

11 June 2014

Dear Participant,

You are cordially invited to attend the June 2014 meeting of the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee (TRAC) to be held in Woods Hole, MA. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am on 23 June and close by 5:00 pm 26 June.

The TRAC was established in 1998 to peer review assessments of transboundary resources in the Georges Bank area and, thus, to ensure that the management efforts of both Canada and USA, pursued either independently or cooperatively, are founded on a common understanding of resource status.

At this meeting, the TRAC will consider update assessments that apply benchmark formulations for Eastern Georges Bank cod, Eastern Georges Bank haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. The results of the June TRAC assessment meeting will be reported to management agencies of both countries.

The Terms of Reference, an agenda, and accommodations in the Falmouth area are attached.

The meeting will be held at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Woods Hole Laboratory in the Stephen H. Clark Conference Room. We would like to begin the meeting promptly at 9:00 am, Monday June 23rd, so please plan accordingly. Upon arrival at the laboratory, please sign in at the main building to receive a visitors pass, door code, and parking permit.

Please send notification that you plan to attend the meeting in Woods Hole or to participate via the internet. Instructions for calling in to the conference line and connecting through Adobe Connect will be posted at both <http://nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/trac/> and <http://www.bio.gc.ca/info/intercol/trac-cert/index-eng.php> prior to the meeting .

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me directly by telephone at 508-495-2273 or by e-mail at Loretta.O'Brien@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Loretta O'Brien

Attachments (3)

Cc: Tana Worcester

**Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee
Assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Haddock and
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder**

**June 23-26, 2014
Woods Hole, Ma.**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

The TRAC annually obtains requests for harvest advice on transboundary resources from the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC).

For the following resources: Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Eastern Georges Bank Haddock, and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder:

- Apply the benchmark assessments to report on the status of the stocks, updating results for the latest information from fisheries, including discard estimates and research surveys, and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
- Depending upon the outcome of the GB Yellowtail Flounder empirical approach benchmark, results from the empirical method will either be considered alone as a basis for catch advice or considered along with the current virtual population analysis (VPA from 2005 benchmark) modeling results and relevant VPA sensitivity runs as have been conducted in the past.
- Describe any adjustments to benchmark assessment models applied during the TRAC including impacts on advice given to TMGC.
- Evaluate and quantify, if possible, scientific uncertainty of the assessment output (stock status determination and catch projection), discussing current practices of characterization and alternative methods of evaluation.
- Provide sensitivity analyses to account for retrospective bias on stock biomass and fishing mortality estimates for Cod, Haddock, and Yellowtail Flounder, if appropriate.
- For a range of total catch values in 2015, estimate the risk that the 2015 fishing mortality rate would exceed F_{ref} values, i.e. 0.18 (Cod), 0.26 (Haddock) and 0.25 (Yellowtail Flounder) respectively. Include a table showing the 2015 catches corresponding to low (25%), neutral (50%) and high (75%) probability that the F would exceed F_{ref} .
- For a range of total catch values in 2015, estimate the risk that the biomass at the beginning of 2016 would not achieve a 0%, 10% or 20% increase compared to the beginning of 2015.
- Review the biomass distribution relative to the U.S./Canada boundary, updating results with the 2013 survey information, and apply the allocation shares formula.
- Identify alternate fishing reference points that are appropriate for the Cod VPA $M=0.8$ model.

- For Yellowtail Flounder, if recommended by the GB Yellowtail Flounder empirical approach benchmark, provide catch advice consistent with newly defined fishing mortality reference points developed for an empirical approach (noting that any change in F_{ref} used to provide catch advice would need to be negotiated) and synthesize all the available information used to provide recommendations on catch advice.
- Draft terms of reference for the 2015 TRAC assessment of cod, haddock and yellowtail.
- Other matters.

Expected Publications

TRAC Transboundary Status Reports for the eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder management units
TRAC Reference Documents for eastern Georges Bank cod and haddock, Georges Bank yellowtail flounder management units, and the allocation shares
TRAC Proceedings of meeting discussion

Participants

DFO Maritimes scientists and managers
NMFS Northeast Region scientists and managers
Canadian and U.S. fishing industry
U.S. State and Canadian Provincial (NB and NS) representatives
NEFMC representatives
Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) representatives

**Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee
Assessment of Eastern Georges Bank Cod, Eastern Georges Bank
Haddock, and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder**

**Stephen H. Clark Conference Room
NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory**

23-26 June 2014

AGENDA

23 June – Monday

- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introduction (Co-Chairs)
- 9:15 – 10:30 Allocation Shares for 2015
- Update of EGB Haddock Data Inputs – commercial fishery & surveys
Application of the Benchmark Formulation for EGB Haddock
Projections and Assessment Advice for EGB Haddock
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 GB EGB Haddock continued
- Update of GB Yellowtail Data Inputs – commercial fishery & surveys
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:00 Application of the VPA Benchmark Formulation for GB Yellowtail
VPA Projections and Assessment Advice for GB Yellowtail
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 5:00 GB YT Benchmark Empirical Approach and Assessment Advice

24 June 2012 – Tuesday

- 9:00 – 10:30 Update of EGB Cod Data Inputs – commercial fishery & surveys
Application of the VPA Formulation and VPA Projections for EGB Cod
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 12:00 Application of the ASAP Formulation and Projections for EGB Cod
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:00 EGB cod continued

Consequence Analysis and Assessment Advice

- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 5:00 Revisit EGB Haddock, GB Yellowtail Flounder
Fishing Mortality Reference Points for EGB Cod
Report Preparation (EGB Haddock)

25 June 2012 – Wednesday

- 9:00 – 12:00 Report Preparation (EGB Haddock, GB Yellowtail)
- 11:50 – 1:00 Lunch (need to break early for seminar set-up)
- 1:00 – 3:00 Report Preparation (GB YT)
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 5:00 EGB Cod Report Preparation

26 June 2012 – Thursday

- 9:00 – 10:30 Final Report Review
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:30 Final Report Review
- 11:30 – 12:00 Development of 2015 TRAC cod/haddock/yellowtail Terms of Reference
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:00
Other Business:
Timing of 2015 TRAC;
TRAC Reference Documents;
TRAC website;
Multi-year assessments, etc.
- 3:00 – 3:15 Break
- 3:15 – 5:00 Continue Other Business
Adjourn

Accommodations

There are many lodging facilities within the Falmouth area, though many are seasonal. Listed below you will find several local establishments. You may find more choices by visiting the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce website at:

<http://www.falmouthchamber.com>

Some facilities offer USA or Canadian Government rate, so please ask.

All hotels listed below are within 5-7 miles of the NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory located at 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

Directions to the lab can be found at:

<http://localonly.wh.who.edu/NEFSC/directions/woodshole.html>

Holiday Inn

291 Jones Road

Falmouth, MA 02540

Hotel Telephone: 1-508-540-2000

Hotel Fax: 1-508-548-2712

Book On line or Call 1-800-315-2621 website: <http://www.capecodhi.com/>

Inn on the Square

40 North Main Street

Falmouth, MA 02540

Hotel Telephone: 1-(888) 744-5394 website: <http://www.innonthesquare.com/>

Coonamessett Inn

311 Gifford Street

Falmouth, MA 02540

Hotel Telephone: 1-508-548-2300 <http://www.capecodrestaurants.org/coonamessett/>

Red Horse Inn

28 Falmouth Heights Road

Falmouth, MA 02540

Hotel Telephone: 1-800-628-3811

Hotel Telephone: 1-508-548-0053 Website: <http://www.redhorseinn.com>

Mostly Hall (Bed and Breakfast)

27 Main Street

Falmouth, MA 02540

Hotel Telephone: 508.388.7336

Falmouth Inn & Landucci italia

824 Main Street

Falmouth, MA 02540

(508) 540-2500 | (800) 255-4157 Website: <http://www.falmouthinn.com/>