

Framework Adjustment 61
to the
Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

Appendix II

**Calculation of Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Limits,
FY 2021 – FY 2023**

This appendix documents the calculation of Northeast Multispecies Overfishing Levels (OFLs), Acceptable Biological Catches (ABCs), and Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for FY2021- FY2023. The general approach for all stocks is to first determine the OFL and then determine the ABC. The ABC in all cases is consistent with the recommendations of the SSC. The ABC is distributed to various components of the fishery, and then an adjustment is made to these “sub-ABCs” to determine the ACLs, sub-ACLs, or other sub-components. The descriptions in this Appendix reflect the Council’s *Preferred Alternative* for specifications in Framework Adjustment 61 (FW61).

For this action, the *Preferred Alternative* updates specifications for ten stocks:

- Georges Bank (GB) yellowtail flounder
- GB winter flounder
- Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder
- Gulf of Maine (GOM) winter flounder
- Acadian redfish
- Atlantic halibut
- Northern windowpane flounder
- Southern windowpane flounder
- Atlantic wolffish
- Ocean pout

The *Preferred Alternative* includes adjustments to the state waters and other sub-component values from those specified in FW59 for several stocks except for GB haddock, GOM haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, American plaice, white hake, and Southern windowpane flounder.

This appendix also documents how available catches are distributed to the sub-components of the fishery. These are listed for all stocks to keep a clear record of the distribution. Amendment 16 authorized changes to be made in a framework action and this summary documents several changes.

Determining OFL and ABC

Is not possible to project stock sizes for the following stocks:

- GB yellowtail flounder
- GOM winter flounder
- Atlantic halibut
- Northern windowpane flounder
- Southern windowpane flounder
- Atlantic wolffish
- Ocean pout

For index-assessed stocks an estimate of the probability of overfishing cannot be determined but the proposed ABC is based on the default control rule applied at 75% of F_{MSY} , an exploitation rate, or an alternative approach applied to the most recent estimate of stock size. Because the

proposed ABCs for stocks with an empirical assessment are determined using control rules, the proposed ABCs are not expected to lead to declines in biomass for these stocks.

Distribution of ABCs

Because the Council wants the ability to consider a different adjustment for management uncertainty for different components of the fishery, ABCs were first distributed to the components prior to applying this adjustment. A brief description of the components follows. Note that there are a few stock-specific instances (described in a later section) that may differ from this general overview.

ABC: Acceptable Biological Catch for the entire stock.

Canadian Share/Allowance: An amount from the stock that Canadian vessels are expected to harvest, as is the case for GB winter flounder, white hake, and halibut (see details that follow in the next section). For GB cod, GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder, this is based on the Canadian allocation under the TMGC (but see the GB yellowtail flounder discussion below).

U.S. ABC: That portion of the ABC available to U.S. fishermen after accounting for Canadian harvests.

State waters: Portion of the U.S. ABC expected to be harvested from state waters, outside of the federal management plan. This is not an allocation.

Other sub-components: Portion of the U.S. ABC expected to be harvested by unidentified non-groundfish fishery components. These are not attributed to specific components because individual amounts are small. In cases where there is no specific recreational allocation, unless otherwise specified, recreational catches are counted against this sub-component. There are a few stocks where this may not be the case, such as when most recreational catches are from state waters and the recreational catch is considered part of the state waters sub-component. These instances will be specifically identified.

Scallops: That portion of U.S. ABC allocated to the scallop fishery.

Groundfish: That portion of the U.S. ABC available to the groundfish fishery (including recreational and commercial vessels if there is a specific allocation). This ABC has several sub-components:

Commercial: The portion of the U.S. ABC available to commercial vessels; this is further sub-divided into sector and common-pool portions.

Recreational: The portion of the U.S. ABC available to recreational vessels, when a specific allocation is made.

MWT: Portion of the ABC available to herring mid-water trawl vessels. Currently only applies to the two haddock stocks.

Small-Mesh Fisheries: Portion of the U.S. ABC of GB yellowtail flounder for small-mesh fisheries.

Amendment 16 provides that the distribution to various sub-components can be modified in a framework or specification action. These adjustments are often made as more experience is gained with the ACL system adopted by Amendment 16. Changes can also be required if there are large changes in ABCs, particularly because the sub-components of the fishery are not subject to specific catch controls by the FMP and a specific percentage allocation has not been defined. This is the case for state waters and other sub-component catches. Unlike the case when a specific allocation has been specified, the PDT estimates the expected catch from these two components and then compares that amount to the ABC to determine the percentage that should be set aside to account for these catches.

Groundfish ABCs and ACLs are distributed to various components of the fishery. First, expected catch by Canadian vessels is deducted from the total ABC, and the amount remaining is the portion of the ABC available to U.S. vessels (U.S. ABC). Expected catch from state waters and the other sub-component is then deducted from the U.S. ABC¹. These sub-components are not subject to specific catch controls by the Groundfish FMP. As a result, the state waters and other sub-components are not allocations, and these components of the fishery are not subject to accountability measures if the catch limits are exceeded. Because the state waters and other sub-component values are based on expected catch, there is no downward adjustment for management uncertainty that applies to fisheries with specific allocations and accountability measures.

After the state and other sub-components are deducted, the remaining portion of the U.S. ABC is the amount available to the fishery components that receive an allocation (i.e., subject to accountability measures). Allocation are made first to non-groundfish fisheries (e.g., scallop, midwater trawl, small-mesh fisheries), and the portion of the U.S. ABC remaining is the commercial groundfish allocation.

Once the U.S. ABC is distributed to the various fishery components, sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs) are set by reducing the amount of the ABC distributed to each component to account for management uncertainty (i.e., the likelihood that management measures will result in a level of catch greater than the catch target). For each stock, management uncertainty is estimated using the following criteria: Enforceability and precision of management measures, adequacy of catch monitoring, latent effort, and catch of groundfish in non-groundfish fisheries.

Canadian Catch of Groundfish Stocks

Expected Canadian catch is considered for Eastern GB cod and haddock and GB yellowtail, though joint management with Canada. Based on the results of recent assessments, some Canadian catch of GB winter flounder, white hake and Atlantic halibut also occurs. Although

¹ For GOM cod and haddock, the state waters and other sub-component are deducted from the commercial portion of the U.S. ABC (after allocating to the recreational fishery).

these stocks are not jointly managed, Canadian catch is accounted for when distributing the ABC/ACLs to ensure that biological objectives are met, and total catch does not exceed the overall ABC.

The expected Canadian catch is reduced from the total ABC for the respective stock before distributing the remaining portion of the ABC to U.S. vessels (Table 1).

Consistent with the approach used in FW59 and previous actions, the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) used the average catch of the most recent three years available (CY 2016- CY 2018) from the 2019 groundfish assessments as the expected Canadian catch for white hake and GB winter flounder due to lack of updated Canadian data. An alternative approach was used for Atlantic halibut and reviewed by the SSC. The PDT explored possible data for Atlantic halibut and GB winter flounder, what follows is a summary

Table 1- Estimate of expected Canadian catch for several groundfish stocks

Stock	Expected Canadian Catch (mt)
GB winter flounder	26
White hake	39
Atlantic halibut	49

Atlantic halibut - The 2020 management track assessment of Atlantic halibut is a Level 1 assessment (direct delivery to the PDT and SSC). When the PDT convened to discuss the Atlantic halibut assessment, the PDT suspected the Canadian landings for all CY2019 of 9 mt could be an error. Most recently, Canadian landings have been approximately 30-50mt. After examining the Center’s database, the PDT found only January through May 2019 Canadian landings data was included for the 2019 catch value, while July through December 2019 appeared absent. Therefore, the PDT discussed how to address this catch uncertainty. Upon examining the publicly available NAFO database on Oct 9, 2020, the PDT summarizes the following landings information in comparison to the data reported in the 2020 assessment (see Table 1 of the Atlantic halibut stock assessment report):

Year	2020 Assessment Report Canadian Landings (mt)	NAFO Database Canadian Landings (mt)
2016	34	34
2017	34	34
2018	56	55
2019	9	56

When comparing data from 2016-2018, the two Canadian landings values are nearly identical. However, a major difference can be seen in the 2019 values. The terminal year of the assessment catch is used to derive catch advice. Therefore, the PDT proposes to use 56 mt (NAFO Database) rather than 9 mt (2020 Assessment Report) for Canadian landings in 2019. The PDT therefore is adjusting the total catch for 2019 from 134 mt (2020 Assessment Report) to 181 mt.

Georges Bank winter flounder- While examining this issue for Atlantic halibut, the PDT investigated GB winter flounder – which also has a Canadian catch component in the data for the stock assessment. The PDT found a similar data error in the Center database (missing several months of data for Canadian landings in 2019). 0 mt for 2019 for GB winter flounder Canadian landings in the 2020 stocks assessment seems unusual (see Table 1 of the GB winter flounder report) when compared to the NAFO Database. The PDT notes this as a minor source of uncertainty in 2019 catch – which would include landings and discards in the Canadian catch.

Year	2020 Assessment Report Canadian Landings (mt)	NAFO Database Canadian Landings (mt)
2016	5	4
2017	6	7
2018	9	9
2019	0	11

PDT Review of State Waters and Other Sub-Components

The PDT reviewed the state waters and other sub-components values in this FW, the eighth iteration since initially established in FW44.

The PDT review examined the proposed 2021 specifications to determine if additional adjustments to the sub-components were necessary in anticipation of any expected ACL changes. The PDT also examined stocks with revised recreational catches in the 2020 assessments that currently do not have recreational allocations (SNE/MA winter flounder and GOM winter flounder). The Council’s *Preferred Alternative* does not include new recreational allocations, rather the recreational catches of SNE/MA winter flounder and GOM winter flounder would continue to be accounted for in the state waters and other sub-components. A review of information is available in the Affected Environment of FW61.

PDT Recommendations for Changes to Sub-Components

Consistent with the process outlined in A16, the PDT developed recommended changes for stocks to the state waters and other sub-components based on recent catch information (FY2010-FY2019), expected ACL changes and management measures for 2021, stock abundance and availability, and other information. In addition, starting with FW57 and continued for FW58 and FW59, the PDT used a formulaic approach to the recent catch information evaluation such that the most recent three years of complete fishing year data from GARFO catch reports (e.g., FY2016-FY2018) would be averaged. Then, the average catch value was used to determine the nearest percentage of the ABC. In some cases, the PDT recommended other information be used to determine the percentage, rather than the formulaic approach outlined.

A summary of the history of the state waters and other sub-component distribution can be found in FW58 Appendix II in Table 3². The distribution that would result for FY2021-FY2023 under FW61 and the PDT's recommended changes are described in more detail (Table 2). The distribution of ABC values by stock are shown in Table 3 and Table 5.

Generally, the PDT compared the current other or state waters sub-component percentage (and associated value) to the updated three-year average catch (FY2017-FY2019) to develop recommendations, with some exceptions which are summarized in Table 3. The PDT did not recommend sub-component changes for GB haddock, GOM haddock, GB yellowtail flounder, American plaice, white hake, and Southern windowpane flounder based on the review.

² See: https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/190318_Groundfish_FW58_Appendix_II_Calculation-of-ACLs.pdf

Table 2- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT's recommendation using the three-year (FY2017-FY2019) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
GB cod	1.5% 19mt	1.5% 20mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 18mt, as modified for the 138mt recreational catch target from Framework 59	11% 142mt	10.5% 137mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 135.2mt, as modified for the 138mt recreational catch target from Framework 59
GOM cod <i>(Percentage of commercial ABC)</i>	14% 48mt	14% 48mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 45.4mt	2% 7mt	3.5% 12mt	Increase by 1.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 11.7mt
GB haddock	0% 0mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (11.4mt) that sub-component can remain at 0mt	0.5% 658mt	0.5% 414mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 108.0mt
GOM haddock <i>(Percentage of commercial ABC)</i>	0.5% 65mt	0.5% 56mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 76.9mt	0.5% 65mt	0.5% 56mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 55.7mt
GB yellowtail flounder						
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder	1% 0.2mt	1% 0.2mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.5mt	16% 4mt	15% 3.3mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 3.3mt

Table 2- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT's recommendation using the three-year (FY2017-FY2019) average or alternative approach and justification.						
	Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC					
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	7% 58mt	7% 58mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 56.6mt	5% 41mt	4.5% 37mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 35.2mt.
Plaice	1% 32mt	1% 29mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 24.1mt	1% 32mt	1% 29mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 27.3mt
Witch flounder	3% 44mt	3% 44mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 32.3mt	4% 59mt	3.5% 52mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 52.4mt
GB winter flounder				4% 22mt	4.5% 27mt	Increase by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 27.1mt
GOM winter flounder	31% 139mt	39% 194mt	Increase by 8% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 195.6mt, using new MRIP data	1.5% 7.5mt	1.5% 7.5mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 7.9mt, using new MRIP data
SNE/MA winter flounder	5% 36mt	4.5% 20.5mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 19.9mt, using new MRIP data	17% 124mt	29% 132mt	Increase by 12% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 133.1mt, using new MRIP data
Redfish	0.5% 60mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (3.9mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt	0.5% 118mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (5.0mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt

Table 2- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT’s recommendation using the three-year (FY2017-FY2019) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
White hake	0.5% 11mt	0.5% 11mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.7mt	0.5% 11mt	0.5% 11mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 16.7mt Note: The two white hake subcomponents balance each other out (in terms of being too high or too low).
Pollock	4% 1098mt	6.5% 1434mt	Increase by 2.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 1381.0mt	4% 1098mt	5% 1103mt	Increase by 1% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 1090.8mt
Northern windowpane flounder	1% 0.6mt	0.5% 0.8mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.4mt	8% 5mt	6% 9.6mt	Decrease by 2% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 9.7mt
Southern windowpane flounder						
<i>Option 1:</i>	6% 26mt	6% 23mt	Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 22.2mt	46% 196mt	56% 215mt	Increase by 10% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 216.5mt. This would result in 7mt sub-ACL for groundfish under current allocations
<u><i>Option 2 (Council Preferred):</i></u>	<u>6%</u> <u>26mt</u>	<u>6%</u> <u>23mt</u>	<u>Maintain to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 22.2mt</u>	<u>46%</u> <u>196mt</u>	<u>46%</u> <u>177mt</u>	<u>Maintain, in order to preserve 43mt sub-ACL for groundfish fishery under current regulations.</u>
Ocean pout	1% 1.3mt	0.5% 0.4mt	Decrease by 0.5% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 0.4mt.	21% 27mt	38% 33.1mt	Increase by 17% to cover the 2017-2019 average catch of 33.2mt

Table 2- Comparison by stock of the current sub-component values and the PDT's recommendation using the three-year (FY2017-FY2019) average or alternative approach and justification.

Sub-Component – Percentage of ABC						
	State waters (%)			Other (%)		
Stock	FY20	Recommendation	Justification	FY20	Recommendation	Justification
Atlantic halibut	20% 21mt	20% 20mt	Maintain, despite not covering the 2017-2019 average of 28.1mt. FW57 established precedent that the state-water subcomponent should not exceed 20%.	4% 4mt	3.5% 3.5mt	Decrease by 1% to cover the 2017-2018 average catch of 3.4mt
Atlantic wolffish	1% 0.9mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.1mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt	1% 0.9mt	0% 0mt	Average catch is so low (0.1mt) that sub-component can move to 0mt

Table 3 – Distribution of ABC to fishery components. Sector PSCs are preliminary and may change based on final sector rosters.

(1) Includes commercial ABC in state waters and other subcomponents

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/Catch	U.S. ABC	Percent of ABC							
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallop	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sector PSC	MWT or Small-Mesh
GB Cod	2021	unknown	1,752	445	1,308	0.015	0.105		0.88	0.88		0.970747409	
	2022	unknown	1,752	445	1,308	0.015	0.105		0.88	0.88		0.970747409	
	2023												
GOM Cod	2021	929	552		552	0.14	0.035		na	0.625	0.375	0.968274837	
	2022	1,150	552		552	0.14	0.035		na	0.625	0.375	0.968274837	
	2023												
GB Haddock	2021	116,883	90,337	7,614	82,723	0.0	0.005		0.98	0.98		0.979859368	0.02
	2022	114,925	88,856	7,614	81,242	0.0	0.005		0.98	0.98		0.979859368	0.02
	2023				0	0.0	0.005		0.98	0.98		0.979859368	0.02
GOM Haddock	2021	21,521	16,794		16,794	0.005	0.005		0.98	0.661	0.339	0.974864708	0.01
	2022	14,834	11,526		11,526	0.005	0.005		0.98	0.661	0.339	0.974864708	0.01
	2023												
GB Yellowtail Flounder	2021	unknown	125	45	80	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.82	0.82		0.964505486	0.02
	2022	unknown	125	45	80	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.82	0.82		0.964505486	0.02
	2023												
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2021	71	22		22	0.01	0.15	0.091	0.749	0.749		0.811277189	
	2022	184	22		22	0.01	0.15	0.091	0.749	0.749		0.811277189	
	2023												
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2021	1,076	823		823	0.07	0.045		0.89	0.89		0.954078914	
	2022	1,116	823		823	0.07	0.045		0.89	0.89		0.954078914	
	2023												
American Plaice	2021	3,740	2,881		2,881	0.01	0.01		0.98	0.98		0.973479113	
	2022	3,687	2,825		2,825	0.01	0.01		0.98	0.98		0.973479113	
	2023												

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/Catch	U.S. ABC	Percent of ABC							
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallop	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sector PSC	MWT or Small-Mesh
Witch Flounder	2021	unknown	1,483		1,483	0.03	0.035		0.94	0.94		0.972945666	
	2022	unknown	1,483		1,483	0.03	0.035		0.94	0.94		0.972945666	
	2023												
GB Winter Flounder	2021	865	634	26	608	0.00	0.045		0.96	0.96		0.960141335	
	2022	974	634	26	608	0.00	0.045		0.96	0.96		0.960141335	
	2023	1,431	634	26	608	0.00	0.045		0.96	0.96		0.960141335	
GOM Winter Flounder	2021	662	497		497	0.39	0.015		0.60	0.60		0.949482517	
	2022	662	497		497	0.39	0.015		0.60	0.60		0.949482517	
	2023	662	497		497	0.39	0.015		0.60	0.60		0.949482517	
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	2021	1,438	456		456	0.045	0.29		0.67	0.67		0.882239219	
	2022	1,438	456		456	0.045	0.29		0.67	0.67		0.882239219	
	2023	1,438	456		456	0.045	0.29		0.67	0.67		0.882239219	
Redfish	2021	13,519	10,186		10,186	0.000	0.000		1.00	1.00		0.986929129	
	2022	13,354	10,062		10,062	0.000	0.000		1.00	1.00		0.986929129	
	2023	13,229	9,967		9,967	0.000	0.000		1.00	1.00		0.986929129	
White Hake	2021	2,906	2,186	39	2,147	0.005	0.005		0.99	0.99		0.987878347	
	2022	2,986	2,186	39	2,147	0.005	0.005		0.99	0.99		0.987878347	
	2023												
Pollock	2021	28,475	22,062		22,062	0.065	0.050		0.89	0.89		0.990144798	
	2022	21,744	16,812		16,812	0.065	0.050		0.89	0.89		0.990144798	
	2023												
N. Windowpane Flounder	2021	unknown	160		160	0.005	0.06	0.21	0.73	0.73			
	2022	unknown	160		160	0.005	0.06	0.21	0.73	0.73			
	2023	unknown	160		160	0.005	0.06	0.21	0.73	0.73			

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/Catch	U.S. ABC	Percent of ABC							
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallop	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sector PSC	MWT or Small-Mesh
S. Windowpane Flounder	2021	513	384		384	0.06	0.46	0.36	0.12	0.12			
	2022	513	384		384	0.06	0.56	0.36	0.02	0.02			
	2023	513	384		384	0.06	0.46	0.36	0.12	0.12			
Ocean Pout	2021	125	87		87	0.005	0.38		0.62	0.62			
	2022	125	87		87	0.005	0.38		0.62	0.62			
	2023	125	87		87	0.005	0.38		0.62	0.62			
Atlantic Halibut	2021	unknown	150	49	101	0.20	0.035		0.77	0.77			
	2022	unknown	150	49	101	0.20	0.035		0.77	0.77			
	2023	unknown	150	49	101	0.20	0.035		0.77	0.77			
Atlantic Wolffish	2021	122	92		92	0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00			
	2022	122	92		92	0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00			
	2023	122	92		92	0.00	0.00		1.00	1.00			

Table 4 – Distribution of ABC to fishery components

(1) Includes commercial ABC in state waters and other sub-components

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	sub-ABC Values									
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh	Total
GB Cod	2021	unknown	1,752	445	1,308	20	137		1,151	1,151		1,117	34		1,308
	2022	unknown	1,752	445	1,308	20	137		1,151	1,151		1,117	34		1,308
	2023														
GOM Cod	2021	929	552		552	48	12		552	345	207	276	9.0		552
	2022	1,150	552		552	48	12		552	345	207	276	9.0		552
	2023														
GB Haddock	2021	116,883	90,337	7,614	82,723	0	414		80,655	80,655		79,030	1,624	1,654	82,723
	2022	114,925	88,856	7,614	81,242	0	406		79,211	79,211		77,616	1,595	1,625	81,242
	2023														
GOM Haddock	2021	21,521	16,794		16,794	56	56		16,794	11,101	5693	10,550	272	168	16,794
	2022	14,834	11,526		11,526	38	38		11,526	7,619	3907	7,241	187	115	11,526
	2023														
GB Yellowtail Flounder	2021	0	125	45	80	0	0	13	66	66		63	2.3	1.6	80
	2022	0	125	45	80	0	0	13	66	66		63	2.3	1.6	80
	2023														
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	2021	71	22		22	0.2	3.3	2.0	16	16		13	3.1		22
	2022	184	22		22	0.2	3.3	2.0	16	16		13	3.1		22
	2023														
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	2021	1,076	823		823	58	37		728	728		695	33		823
	2022	1,116	823		823	58	37		728	728		695	33		823
	2023														
American Plaice	2021	3,740	2,881		2,881	29	29		2,823	2,823		2,749	75		2,881
	2022	3,687	2,825		2,825	28	28		2,769	2,769		2,695	73		2,825
	2023														
	2021	0	1,483		1,483	44	52		1,387	1,387		1,349	38		1,483

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/Catch	U.S. ABC	sub-ABC Values									
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh	Total
Witch Flounder	2022	0	1,483		1,483	44	52		1,387	1,387		1,349	38		1,483
	2023														
GB Winter Flounder	2021	865	634	26	608		27		581	581		557	23		608
	2022	974	634	26	608		27		581	581		557	23		608
	2023	1,431	634	26	608		27		581	581		557	23		608
GOM Winter Flounder	2021	662	497		497	194	7.5		296	296		281	15		497
	2022	662	497		497	194	7.5		296	296		281	15		497
	2023	662	497		497	194	7.5		296	296		281	15		497
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	2021	1,438	456		456	21	132		303	303		268	36		456
	2022	1,438	456		456	21	132		303	303		268	36		456
	2023	1,438	456		456	21	132		303	303		268	36		456
Redfish	2021	13,519	10,186		10,186	0	0		10,186	10,186		10,053	133		10,186
	2022	13,354	10,062		10,062	0	0		10,062	10,062		9,930	132		10,062
	2023	13,229	9,967		9,967	0	0		9,967	9,967		9,837	130		9,967
White Hake	2021	2,906	2,186	39	2,147	11	11		2,126	2,126		2,100	26		2,147
	2022	2,986	2,186	39	2,147	11	11		2,126	2,126		2,100	26		2,147
	2023														
Pollock	2021	28,475	22,062		22,062	1434	1103		19,525	19,525		19,332	192		22,062
	2022	21,744	16,812		16,812	1093	841		14,879	14,879		14,732	147		16,812
	2023														
N. Windowpane Flounder	2021	0	160		160	0.8	10	34	116	116			116		160
	2022	0	160		160	0.8	10	34	116	116			116		160
	2023	0	160		160	0.8	10	34	116	116			116		160
S. Windowpane Flounder	2021	513	384		384	23	177	138	46	46			46		384
	2022	513	384		384	23	215	138	8	8			8		384
	2023	513	384		384	23	177	138	46	46			46		384
Ocean Pout	2021	125	87		87	0	33		54	54			54		87

Stock	Year	OFL	ABC	Canadian Share/ Catch	U.S. ABC	sub-ABC Values									
						State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	Non-Sector Groundfish	MWT or Small Mesh	Total
	2022	125	87		87	0	33		54	54			54		87
	2023	125	87		87	0	33		54	54			54		87
Atlantic Halibut	2021	0	150	49	101	20	3.5		77	77			77		101
	2022	0	150	49	101	20	3.5		77	77			77		101
	2023	0	150	49	101	20	3.5		77	77			77		101
Atlantic Wolffish	2021	122	92		92	0	0		92	92			92		92
	2022	122	92		92	0	0		92	92			92		92
	2023	122	92		92	0	0		92	92			92		92

ACLs

Once the U.S. ABC is distributed to the various fishery components, sub-annual catch limits (sub-ACLs) are set by reducing the amount of the ABC distributed to each component to account for management uncertainty (i.e., the likelihood that management measures will result in a level of catch greater than the catch target). For each stock, management uncertainty is estimated using the following criteria: Enforceability and precision of management measures, adequacy of catch monitoring, latent effort, and catch of groundfish in non-groundfish fisheries.

The following default management uncertainty buffers are used for groundfish stocks:

- 3% for stocks with no state waters catch;
- 7% for zero possession stocks;
- 7% for recreational allocations; and
- 5% for all other stocks/components of the fishery.

Stock specific sub-ACL adjustment values are shown in Table 6.

Review of Management Uncertainty Buffer

The PDT last reviewed and recommended changes to the management uncertainty buffer for FW50. No additional review of the buffer is included at this time. The Council proposed changes to the management uncertainty buffer for sectors among the alternatives in Amendment 23 – commercial groundfish monitoring³.

³ See Amendment 23, located here: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/amendment-23>

Table 5 – ACL adjustments

Stock	ACL Percentages							
	State Waters	Other sub-Components	Scallops	Groundfish	Comm Groundfish	Rec Groundfish	Sectors	MWT or Small Mesh
GB Cod	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
GOM Cod	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.95	1
GB Haddock	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.93
GOM Haddock	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.93
GB Yellowtail Flounder	1	1	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.97	0.93
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
American Plaice	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Witch Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
GB Winter Flounder	1	1	1	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	1
GOM Winter Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Redfish	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
White Hake	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Pollock	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
N. Windowpane Flounder	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.93	1
S. Windowpane Flounder	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.93	1
Ocean Pout	1	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.93	1
Atlantic Halibut	1	1	1	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	1
Atlantic Wolffish	1	1	1	0.93	0.93	0.95	0.95	1

Incidental Catch TACs

Part of the commercial non-sector ACL is allocated to the incidental catch TACs that limit catches of stocks of concern in the Category B (regular) DAS program and certain SAPs. The incidental catch TACs in FW53 have been carried forward to FW61 for most stocks (Table 6 and Table 7) Incidental catch TAC values for stocks of concern have remained consistent since 2010, though the list has been modified as the status of some stocks improved (see FW 44, FW47, FW50, FW53, and FW56). FW59 adjusted the GB cod incidental catch TAC to 1.68% of the Common Pool ACL, removing the allocation to the CAI HGH SAP, and adjusting the allocation to the Regular B DAS Program and Eastern U.S./CA Haddock SAP to 60% and 40% of the incidental catch TAC, respectively.

Table 6 – Incidental catch TACs for major stocks of concern (mt). TACs are for the fishing year. TACs shown are metric tons, live weight.

	Percentage of Common Pool ACL
GB cod	1.68%
GOM cod	1%
GB Yellowtail	2%
CC/GOM yellowtail	1%
Plaice	5%
Witch Flounder	5%
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	1%

Table 7 - Allocation of incidental catch TACs for major stocks of concern to Category B DAS programs (shown as percentage of the incidental catch TAC)

	Category B (regular) DAS Program	CAI Hook Gear SAP	Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP	Southern CAI Haddock SAP
GOM cod	100%	NA	NA	
GB cod	60%	0%	40%	
CC/GOM yellowtail	100%	NA	NA	
Plaice	100%	NA	NA	
White Hake	100%	NA	NA	
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	100%	NA	NA	
Witch Flounder	100%	NA	NA	
GB Yellowtail	50%	NA	50%	