

DRAFT Terms of Reference-Mackerel Assessment 2009

Background

The TRAC was established in 1998 to peer review assessments of transboundary resources in the Georges Bank area and thus to ensure that the management efforts of both Canada and USA, pursued either independently or cooperatively, are founded on a common understanding of resource status.

Prior to 2009, scientists from both countries had participated in peer reviews of other's assessments at various USA SAW meetings. The last meeting occurred during December 2005. At that meeting, after reviewing several model formulations, consensus was reached on using an ASAP model to assess the current status of the Northwest Atlantic mackerel stock.

The purpose of this meeting is to review and incorporate any new information from survey indices and the fisheries, revisit any model formulation issues and recommend a suitable approach upon which to base management advice.

Objectives

- Review progress made on the recommendations from the 42nd SAW meeting.
- Update results with the latest information from fisheries and research surveys.
 - Description of the US and Canadian mackerel fisheries
 - Update of the Canadian Egg survey
 - Results of the otolith exchange study
- Review the assessment model formulation issues and recommend an approach for stock status determination.
 - Description of the US index of abundance
 - Exploration of the ICES VPA models, forward projection models (ASAP), and other relevant approaches.
- Apply the agreed assessment approach to update the status Northwest Atlantic mackerel stock through 2008 and characterize the uncertainty of estimates.
- Review the harvest strategy biological reference points to meet management requirements of both countries.
- Review approach for the provision of projections to meet the requirements of both countries
- Sources of uncertainty (unrecorded catches, discards, etc...).
- Future works (International egg survey, tagging and genetic studies, and other collaboration between both countries).
- Ecosystem considerations
- Ecocertification (???)

Products

- Meeting Proceedings, which will document the details of the review and summarize the consensus results.

Participation

- NEFSC and DFO Stock Assessment teams and other laboratory scientists
- Invited external (not from NEFSC or DFO) reviewers
- Representatives from US and Canadian management agencies
- US State and Canadian Provincial representatives
- US and Canadian fishing industry participants