

Revised FW 48 Section 4.1.6.2
ACL Specifications

(updated with revised estimates of scallop catches of yellowtail flounder)

Option 2: Revised Annual Catch Limit Specifications

If Option 2 is selected, the specifications for FY 2013 through FY 2015 would be as specified in Table 17.

The specifications in Table 17 reflect two other decisions that influence the values in the table. The first is the specification of quotas for EGB cod, EGB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder for the U.S./Canada Resource Sharing area. The second is the identification of sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery for three stocks: GB yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, and SNE/MAB windowpane flounder.

Benchmark assessments are being completed for GB cod and GOM cod. Because the results of these assessments will not be available until January 2013, the Council is considering a range of ABCs for these two stocks for FY 2013. Table 17 reflects the range and shows a high and low value. When the assessment is completed, the Council's SSC will recommend ABCs for these two stocks, the Council will select an ABC, and NMFS will implement the ABC for FY 2013 through procedures consistent with the APA.

U.S./Canada TACs

This alternative would specify TACs for the U.S./Canada Management Area for FY 2013 as indicated in Table 13 below. These TACs would be in effect for the entire fishing year, unless NMFS determines that FY 2012 catch of GB cod, haddock, or yellowtail flounder from the U.S./Canada Management Area exceeded the pertinent 2012 TAC. If the TAC in a particular fishing year is exceeded, the Understanding and the regulations require that the TAC for the subsequent fishing year is reduced by the amount of the overage. In order to minimize any disruption to the fishing industry, NMFS would attempt to make any necessary TAC adjustment in the first quarter of the fishing year.

Two alternatives are being considered for GB yellowtail flounder. The TMGC recommended a 500 mt total quota for 2013. The Council asked to see an analysis of an 1150 mt quota as well. This second value is based on an SSC decision that this could be a backstop ABC if measures are adopted to allow only a bycatch fishery.

A comparison of the proposed FY 2012 U.S. TACs and the FY 2011 U.S. TACs is shown in Table 14. Changes to the U.S. TACs reflect changes to the percentage shares, stock status, and the TMGC recommendations.

Table 13 - Proposed FY 2013 U.S./Canada TACs (mt) and Country Shares

TAC	Eastern GB Cod	Eastern GB Haddock	GB Yellowtail Flounder
Total Shared TAC	600 mt	10,400 mt	500/1150 mt
U.S. TAC	96 mt	3,952 mt	215 / 495
Canada TAC	504 mt	6,448 mt	285/656

Table 14 - Comparison of the Proposed FY 2012 U.S. TACs and the FY 2012 U.S. TACs (mt)

Stock	U.S. TAC		Percent Change
	FY 2013	FY 2012	
Eastern GB cod	96 mt	162 mt	-41%
Eastern GB haddock	3,952 mt	6,880	-43%
GB yellowtail	215 mt	564 mt	-62%
	495 mt		-12%

Scallop Fishery Sub-ACLs

This option would specify scallop fishery sub-ACLs for GB yellowtail flounder, SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, and possibly SNE/MAB windowpane flounder.

Sub-ACLs for the two yellowtail flounder stocks were adopted in Amendment 16. This action considers three alternatives for specifying how the sub-ACL for GB yellowtail flounder is calculated (see section 4.1.3). The possible values based on the alternatives are shown below. The two most likely alternatives that will be selected are Alternatives 2 and 4. For those alternatives that are based on the expected scallop fishery catch of yellowtail flounder, the amount that would be allocated depends on both the scallop management alternative selected and the overall GB yellowtail flounder ABC. These values are shown in Table 15. The values shown are for the sub-ABC, which is then reduced for management uncertainty.

For SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, the Council will select an allocation for the scallop fishery. For reference, the expected catches for the various scallop management alternatives are shown in Table 16. In FY 2010 – FY 2012, the sub-ACL for this stock was based on 90 percent of the estimated scallop fishery catch, but the Council is not bound by this decision. The 90 percent value is shown for illustration only.

For SNE/MA windowpane flounder this action may establish a scallop fishery sub-ACL (see section 4.1.2). If this sub-ACL is adopted, the scallop fishery would be allocated 36 percent of the ABC. These values are shown in Table 17.

Rationale: This measure would adopt new specifications for groundfish stocks that are consistent with the most recent assessment information. For most stocks, only one alternative to No Action is shown. This is because these catches represent the best scientific information, as determined by the Council’s Science and Statistical Committee, and the M-S Act requires that catches not be set higher than these levels.

The U.S. and Canada coordinate management of three stocks that overlap the boundary between the two countries on Georges Bank. Agreement on the amount to be caught is reached each year by the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC). This measure would adopt

the recommendations of the TMGC. It makes sure that catches are consistent with the most recent assessments of those stocks.

The specification of sub-ACLs for the scallop fishery will help ensure that bycatches of GB and SNE/MA yellowtail flounder, and SNE/MA windowpane flounder, are controlled and do not lead to overfishing.

Table 15 – Estimated scallop fishery catch of GB yellowtail flounder, 90 percent of that estimate, and 8 and 16 percent of the GB yellowtail flounder ABC. Italicized values exceed the U.S. share under an ABC of 500 mt; greyed out values exceed the U.S. share with an ABC of 1,150 mt. Note scallop sub-ABCs are reduced to account for management uncertainty. Fixed percentages shown for U.S. share of 215 mt and 495 mt.

Comment [TAN1]: Updated with revised scallop catch estimates, 11/09/2012.

	Scallop FW 24 Management Alternative									
	No Action		Alt1		Alt2		Alt3		Alt4	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
<i>Expected scallop fishery catch of GB yellowtail flounder</i>										
LOW	62.4	96.5	46.9	42.6	40.7	65.9	43.4	56.2	26.4	38.1
MEDIUM	132.0	186.0	106.6	123.0	85.3	127.0	90.0	108.0	55.1	71.0
HIGH	<i>237.8</i>	<i>325.2</i>	194.3	234.4	152.8	220.1	161.4	186.7	97.4	121.5
<i>(Section 4.1.3.2) Scallop Sub-ABC at 90 percent of expected scallop fishery catch of GB yellowtail flounder</i>										
LOW	56.2	86.9	42.2	38.4	36.7	59.3	39.1	50.6	23.8	34.3
MEDIUM	118.8	167.4	95.9	110.7	76.8	114.3	81.0	97.2	49.6	63.9
HIGH	<i>214.1</i>	<i>292.7</i>	174.9	211.0	137.5	198.1	145.2	168.0	87.6	109.4
<i>(Section 4.1.3.3) Scallop Sub-ABC at a Fixed Percentage Allocation of GB YTF ABC</i>										
8 percent	17.2/39.6									
16 percent	34.4/79.2									

Table 16 – Estimated scallop fishery catch of SNE/MA yellowtail flounder and scallop fishery sub-ABC. Note these sub-ABCs are reduced to account for management uncertainty.

	Scallop FW 24 Management Alternative														
	No Action			Alt 1			Alt 2			Alt 3			Alt 4		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
	<i>Estimated scallop fishery catches of SNE/MA yellowtail flounder</i>														
Low	59.4	61.2	67.5	55.8	64.8	63	59.4	64.8	63	55.8	64.8	63.9	59.4	65.7	63
Medium	66	68	75	62	72	70	66	72	70	62	72	71	66	73	70
High	72.6	74.8	82.5	68.2	79.2	77	72.6	79.2	77	68.2	79.2	78.1	72.6	80.3	77
	<i>Scallop Sub-ABC at 90 percent of estimated catches shown above</i>														
Low	53.5	55.1	60.8	50.2	58.3	56.7	53.5	58.3	56.7	50.2	58.3	57.5	53.5	59.1	56.7
Medium	59.4	61.2	67.5	55.8	64.8	63.0	59.4	64.8	63.0	55.8	64.8	63.9	59.4	65.7	63.0
High	65.3	67.3	74.3	61.4	71.3	69.3	65.3	71.3	69.3	61.4	71.3	70.3	65.3	72.3	69.3

Comment [TAN2]: Updated with revised scallop catch estimates, 11/09/2012.

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Table 17 – Option 2 Northeast Multispecies OFLs, ABCs, ACLs, and other ACL sub-components for FY 2013 – FY 2015 (metric tons, live weight). All ACL values are preliminary and may change after FY 2012 catches are evaluated. Values are rounded to the nearest metric ton. Sector shares based on 2012 PSCs. UPDATED 11/01/2012.

(1) Grayed out values will be adjusted as a result of future recommendations of the TMGC.

(2) Assumes scallop sub-ABC of 119 mt at both ABC values: the average of 90 percent of medium scallop fishery catch estimates

(3) Assumes scallop sub-ABC is 8 pct for both ABC values. 16 percent would be double, if selected, and groundfish sub-ACL would be reduced.

Stock	Year	OFL	U.S. ABC	State Waters Sub-component	Other Sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish Sub-ACL	Comm Groundfish Sub-ACL	Rec Groundfish Sub-ACL	Preliminary Sectors Sub-ACL	Preliminary Non_Sector Groundfish Sub-ACL	MWT Sub-ACL	Total ACL
GB Cod ⁽¹⁾	2013		171	2	7	0	154		0	152	3	0	163
	2013		3,496	35	140	0	3,155		0	3,099	56	0	3,330
	2014												
GOM Cod	2013		750	50	25	0		402	235	394	8	0	711
	2013		4,000	265	133	0		2,141.5	1,254	2,100.9	40.6	0	3,793
	2014												
GB Haddock ⁽¹⁾	2013	46,185	29,335	293	1,173	0	26,196		0	26,124	72	273	27,936
	2014	46,268	35,699	357	1,428	0	31,879		0	31,792	87	332	33,996
	2015	56,293	43,606	436	1,744	0	38,940		0	38,833	107	406	41,526
GOM Haddock	2013	371	290	4	6	0		187	74	186	1	3	274
	2014	440	341	5	7	0		220	87	218	2	3	323
	2015	561	435	6	9	0		280	111	279	2	4	412
GB Yellowtail Flounder ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	2013		215	0	38.7	115.4	55.6		0	54.9	0.6	0	209.7
	2013		495	0	89.0	115.4	277.9		0.0	274.7	3.2	0.0	482.3
	2014												
GB Yellowtail Flounder ⁽³⁾	2013		215	0	38.7	16.7	154.3		0	152.6	1.8	0.0	209.7
	2013		495	0	89.0	38.4	355.0		0.0	350.9	4.1	0.0	482.3
	2014		0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2013	1,021	700	7	28	30	601		0	480	121	0	666
	2014	1,042	700	7	28	30	601		0	480	121	0	666
	2015	1,056	700	7	28	30	601		0	480	121	0	666

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Stock	Year	OFL	U.S. ABC	State Waters Sub-component	Other Sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish Sub-ACL	Comm Groundfish Sub-ACL	Rec Groundfish Sub-ACL	Preliminary Sectors Sub-ACL	Preliminary Non_Sector Groundfish Sub-ACL	MWT Sub-ACL	Total ACL
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2013	713	548	33	11	0	479		0	467	12	0	523
	2014	936	548	33	11	0	479		0	467	12	0	523
	2015	1,194	548	33	11	0	479		0	467	12	0	523
Plaice	2013	2,035	1,557	31	31	0	1,420		0	1,396	24	0	1,482
	2014	1,981	1,515	30	30	0	1,382		0	1,359	23	0	1,442
	2015	2,021	1,544	31	31	0	1,408		0	1,385	24	0	1,470
Witch Flounder	2013	1,196	783	23	117	0	610		0	601	9	0	751
	2014	1,512	783	23	117	0	610		0	601	9	0	751
	2015	1,846	783	23	117	0	610		0	601	9	0	751
GB Winter Flounder	2013	4,819	3,750	0	113	0	3,456		0	3,436	20	0	3,568
	2014	4,626	3,598	0	108	0	3,316		0	3,296	19	0	3,423
	2015												
GOM Winter Flounder	2013	1,458	1,078	272	54	0	714.7		0	690.3	24.4	0	1,040
	2014	1,458	1,078	272	54	0	714.7		0	690.3	24.4	0	1,040
	2015												
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	2013	2,637	697	195	139	0	337		0	0	337	0	672
	2014	3,471	912	255	182	0	441		0	0	441	0	879
	2015												
Redfish	2013	15,468	10,995	110	220	0	10,132		0	10,091	41	0	10,462
	2014	16,130	11,465	115	229	0	10,565		0	10,522	43	0	10,909
	2015	16,845	11,974	120	239	0	11,034		0	10,989	45	0	11,393

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Stock	Year	OFL	U.S. ABC	State Waters Sub-component	Other Sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish Sub-ACL	Comm Groundfish Sub-ACL	Rec Groundfish Sub-ACL	Preliminary Sectors Sub-ACL	Preliminary Non_Sector Groundfish Sub-ACL	MWT Sub-ACL	Total ACL
White Hake	2013	5,306	3,638	36	73	0	3,352		0	3,326	27	0	3,462
	2014		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
	2015		0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Pollock	2013	20,060	15,600	936	1,092	0	12,893		0	12,810	84	0	14,921
	2014	20,554	16,000	960	1,120	0	13,224		0	13,138	86	0	15,304
	2015												
N. Window-pane Flounder	2013	202	151	2	44	0	98		0	0	98	0	144
	2014	202	151	2	44	0	98		0	0	98	0	144
	2015	202	151	2	44	0	98		0	0	98	0	144
S. Window-pane Flounder	2013	730	548	55	384	0	102		0	0	102	0	540
	2014	730	548	55	384	0	102		0	0	102	0	540
	2015	730	548	55	384	0	102		0	0	102	0	540
S. Window-pane Flounder Scallop Sub-ACL	2013	730	548	55	186	183	102		0	0	102	0	527
	2014	730	548	55	186	183	102		0	0	102	0	527
	2015	730	548	55	186	183	102		0	0	102	0	527
Ocean Pout	2013	313	235	2	21	0	197		0	0	197	0	220
	2014	313	235	2	21	0	197		0	0	197	0	220
	2015	313	235	2	21	0	197		0	0	197	0	220
Atlantic Halibut	2013	164	99	40	5	0	52		0	0	52	0	96
	2014	180	109	44	5	0	57		0	0	57	0	106
	2015	198	119	48	6	0	62		0	0	62	0	116
Atlantic Wolffish	2013	94	70	1	3	0	62		0	0	62	0	65
	2014	94	70	1	3	0	62		0	0	62	0	65
	2015	94	70	1	3	0	62		0	0	62	0	65

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Table 18 – Option 2 preliminary incidental catch TACs for Special Management Programs (metric tons, live weight). These values may change as a result of changes in sector membership.

Stock	Cat B (regular) DAS Program			CAI Hook Gear Haddock SAP			EUS/CA Haddock SAP		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
GB cod	0.0/0.6			0.0/0.2			0.0/0.4		
GOM cod	0.1/0.4								
GB Yellowtail	0.0						0.0		
CC/GOM yellowtail	0.1	0.1	0.1						
SNE/MA Yellowtail	1.2	1.2	1.2						
Plaice	1.2	1.2	1.2						
Witch Flounder	0.5	0.5	0.5						
White Hake	0.5								
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	0.4	0.4							
GB Winter Flounder	0.2	0.2					0.2	0.2	

Table 19 – Proposed CAI Hook Gear Haddock SAP TACs, FY 2010- 2012

Year	Exploitable Biomass (thousand mt)	WGB Exploitable Biomass	B(year)/B2004	TAC (mt, live weight)
2013				
2014				
2015				

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