

# **Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) 2019 Guidance Report**

Summary of U.S./Canada TMGC and  
Steering Committee Meetings  
Boston, Massachusetts  
September 11-13, 2018

# Georges Bank (5Zhjmn) Yellowtail Flounder

- **2019 TAC of 140 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2018	300	29%	87	71%	213
<b>2019</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>106</b>

- The 2019 TAC is above the TRAC catch advice, but is a 53% reduction from 2018, and the lowest quota on record
- The declining trend of the stock remains; total mortality remains high despite record low catches
- Current levels of catch are not primary factor affecting stock rebuilding
- Sought to balance stock conditions and utilization of other species

# Georges Bank (5Zhjmn) Yellowtail Flounder

## **Special Considerations**

- Although current levels of catch are not the primary driver of the stock, the TMGC noted that it is important to monitor for changes in productivity to indicate that further reductions in catch could have a higher probability of future rebuilding.
- The TMGC recognizes that its 2019 recommendation will be constraining and require continued efforts to reduce catch as much as practicable. This significant reduction in quota will be challenging for both countries.

# Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

- **2019 TAC of 30,000 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2018	40,000	61%	24,400	39%	15,600
<b>2019</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>15,000</b>

- Interim update; no analytically-based catch advice
- 2019 TAC is a 25% reduction from 2018
- Account the growth of the 2013 year class, the need to manage that year class, and provide some stability, while still acknowledging that biomass is expected to remain high.

# Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Haddock

## **Special Considerations**

- Request that the Steering Committee consider a benchmark review a priority.
  - The last benchmark review was conducted in 1998
  - Recent declines in model performance
  - Changes in haddock productivity
  - TMGC's reliance on 2-year catch advice.

# Eastern Georges Bank (5Zjm) Cod

- **2019 TAC of 650 mt**

Year	TAC	Canada Share	Canada TAC	U.S. Share	U.S. TAC
2018	950	73%	693	27%	257
<b>2019</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>189</b>

- 2019 TAC is a 32% reduction from 2018, and within the TRAC catch advice
- Status of stock remains poor
- Sought to balance utilization of other species with signals of survey indices
- Some concerns around the size and potential survival of the 2013 year class, along with concerns for the lack of recent recruitment

# 2019 TRAC ToRs for Cod

- 2018 TRAC had significant concerns with all three assessment approaches
  - Concluded results are becoming unreliable for management and alternative approach is “urgently required”
- TMGC agreed a different process is required for 2019 and 2020
- Under new process, TRAC would report on various indicators to inform 2020 catch advice and develop alternative methods of assessing stock and providing catch advice
- Expected to guide decisions for future benchmark assessment

# Other Business and Planning

- Consider Winter 2019 Intercessional
  - Quota trading?