



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John F. Quinn, J.D., Ph.D., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 30, 2018  
**TO:** Groundfish Committee  
**FROM:** Jamie M. Cournane, Council Staff  
**SUBJECT:** **Progress on 2018 Council Priorities for the Recreational Groundfish Fishery**

This year, I formed a sub-group of the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT) to focus on recreational issues. The recreational sub-group plans to report out to the PDT at an upcoming meeting. The sub-group includes Council, state and federal agency staff. To date, the sub-group worked on several topics, including: 1) planning for listening sessions for possible limited entry for party and charter in the recreational Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery, 2) reviewing final 2017 and in-season 2018 catch and effort statistics for Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod, GOM haddock, and Georges Bank cod, and 3) examining calibrated Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data. This memorandum focusses on the first topic. See attachment for information regarding the second and third items.

#### **Planning for Listening Sessions for Possible Limited Entry for Party and Charter in the Recreational Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery**

##### **Background**

The Council's 2018 groundfish priorities include several recreational fishery priorities<sup>1</sup>. One of which is to "scope limited entry in the groundfish party/charter fishery". Additionally, following a request from the Council in January, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) refreshed the control date in the party and charter fishery to March 19, 2018 (see Attachment<sup>2</sup>).

##### **Proposed Process to Gather Public Comments**

To address the limited entry priority, the Council could *collect public comments on possible limited entry for party and charter in the recreational Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) fishery*. The public comment period could include opportunities to submit written comments and provide comments in person at several listening sessions across the region.

The Council could also consider preparing a draft overview document to help solicit public comments. This document may be similar in content to recent scoping documents for whiting

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<sup>1</sup> [https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180706\\_NEFMC\\_Priorities\\_Updated.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/180706_NEFMC_Priorities_Updated.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-19/pdf/2018-05505.pdf>

and skate actions on limited entry/access<sup>3</sup>. The major difference is the Council is not initiating an amendment at present – so this would not be considered a typical “scoping” process. Rather, the Council could create an opportunity to gather public comments to help determine the Council’s next steps – which may include a limited entry amendment. The results of the public comment period would be summarized for the Council to consider at a future meeting, most likely in early 2019.

In the past, the Recreational Advisory Panel suggested that meetings to reach participants in the recreational groundfish fishery are best held between November and February. The Council could consider holding listening sessions in late 2018/early 2019. When selecting dates for the listening sessions, public meeting notices must be finalized at least 25 days in advance for publication in the Federal Register.

### **Recreational Sub-Group Feedback**

The recreational sub-group: A) drafted an outline of the overview document and B) provided some initial listening session planning ideas.

#### ***A. Draft Outline of Overview Document***

1. Cover page
2. Listening session meeting schedule - dates, times, and locations
3. Written comment instructions and deadline
4. Purpose of listening sessions
5. Explain why the Council is seeking public input
6. Background information
  - a. Control date
  - b. Trends in the number of for-hire vessels with groundfish permits
  - c. Recreational allocations and catch performance
  - d. Recent catch statistics for groundfish stocks
  - e. Stock status of groundfish stocks
7. Overview of the process
8. Questions to consider when making public comments
9. Point of contact at the Council office

#### ***B. Initial Listening Session Planning Ideas***

Some initial listening session planning ideas include:

- Working with state partners,
- Holding sessions in the evening, starting at 5pm or 6pm, and
- Reaching the public in a variety of suggested locations:
  - Maine – southern coast, Kittery
  - New Hampshire – Hampton or Seabrook
  - Massachusetts – top three – Gloucester, Plymouth, Hyannis, followed by Outer Cape – Truro area and Buzzards Bay
  - Rhode Island/Connecticut - Point Judith
  - New York/New Jersey – Montauk and Barnegat Light.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/a-22-whiting-Scoping-document-4.pdf> and [https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Skate\\_Scoping-Documents\\_Final\\_2.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/nefmc.org/Skate_Scoping-Documents_Final_2.pdf)

## Attachment

Table 1. MRIP Pre-calibrated Gulf of Maine Recreational Catch Estimates<sup>1</sup>

	FY 2017	FY 2017	FY 2018
	May 1 - Apr. 30	May 1 - Aug. 30	May 1 - Aug. 30
	(All waves)	(Wave's 3, 4)	(Wave's 3, 4)
Cod/haddock Angler Trips <sup>2</sup>	168,076	153,290	110,354 (-28%)
Cod Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	814,496	788,310	464,540 (-41%)
Cod Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	14,072	12,977	1,759 (-86%)
Cod Released Alive (numbers, b2)	800,425	775,333	462,781 (-40%)
Cod Removals (numbers, a+b1+(0.15*b2))	134,136	129,277	71,176 (-45%)
Cod Removals (weight <sup>3</sup> , mt)	246	238	142 (-40%)
Cod Avg. Catch Per Trip (numbers)	4.8	5.1	4.2 (-18%)
Haddock Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	1,356,415	1,279,216	993,813 (-22%)
Haddock Kept (numbers, a+b1)	516,805	482,445	449,311 (-7%)
Haddock Released (numbers, b2)	839,610	796,771	544,501 (-32%)
Haddock Removals (numbers, a+b1+(b2*season/size release mortality))	953,007	887,126	712,444 (-20%)
Haddock Removals (weight <sup>3</sup> , mt)	795	756	607 (-20%)
Haddock Avg. Catch Per Trip (numbers)	8.1	8.3	9.0 (+7%)

<sup>1</sup>Source: Available MRIP data (pre-calibrated) as of Oct. 12, 2018

<sup>2</sup>Number of angler trips that targeted and/or caught cod or haddock

<sup>3</sup>All weights are based on round weights calculated from MRIP length frequencies and length to weight equations used in the assessments.

Table 2. MRIP Pre-calibrated Gulf of Maine Angler Trips by Mode

	FY 2017		FY 2017		FY 2018	
	May 1 - April 30 (All Waves)		May 1 - Aug. 30 (Wave's 3, 4)		May 1 - Aug. 30 (Wave's 3, 4)	
	Cod/haddock <sup>1</sup>	All <sup>2</sup>	Cod/haddock <sup>1</sup>	All <sup>2</sup>	Cod/haddock <sup>1</sup>	All <sup>2</sup>
Head	45,407	75,890	39,325	65,634	37,560	56,190
Charter	19,502	94,155	18,928	84,799	12,233	68,514
Private	103,167	1,135,333	94,977	885,231	60,354	812,870
Shore	-	652,066	-	439,168	207	450,733
	168,076	1,957,444	153,230	1,474,832	110,354	1,388,307

<sup>1</sup>Number of angler trips that targeted and/or caught cod or haddock

<sup>2</sup>All angler trips in the Gulf of Maine

Table 3. MRIP Precalibrated Gulf of Maine Cod Recreational Catch Estimates by Mode

Mode	FY 2017	FY 2017	FY 2018
	May 1 - Apr. 30 (All waves)	May 1 - Aug. 30 (Wave's 3, 4)	May 1 - Aug. 30 (Wave's 3, 4)
<b>Head</b>			
Cod Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	78,918	67,856	62,944 (-7%)
Cod Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	1,208	1,051	540 (-49%)
Cod Released Alive (numbers, b2)	77,710	66,805	62,403 (-7%)
Cod Removals (numbers, a+b1+(0.15*b2))	12,865	11,072	9,900 (-11%)
Cod Avg. Catch Per Angler Trip (numbers) <sup>1</sup>	1.7	1.7	1.7 (-3%)
<b>Charter</b>			
Cod Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	117,875	115,615	23,508 (-80%)
Cod Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	432	432	478 (+10%)
Cod Released Alive (numbers, b2)	117,443	115,183	23,031 (-80%)
Cod Removals (numbers, a+b1+(0.15*b2))	18,048	17,709	3,933 (-78%)
Cod Avg. Catch Per Angler Trip (numbers) <sup>1</sup>	6.0	6.1	1.9 (-69%)
<b>Private</b>			
Cod Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	617,703	604,839	377,881 (-38%)
Cod Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	12,431	11,494	535 (-95%)
Cod Released Alive (numbers, b2)	605,272	593,344	377,347 (-36%)
Cod Removals (numbers, a+b1+(0.15*b2))	103,222	100,496	57,137 (-43%)
Cod Avg. Catch Per Angler Trip (numbers) <sup>1</sup>	6.0	6.4	6.3 (-2%)

<sup>1</sup>Based on the number of angler trips by mode that targeted and/or caught cod or haddock

Table 4. MRIP Precalibrated Gulf of Maine Haddock Recreational Catch Estimates by Mode

Mode	FY 2017	FY 2017	FY 2018
	May 1 - Apr. 30 (All waves)	May 1 - Aug. 30 (Wave's 3, 4)	May 1 - Aug. 30 (Wave's 3, 4)
<b>Head</b>			
Haddock Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	277,807	242,555	353,276 (+46%)
Haddock Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	100,848	88,517	166,018 (+87%)
Haddock Released Alive (numbers, b2)	176,959	154,039	187,258 (+21%)
Haddock Removals (numbers, a+b1+(b2*season/size release mortality))	192,778	166,753	256,520 (+53%)
Haddock Avg. Catch Per Angler Trip (numbers) <sup>1</sup>	6.1	6.2	9 (+52%)
<b>Charter</b>			
Haddock Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	220,401	212,183	176,855 (-17%)
Haddock Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	94,935	92,291	81,445 (-12%)
Haddock Released Alive (numbers, b2)	125,467	119,891	95,410 (-20%)
Haddock Removals (numbers, a+b1+(b2*season/size release mortality))	160,119	153,184	127,557 (-17%)
Haddock Avg. Catch Per Angler Trip (numbers) <sup>1</sup>	11.3	11.2	14.5 (+29%)
<b>Private</b>			
Haddock Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	858,206	824,479	463,681 (-44%)
Haddock Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	321,022	301,638	201,848 (-33%)
Haddock Released Alive (numbers, b2)	537,183	522,841	261,833 (-50%)
Haddock Removals (numbers, a+b1+(b2*season/size release mortality))	600,110	567,189	328,368 (-42%)
Haddock Avg. Catch Per Angler Trip (numbers) <sup>1</sup>	8.3	8.7	7.7 (-11%)

<sup>1</sup>Based on the number of angler trips by mode that targeted and/or caught cod or haddock

**Table 5. MRIP Pre-calibrated George's Bank Recreational Catch Estimates<sup>1</sup>**

	FY 2016	FY 2017
	May 1 - Apr. 30	May 1 - Apr. 30
	(All waves)	(All waves)
Cod Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	241,776	19,676
Cod Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	151,075	14,064
Cod Released Alive (numbers, b2)	90,701	5,612
Cod Removals (numbers, a+b1+(0.30*b2))	178,285	15,748
Cod Removals (weight <sup>3</sup> , mt)	281	53

<sup>1</sup>Source: Available MRIP data (pre-calibrated) as of Oct. 12, 2018

<sup>2</sup>Number of angler trips that targeted and/or caught cod or haddock

<sup>3</sup>All weights are based on round weights calculated from MRIP length frequencies and length to weight equations used in the assessments.

**Table 6. MRIP Pre-calibrated George's Bank Recreational Catch Estimates (FY2018)<sup>1</sup>**

	FY 2017	FY 2018
	May 1 - Aug. 30	May 1 - Aug. 30
	(Wave's 3, 4)	(Wave's 3, 4)
Cod Catch (numbers, a+b1+b2)	13,002	7,530
Cod Kept/Released Dead (numbers, a+b1)	6,835	3,348
Cod Released Alive (numbers, b2)	6,166	4,181
Cod Removals (numbers, a+b1+(0.30*b2))	8,685	4,602
Cod Removals (weight, mt)	?	?

<sup>1</sup>Source: Available MRIP data (pre-calibrated) as of Oct. 12, 2018

<sup>2</sup>Number of angler trips that targeted and/or caught cod or haddock

Figure 1. GOM Cod MRIP Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Comparison

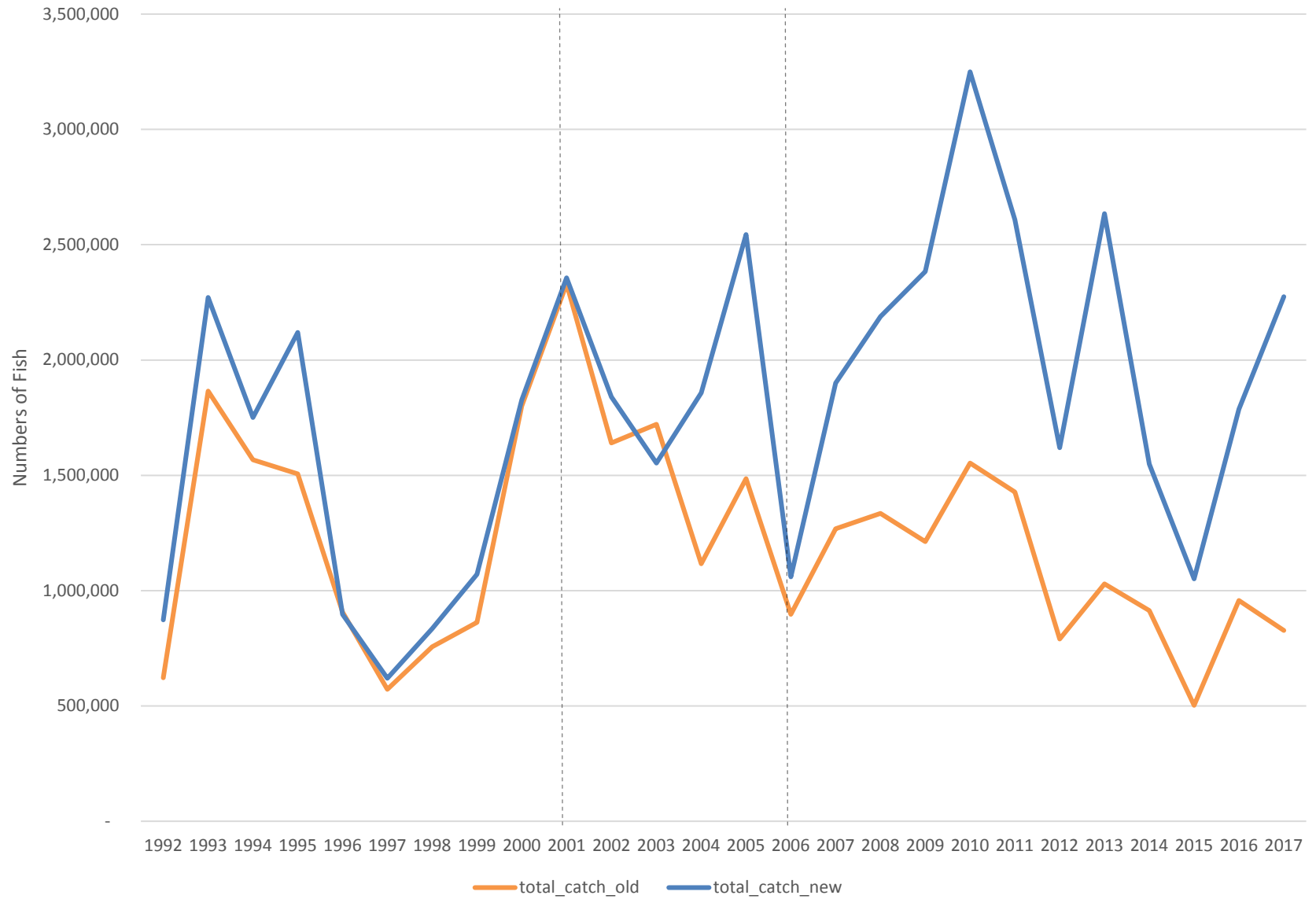




Figure 2. GOM Cod MRIP Landings (A+B1) Comparison

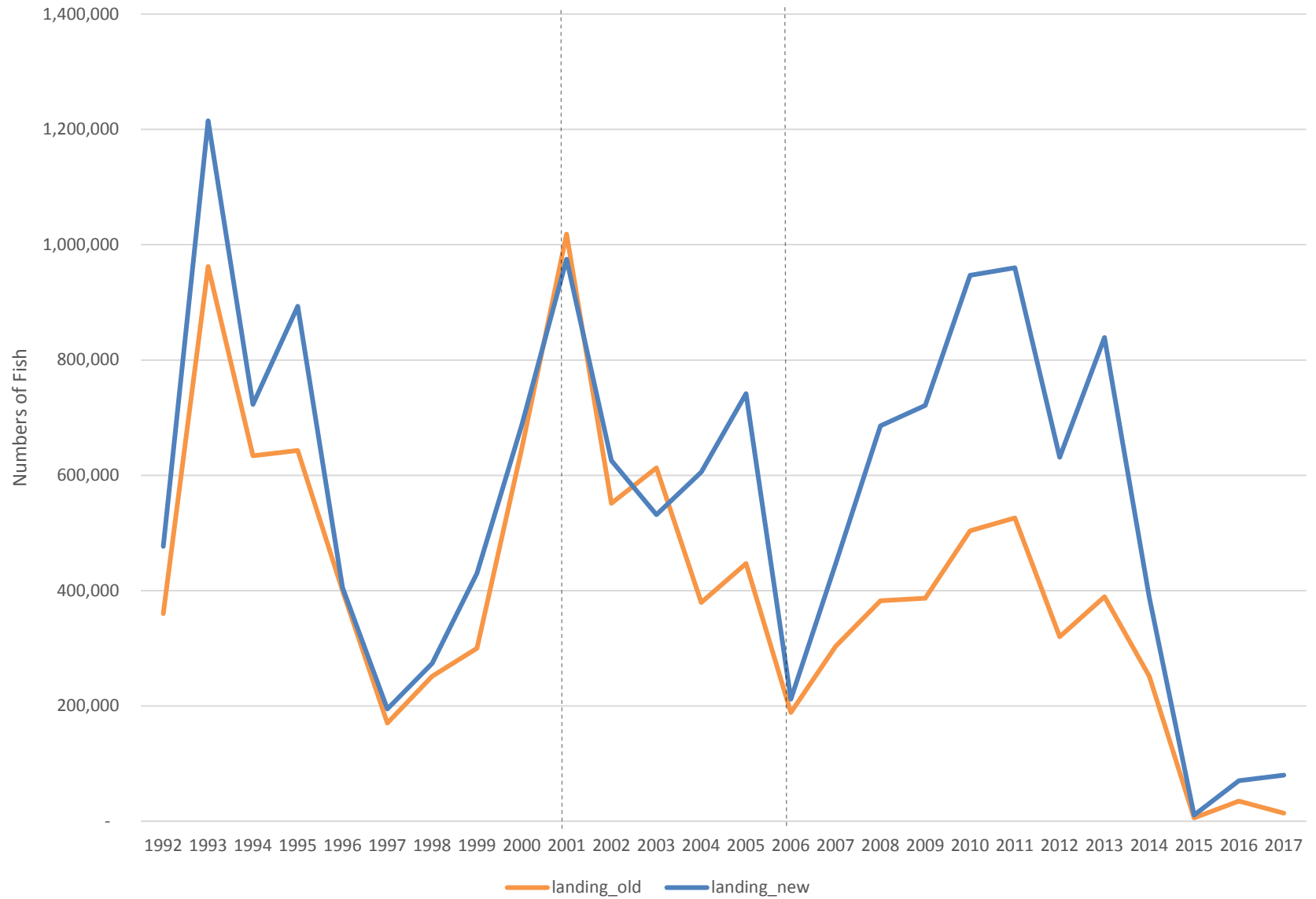


Figure 3. GOM Haddock MRIP Total Catch (A+B1+B2) Comparison

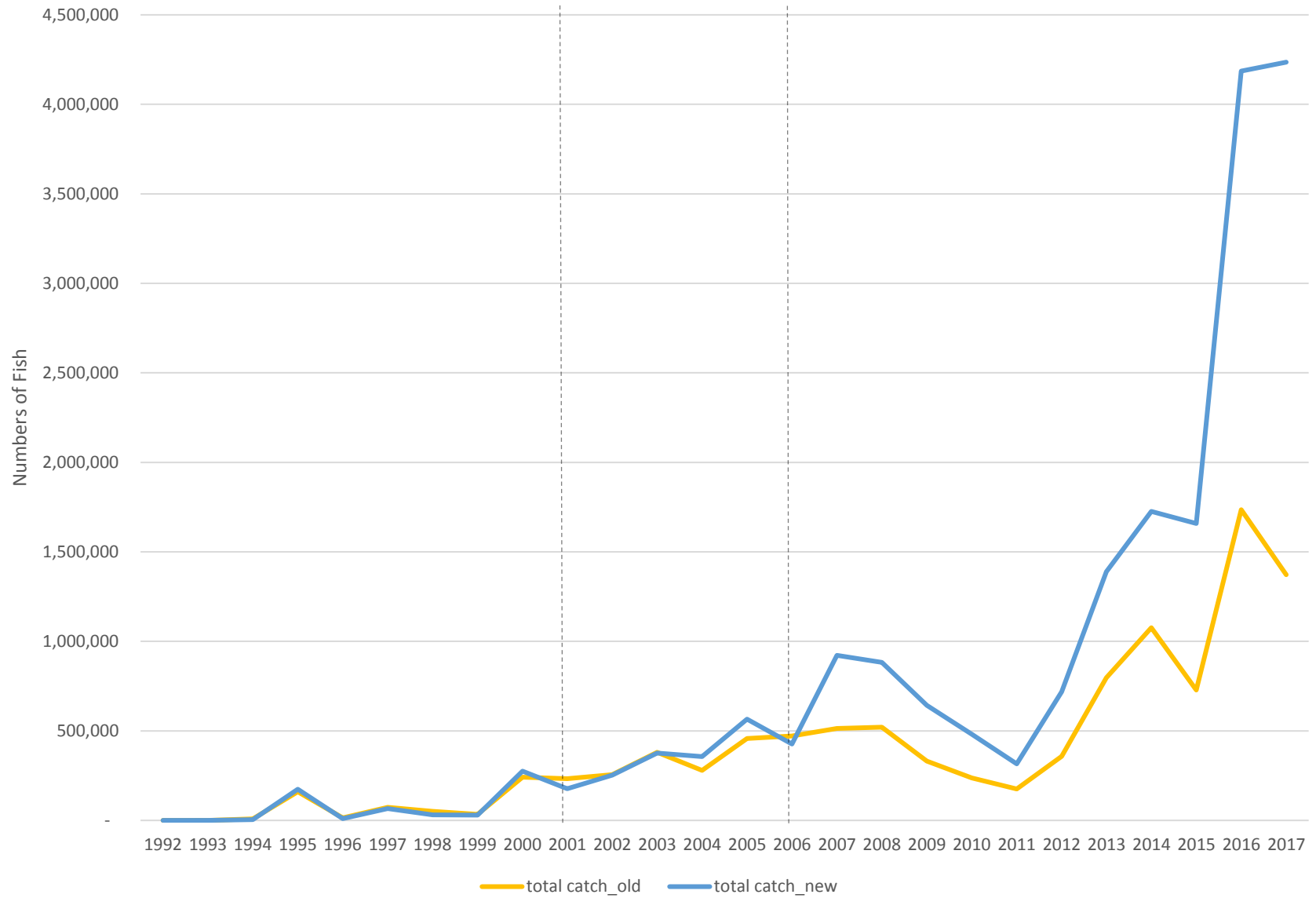
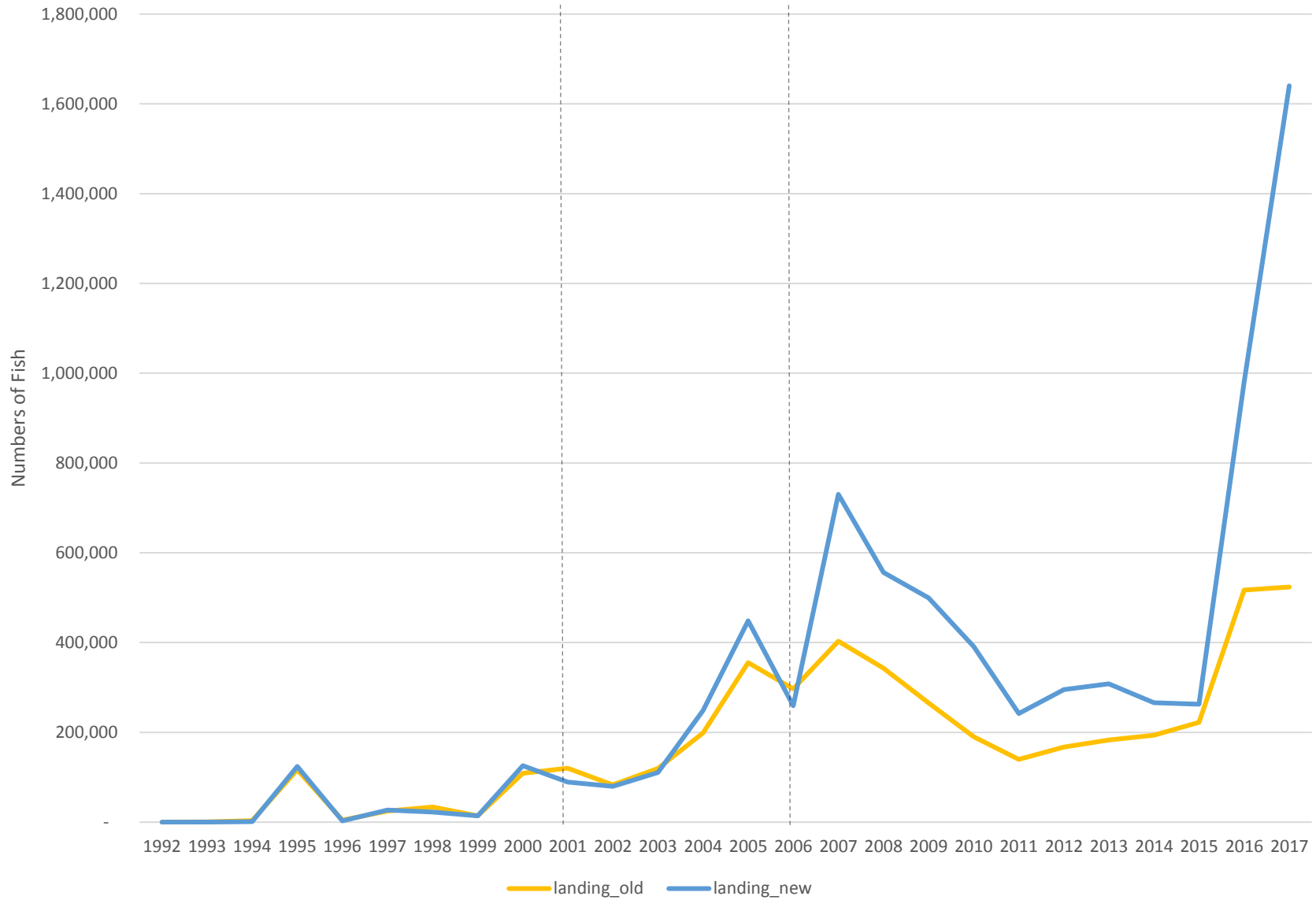


Figure 4. GOM Haddock MRIP Landings (A+B1) Comparison



# FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

## Gulf of Maine Cod

Table 1. Gulf of Maine Cod Existing Rec/Com Allocation (GARM III, Amendment 16)

Year	Rec Landings (A+B1)	Rec Discard Mortality	Com Landings	Com Discard Mortality	Total Mortality	Rec Share
2001	1,018	0	1,187	382	2,587	0.394
2002	551	0	898	383	1,832	0.301
2003	611	0	870	277	1,758	0.348
2004	531	0	799	99	1,429	0.372
2005	584	0	856	65	1,505	0.388
2006	250	0	761	114	1,125	0.222
						<b>0.337</b>

Table 2. Gulf of Maine Cod Preliminary Evaluation of Rec/Com Allocation Using New MRIP Landings and Discards, and Updated Commercial Landings and Discards (2017 Assessment Update)

Year	Rec Landings (A+B1)	Rec Discard Mortality	Com Landings	Com Discard Mortality	Total Mortality	Rec Share
2001	975	207	1,168	591	2,941	0.402
2002	626	182	882	410	2,100	0.385
2003	532	153	844	417	1,946	0.352
2004	606	188	766	546	2,105	0.377
2005	742	270	832	225	2,070	0.489
2006	212	127	733	299	1,371	0.247
						<b>0.375</b>

## Gulf of Maine Haddock

Table 3. Gulf of Maine Haddock Existing Rec/Com Allocation (GARM III, Amendment 16)

Year	Rec Landings (A+B1)	Rec Discard Mortality	Com Landings	Com Discard Mortality	Total Mortality	Rec Share
2001	120	0	514	39	673	0.179
2002	83	0	507	30	620	0.134
2003	120	0	577	25	722	0.166
2004	279	0	528	31	838	0.333
2005	445	0	531	42	1,017	0.437
2006	278	0	346	74	697	0.399
						<b>0.275</b>

Table 4. Gulf of Maine Haddock Preliminary Evaluation of Rec/Com Allocation Using New MRIP Landings and Discards, and Updated Commercial Landings and Discards (2017 Assessment Update)

Year	Rec Landings (A+B1)	Rec Discard Mortality	Com Landings	Com Discard Mortality	Total Mortality	Rec Share
2001	89	?	556	17	?	?
2002	80	?	531	22	?	?
2003	110	?	579	21	?	?
2004	249	50	528	13	840	0.356
2005	449	73	539	31	1,091	0.478
2006	259	71	348	40	719	0.460
						<b>?</b>