



# New England Fishery Management Council

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## Reminder: Time to Tune in to Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Management Workshops and Provide Feedback

The 2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Management Workshop Series is about to begin. Five separate workshops have been scheduled between August 12 and September 20. Each has its own theme, but all of the workshops are based on two common threads: (1) the new understanding that Atlantic cod may consist of five distinct biological stocks instead of two – Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank – as currently is the case; and (2) outcomes from the June series of [Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Science and Assessment Workshops](#).

The objectives of this management-focused series are to:

- Identify potential options for cod management measures;
- Examine the advantages and disadvantages of the options;
- Identify socioeconomic impacts that should be evaluated.

Here is a brief description of each workshop's focus.

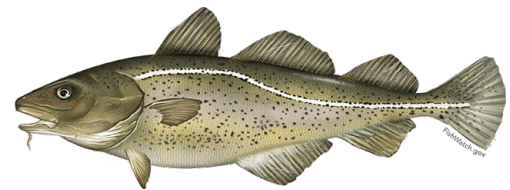
### Thursday, August 12 – Setting the Groundwork

This initial management session will [review outcomes from the June Science and Assessment Workshop Series](#), provide context on the federal management system for Atlantic cod, and share ideas for management tools and approaches to consider in a series of future management workshops.

### Tuesday, August 17 – Gathering Regional Perspectives from Southern New England and Georges Bank East & West

Focusing on Southern New England and Georges Bank, workshop presenters and participants will discuss and define both available and potential management tools that could be used to manage these stocks differently under a new biological stock structure. The discussion will address advantages and disadvantages of those options and provide an opportunity to share what stakeholders think is viable and practical to consider.

Register [HERE](#) for the Management Workshops!



### Workshop Dates At-A-Glance

- **Thursday, August 12, 2021**
  - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 17, 2021**
  - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, August 19, 2021**
  - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, September 9, 2021**
  - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Monday, September 20, 2021**
  - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.\*

\* In order to allow for a full and complete conversation, the final session may go beyond 3:00 p.m.

Agendas for each of the Atlantic cod management workshops are posted on the [2021 Workshop Webpage](#).



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## Thursday, August 19 – Gathering Regional Perspectives from Gulf of Maine East & West

Focusing on the Gulf of Maine, presenters and participants at this workshop will discuss and define both available and potential management tools that could be used to manage these stocks differently under a new biological stock structure. The discussion will address advantages and disadvantages of those options and provide an opportunity to share what stakeholders feel is viable and practical to consider.

## Thursday, September 9 – Focusing on Recreational Fishing Perspectives

Future changes to cod management will have an impact on both commercial and recreational fishing interests. This session is directed specifically at soliciting input from recreational stakeholders to provide an opportunity to increase their engagement in discussions.

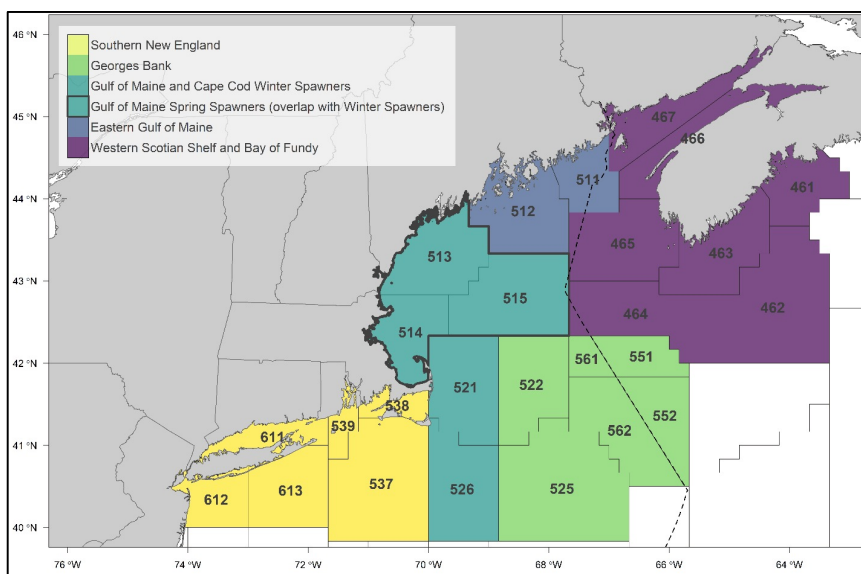
## Monday, September 20 – Evaluating Tradeoffs to Adjusting Management Measures

The final workshop will integrate the discussions from the management workshop series and explore the highest priority management options. In particular, this workshop will focus on understanding socioeconomic impacts. While this is not a decision-making forum, it is a final opportunity in the workshop series to look across all potential management options that were suggested and provide feedback on how to evaluate those options. The desired outcome is to gain a better understanding of what information stakeholders think is important and how to evaluate tradeoffs.



*A happy charter boat client caught this cod on Coxes Ledge in February 2020.  
— Rick Bellavance photo*

### Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group's Five-Stock Proposal



***An Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group was formed in early 2018 to inventory and summarize all relevant peer-reviewed information about the stock structure of Atlantic cod in U.S. and adjacent waters.***

***Atlantic cod currently is managed as two stocks – Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. However, the working group concluded in its 2020 report that the population of Atlantic cod in New England waters consists of five distinct biological stocks as shown in the map at left.***

**Questions?** Contact Dr. Jamie Cournane, the Council's groundfish plan coordinator, at (978) 465-0492 ext. 103, [jcournane@nefmc.org](mailto:jcournane@nefmc.org).