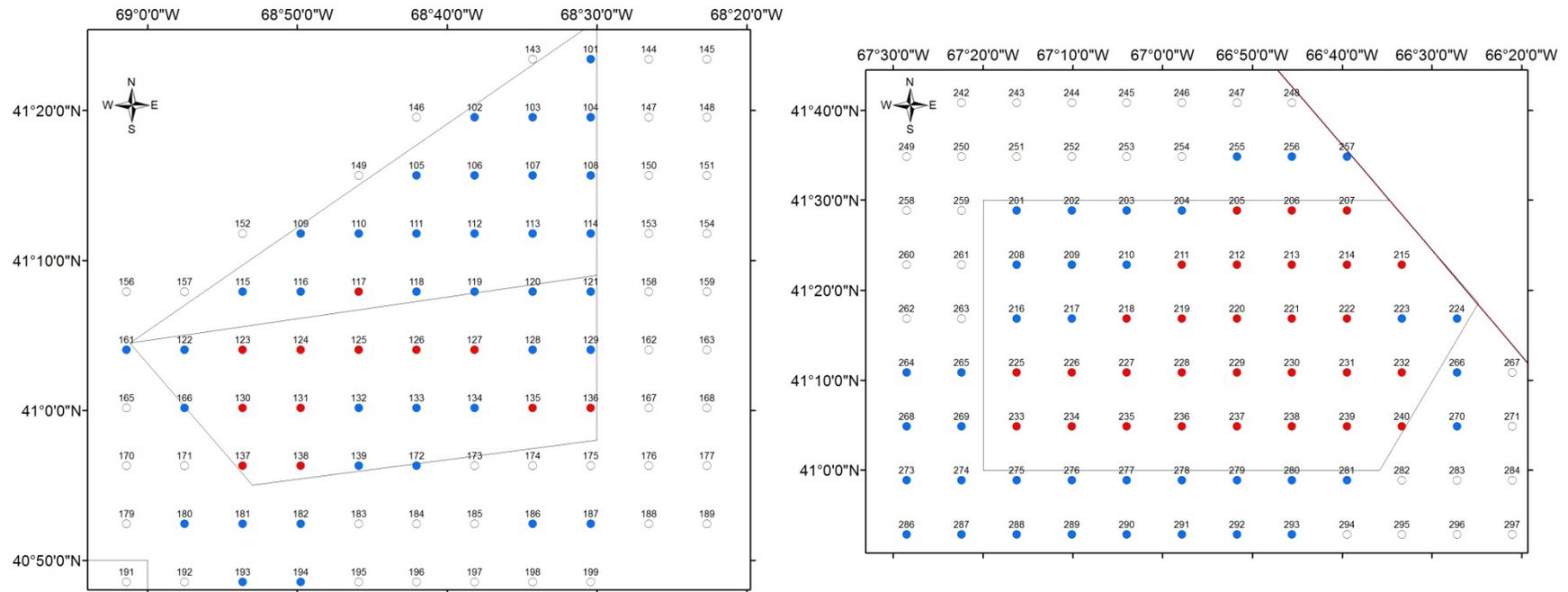


Figure 2 - - Scallop dredge yellowtail flounder catch per tow, by month, in CAII. Based on data from (insert experiment name here). Note log scale on Y-axis

YT catch by month for closed area II

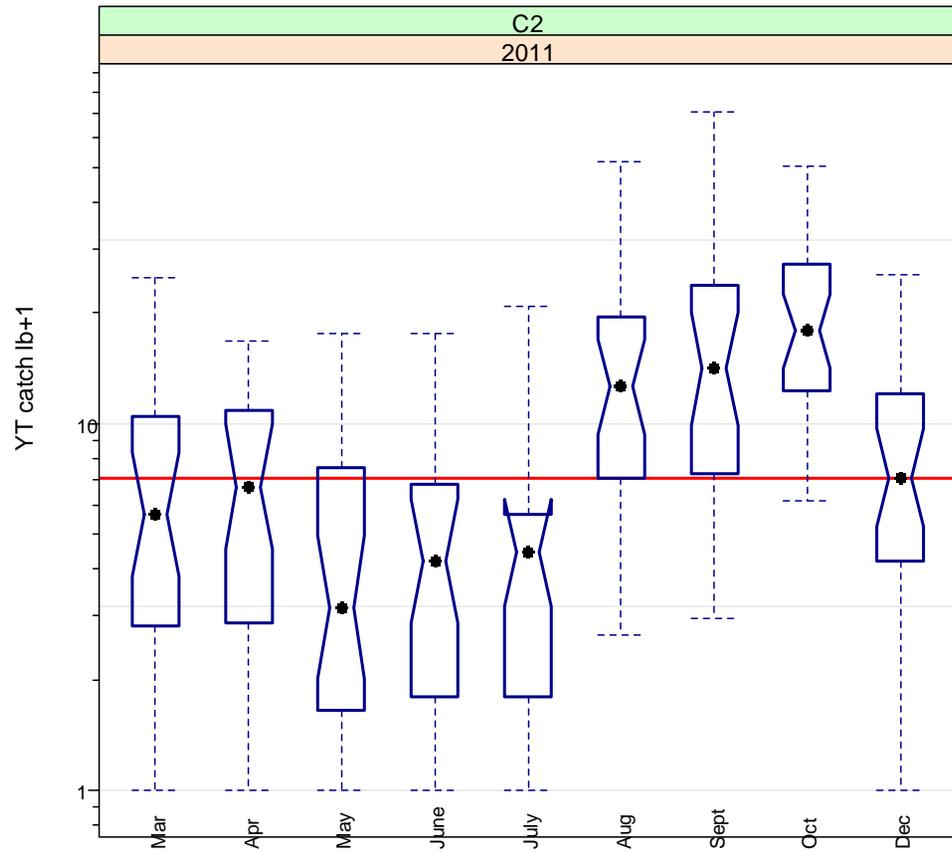
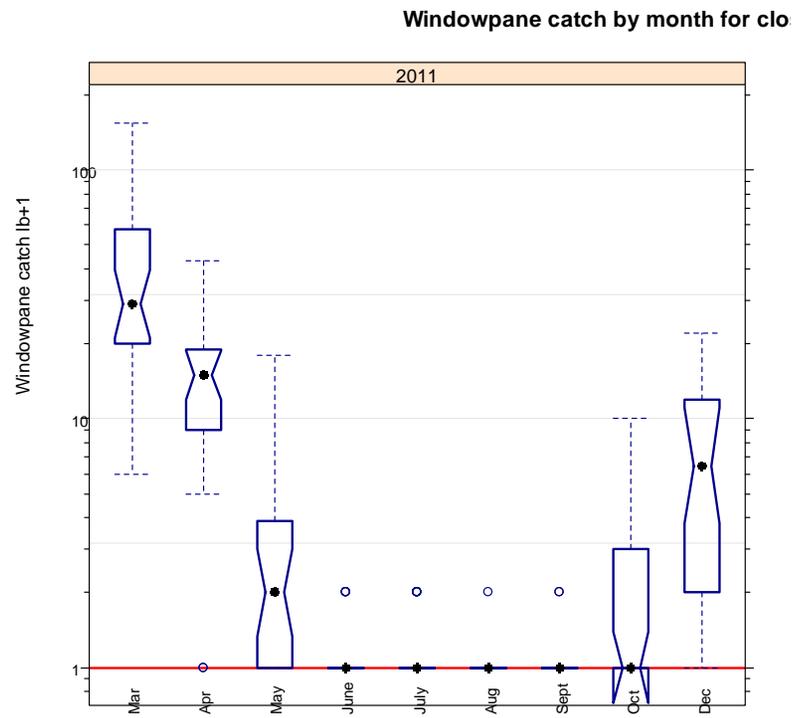


Figure 3 – Scallop dredge windowpane flounder catch per tow, by month, in CAII. , Based on data from (insert experiment name here). Note log scale on Y-axis.



Enclosure (1)

ASM Coverage Rates for Extra Large Mesh (ELM) Gillnet and Hook Trips

Currently, some level of at-sea monitoring (ASM) is required on all “sector trips,” trips that count toward a sector’s Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE). This includes trips by sector vessels that may be targeting other species, like monkfish, skates, or dogfish. Effort for these other species is closely linked to groundfish. The Monkfish FMP requires that a groundfish DAS be burned, if available, concurrent with a monkfish DAS for vessels fishing in the monkfish fishery. Similarly, the Skate FMP requires a vessel to be under a DAS to land skate wings. Dogfish are caught using gear capable of catch groundfish so that vessels fishing for dogfish must comply with groundfish gear regulations. In this way, vessels on such trips can simultaneously target groundfish and trips under these scenarios are, for the purposes of ACL monitoring, groundfish trips. Some exempted fisheries have been developed that allow vessels to target these species outside of the multispecies regulations, but only in limited circumstances. But a large number of trips for these species remain subject to groundfish ACLs and sector requirements, including the current requirement for ASM of sector trips, even though some of these trips may be using gear that catches little groundfish (e.g., ELM gillnets).

The Groundfish Committee requested the PDT identify trips catching little groundfish and develop alternatives that would divert ASM coverage away from such trips and toward trips that are responsible for the majority of groundfish catch (e.g., specify some lower level of coverage for trips not catching much groundfish). APS did an analysis for the PDT of groundfish catch by gear type. From this, the PDT was able to identify ELM gillnet trips in SNE and some longline trips off of Cape Cod that catch little or no groundfish. The PDT developed measures to specify lower ASM coverage rates for trips in these scenarios. Some of the implementation issues/concerns associated with these measures are outlined below.

Discard Strata and Coverage Rates

Discard strata are defined for each sector-stock area-gear combination. Specifying a different coverage rate for only some ELM gillnet trips in the SNE Broad Stock Area, which is only a portion of some groundfish stock areas, would require creating new discard strata. This would further complicate quota monitoring for NMFS and for sector managers. Pulling out these observed trips that have low groundfish catch into separate strata could result in higher discard rates for the remaining strata. This may have greater impact on some stock discard rates over others, if SNE ELM gillnet trips are responsible for more discards of certain stocks.

Observed trips in the new ELM gillnet and hook strata would still count toward the coverage required to achieve the minimum 30% CV at the stock level. Separating out these subsets of trips in the sector coverage rate calculations, as in sub-Option A, could result in a higher coverage rate for the ELM gillnet and hook trips than the 17% ASM, if necessary, to achieve the same 30% CV. If this is the case, the measure would seemingly not meet its intended purpose and the Committee may want to consider including a provision that stipulates this measure should only be implemented if it results in lower coverage rates for the ELM gillnet and hook trips. On the other hand, under sub-Option B, separating out and specifying a lower coverage rate for a subset of sector trips could result in higher coverage rates for the main pool of sector trips to achieve the same 30% CV, if the ELM gillnet and longline trips were in essence “subsidizing” other sector trips with a lower variance.

Enforceability

There is no regulation distinguishing a “target” monkfish, skate, or dogfish trip from a “target” groundfish trip, or prohibiting groundfish vessels from also targeting groundfish on the same trip as these other species. A sector vessel would still be required to land legal-sized fish of allocated stocks on SNE ELM gillnet trips and inshore GB longline trips. Options 2 and 3 that specify a lower coverage rate for these trips could be vulnerable to misuse if a vessel’s declaration of intent to fish for monkfish, skates, or dogfish is not binding.

In order to identify such trips ahead of time for a different ASM selection probability, a vessel would have to declare their intent to fish under one of these measures (using ELM gillnets in SNE or longline in inshore GB) through PTNS. But PTNS declarations are not binding in any way, so a vessel could simply declare in PTNS that they plan to fish in SNE with ELM gillnets and, if not selected for ASM coverage, change its trip and fish in a different area or with a different gear type that catches more groundfish and should have been subject to a higher coverage rate. Even if these trips were identified by NMFS after the fact, there is no prohibition on such behavior.

The PDT attempted to address this issue by specifying that once a PTNS declaration is made for one of these trips, it cannot be changed. In addition, for ELM gillnet trips, only trips in the SNE Broad Stock Area on a monkfish DAS would have a lower coverage rate. This is because gillnet vessels on a monkfish DAS are required to use a minimum mesh size of 10" under the monkfish regulations, so this gear requirement is already enforceable. A trip begun under a monkfish DAS cannot switch to smaller mesh to target groundfish. This would account for 92% of the ELM gillnet trips identified in the PDT's analysis in the SNE Broad Stock Area. This would still not preclude a sector vessel from canceling and re-declaring a trip that was selected for ASM to avoid coverage.

There is not such an easy solution for the longline trips. Low groundfish catch on longline trips is dependent on time and area. Therefore, the measure specifies that a trip declared through PTNS into a specific area must fish in this area only for the duration of the trip. Based on descriptions of this component of the fishery by Committee members, this additional requirement should not be restrictive on the vessels that would fish in this area.

Stock Assessments

Because these trips bisect strata (e.g., only includes some ELM gillnet trips), it could impact the calculation of discard rates for the stock assessments. If these trips can't be distinguished from other groundfish trips with the same gear type in the VTR, dealer, and observer datasets used in assessments, they may not be assigned the appropriate discard rates in the stock assessments. To try to account for this, Options 2 and 3 include text that NMFS would develop a method of identifying and denoting these trips in fishery dependent datasets. Having a different coverage rate for some ELM gillnet trips could also impact the use of ASM data in stock assessments. To account for the different coverage rates, these SNE ELM gillnet trips would need to be identified in all relevant databases (dealer, VTR, VMS, etc.) and the ASM data stratified differently from other sector trips to account for the different coverage rates.

Establishes a Precedent

Creating an exception for these two small components of the fishery would set a precedent for other small components of the fishery that may feel their coverage rates are too high. How should those requests be considered moving forward? An ad-hoc approach may lead to inconsistency and increasingly complicated monitoring and could result in unintended consequences when viewed in aggregate (higher coverage rates to achieve the same CV?). There may be equity concerns if some group's requests are accommodated and others are not.

Interaction with Other FW 48 Measures

The effect of this measure on coverage rates would be driven by its effect on the stock-wide CV. Thus, other measures contemplated in FW 48 in combination with these measures could have unintended consequences on coverage rates. For example, FW 48 may specify that the CV should be applied at the sector-stock level, which could result in even higher coverage rates and undermine the purpose of Options 2 and 3.

Example Coverage Alternatives for Extra Large Mesh Gillnet and Longline Trips

Option 1 - No Action

Under the No Action alternative, sector vessels fishing a sector trip using ELM gillnets (≥ 8 -inch mesh) in Southern New England or longline gear in the inshore Georges Bank would remain subject to the same coverage rate as all other sector trips as determined by NMFS.

Rationale: ...TBD

Option 2: Lower coverage rates for sector trips on a Monkfish DAS in the SNE Broad Stock Area using ELM gillnet gear.

Under Option 2, upon an annual determination by NMFS of sector ASM coverage rates, NMFS would specify some lower coverage rate for sector trips under a monkfish DAS declaration in the SNE Broad Stock Area using ELM gillnet gear. The monkfish regulations currently require any vessel fishing on a monkfish DAS using gillnet gear to use a minimum of 10" mesh gillnets. PTNS would have to be revised to allow a vessel to indicate a trip under a monkfish DAS (this is currently not a field in the form). PTNS trip selection would also have to be revised to add a tier in which the determination is made based upon a vessel's PTNS declaration that the vessel will be taking an ELM gillnet trip on a monkfish DAS in the SNE Broad Stock Area and would be pulled aside for a different selection probability than all other sector trips. Sector vessels using this measure would still be required to land all groundfish of legal size on all sector trips. A vessel declaring a trip on a monkfish DAS through PTNS would be prohibited from changing its declaration for that trip. To facilitate the use of fishery-dependent data from these trips in stock assessments, NMFS would develop a method for identifying these trips in all appropriate fishery-dependent datasets.

- Sub-Option A: NMFS determines some coverage rate for these trips annually. The coverage rates of all other sector trips must still at a minimum meet the performance standard required of sector monitoring adopted by FW 48 (see Section 4.2.2.3). (May want to stipulate that this should be implemented only if it results in lower coverage rates for the SNE ELM gillnet trips).
- Sub-Option B: Trips in this pool are subject to NEFOP coverage only, no additional ASM coverage is required. The performance standard adopted by FW 48 for sector monitoring must still be met at a minimum (see Section 4.2.2.3).

Rationale: ...TBD

Option 3: Lower coverage rates for sector trips into a designated area in inshore GB using hook gear June-August.

Under this option, a portion of the inshore GB Broad Stock Area could be designated from June through August in which a trip with longline gear could get a lower coverage rate (e.g., the area outlined for the proposed exempted fishery). A sector vessel would declare a longline trip into this area through PTNS. The PTNS form would be revised to accommodate this and PTNS trip selection would have to be revised to add a tier in which the determination is made based upon a vessel's PTNS declaration that the vessel will be taking a longline trip in the designated portion of the Inshore GB Broad Stock Area and would be pulled aside for a different selection probability than all other sector trips. Sector vessels using this measure would still be required to land all groundfish of legal size on all sector trips. A vessel declaring a longline trip through PTNS into the designated area would be required to fish only in this area for the entire trip. To facilitate the use of fishery-dependent data from these trips in stock assessments, NMFS would develop a method for identifying these trips in all appropriate fishery-dependent datasets.

- Sub-Option A: NMFS determines some coverage rate for these trips annually. The coverage rates of all other sector trips at a minimum must still meet the performance standard required of sector

monitoring adopted by FW 48 (see Section 4.2.2.3). (May want to stipulate that this should be implemented only if it results in lower coverage rates for the longline trips).

- Sub-Option B: Trips in this pool are subject to NEFOP coverage only, no additional ASM coverage is required. The performance standard adopted by FW 48 for sector monitoring must still be met at a minimum (see Section 4.2.2.3).

Rationale: ...TBD

Enclosure (2)

ASM Coverage Level Alternative

Option X: Removal of Requirement for Industry-Funded At-Sea Monitoring for FY 2013

This option would maintain at-sea monitoring coverage of sector trips at the level that NMFS can fund during FY 2013. Under this option, sectors would not be required to implement an industry-funded at-sea monitoring program in FY 2013. Instead, NMFS will provide as much funding as possible for at-sea monitoring of sector trips in FY 2013. Absent further action, industry will be responsible for the portion of these costs not funded by NMFS in FY 2014.

Rationale: Amendment 16 mandated that the industry will fund at-sea and dockside monitoring costs beginning in FY 2012. To date, NMFS has had sufficient funding to provide an at-sea monitoring program to fulfill this requirement for sectors annually since FY 2010. Absent continued funding for the NMFS at-sea monitoring program in FY 2013, sectors would be responsible for implementing industry-funded at-sea monitoring programs to monitor their fishing activities beginning May 1, 2013. The Council is concerned that imposing these costs on the industry in FY 2013 will reduce profitability and result in making the sector system an economic failure. This action delays by one year industry responsibility for those costs. A sunset date has been included so that the Council may further modify this requirement in the future as more information becomes available on the appropriate monitoring levels, costs of those programs, and implementation of electronic monitoring systems.