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New England Fishery Management Council

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2009
TO: Science and Statistical Committee
FROM: Groundfish Plan Development Team
SUBJECT: **Groundfish ABCs/OFLs**

1. The Groundfish PDT provided recommended groundfish ABCs to the Committee in a memorandum dated July 13, 2009. Due to an oversight the PDT neglected to calculate the overfishing levels (OFLs) for these same stocks and include them in the memorandum. Enclosure (1) corrects this oversight and compares the OFLs to the ABC recommendations. In general, the OFLs were calculated using the same analytic techniques and assumptions used to calculate ABCs. There are three comments worth noting:

- a. For index-based stock without a projection, the OFL is constant since it is based on the most recent estimate of stock size.
- b. Two values are shown for GB yellowtail flounder, reflecting two assessment model runs. The value for Pollock was calculated using the SSC assumption for the 2009 survey index.
- c. An OFL is not shown for white hake. The white hake projection model is not run by the NEFSC; the PDT requests these model runs from a scientist attached to a foreign university. The PDT chair decided to wait until after the SSC meeting to request this projection in case additional projections are needed as a result of SSC discussions.

2. After distributing the July 13 memorandum, the PDT determined the Atlantic wolffish ABCs (Table 4 in the July 13 memorandum) were calculated without projecting future stock size. Enclosure (2) provides the corrected ABCs, which increase slightly from those provided earlier.

3. Atlantic halibut ABCs are also provided in this memo.

Groundfish Plan Development Team

OFLs and Recommended ABCs for 2010 – 2012 (corrected)

Species	Stock	Actual 2008 catch	2010		2011		2012		msy	2010		2011		2012	
			ABC	ABC	ABC	ABC	OFL	OFL		OFL	OFL	OFL	OFL		
Cod ¹	GB	5,134	4,812	5,616	6,214	31,159	6,272	7,311	8,090						
Cod	GOM	8,499	8,530	9,012	9,018	10,014	11,089	11,715	11,742						
Haddock ¹	GB	20,901	62,515	46,784	39,846	32,746	80,007	59,948	51,150						
Haddock	GOM	1,197	1,265	1,206	1,013	1,360	1,617	1,536	1,296						
Yellowtail Flounder ^{1,2}	GB	1,276	1,500 / 2,100	1,689 / 2,379	1,916 / 2,600	9,400	5,148/ 7,255	6,083/ 8,080	7,094/ 8,715						
Yellowtail Flounder	SNE/MA	504	493	687	1,003	6,100	1,553	2,174	3,166						
Yellowtail Flounder	CC/GOM	727	863	1,041	1,159	1,720	1,124	1,355	1,508						
American Plaice	GB/GOM	1,348	3,156	3,444	3,632	4,011	4,110	4,483	4,727						
Witch Flounder	GB/GOM	1,063	944	1,369	1,639	2,352	1,239	1,792	2,141						
Winter Flounder	GB	963	2,052	2,224	2,543	3,500	2,660	2,886	3,297						
Winter Flounder	GOM	402	238	238	238	917	441	570	685						
Winter Flounder	SNE/MA	1,432	644	897	1,198	9,742	1,568	2,117	2,830						
Redfish		1,364	7,586	8,356	9,224	10,139	9,899	10,903	12,036						
White Hake	GB/GOM	1,876	2,832	3,295	3,638	5,800									
Pollock ^{1,3}	GB/GOM	11,370	2,097	2,527	3,043	11,320	2,252	3,074	3,702						
Windowpane	GOM/GB	350	169	169	169	700	225	225	225						
Windowpane	SNE/MA	363	237	237	237	500	317	317	317						
Ocean Pout		125	271	271	271	3,754	361	361	361						
Atlantic Halibut ¹		84	71	78	85	3,500	119	130	143						
Atlantic Wolffish ⁴						278 - 311	192	192	192						

Notes:

1. All ABCs are for entire stock as assessed by U.S. These values include U.S. and Canadian catch.
2. PDT recommends 2011 and 2012 ABC be revisited when TRAC results available in future years.
3. Based on index-projection. See PDT memo for comments.
4. No specific PDT recommendation. See PDT July 13, 2009 memo and enclosure (2) for range of possible catches.

Table 4 (corrected)– Atlantic wolffish catches based on different assessment runs (corrected version)

		2007					
Length at maturity	Total Biomass	Exploitable Biomass	Fmsy	75%Fmsy	Fmsy * Exploitable Biomass	75%Fmsy * Exploitable Biomass	
Run 1 (slope=0.15)							
40 cm	1118.9	533.8	0.319	0.239	192	144	
65cm	1118.9	533.8	0.233	0.175	140	105	
75 cm	1118.9	533.8	0.185	0.139	111	83	
Run 2 (L50=90)							
40 cm	1008.3	215.3	0.686	0.515	168	126	
65cm	1008.3	215.3	0.486	0.365	119	89	
75 cm	1008.3	215.3	0.374	0.281	92	69	