



# New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 21, 2021

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante  
(607) 592-4817, [jplante@nefmc.org](mailto:jplante@nefmc.org)

## Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshops Scheduled for June, July; Public Encouraged to Contribute to Discussion

The biological stock structure of Atlantic cod and its implications for science and management will be discussed during two different rounds of [public workshops](#). The first series, which begins on [June 1, 2021](#), will cover the science aspects, while a second series, to be held later this year, will cover the management side.

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 follows:

1. Georges Bank;
2. Southern New England;
3. Western Gulf of Maine and Cape Cod winter spawners;
4. Western Gulf of Maine spring spawners that overlap spatially with the Western Gulf of Maine and Cape Cod winter spawner stock; and
5. Eastern Gulf of Maine.

### 2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Science/Assessment Workshop Dates and Times

- **Southern New England and Georges Bank Stocks**
  - Tuesday, June 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Western and Eastern Gulf of Maine Stocks**
  - Monday, June 7 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Assessment Prospects and Data Needs for All Stocks**
  - Friday, June 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **Assessment Prospects and Data Needs for All Stocks (if needed)**
  - Thursday, July 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.





# New England Fishery Management Council

The working group's five-stock conclusion: (a) led to a rethinking of the current science and management approaches for the fishery; and (b) prompted the need for follow-up discussions.

- [Download a draft summary of the Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group's peer-reviewed conclusions HERE.](#)

Taking the next step, the New England Fishery Management Council and the Northeast Fisheries Science Center formed two other working groups to consider the implications of the newly proposed cod stocks in terms of: (1) the science and upcoming [March 2023](#) research track stock assessment for Atlantic cod; and (2) potential management actions.

The public workshops are at the core of this two-pronged approach going forward. Fishermen, fishery managers, scientists, environmentalists, and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the workshops, where the conversation will continue about how to best incorporate new stock definitions into existing science and management structures.

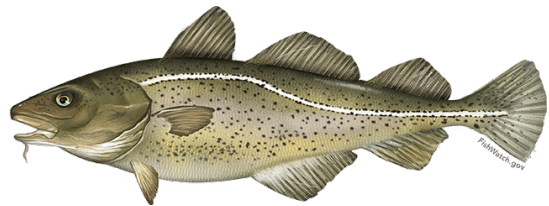
**Workshop Format:** Each workshop will feature presentations by technical experts, followed by discussions that will be open to the public to ensure that complete information is available to fully inform the process.

## Discussion of Data/Research Needs: Questions to Think About

1. Given the goal to inform the science and management of a five-stock structure, is there data that hasn't been listed that would be pertinent to the assessment?
2. Are you aware of any upcoming, ongoing, or future studies that would be relevant?
3. What are the priority research needs and data gaps to recommend to the cod assessment working group to better assess Atlantic cod under a five-stock structure?

## Register for the Webinar Workshops!

- Visit the [2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshop](#) webpage to register for each workshop and access the agendas.



- Revisit the [2018](#) and [2019](#) cod stock structure symposium webpages.

*The 2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshops are being hosted by:*



New England  
Fishery Management  
Council



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

*With contracted support  
from:*

