

MEETING OVERVIEW

The Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting of the 36th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (36th SAW) was held in the Aquarium Conference Room of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA December 2-6, 2002. The SARC Chairman was Dr. Andrew Payne, CEFAS, UK (CIE). Members of the SARC included scientists from the NEFSC, the NMFS's Northeast Regional Office, the New England Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), State of Maryland, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and the SEFSC's Beaufort NC laboratory (Table 1). In addition, 39 other persons attended some or all of the meeting (Table 2). The meeting agenda is presented in Table 3.

Table 1. SAW-36th SARC Composition.

Andrew Payne (CEFAS, Lowestoft, UK; CIE), **Chairman**

Northeast Fishery Science Center:

Jon Brodziak
Chris Legault
Richard Pace
Anne Richards

Regional Fishery Management Councils:

Andy Applegate, NEFMC

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission/States:

Laura Lee, ASMFC
Paul Piavis, MD

Other experts:

Jerome Hermsen, NMFS, Gloucester
Heath Stone, DFO, St. Andrews
John Wheeler, DFO, Newfoundland; CIE
Erik Williams, SEFSC, Beaufort

Table 2. List of Participants.

<u>NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center</u>	<u>MAFMC/ASMFC/States/Industry</u>
Almeida, Frank	Carmichael, John - NC DMF
Boreman, John	Caruso, Paul - MA DMF
Burnett, Jay	Correia, Steve - MA DMF
Cadrin, Steve	Gamble, Megan - ASMFC
Col, Laurel	Glenn, Bob - MA DMR
Idoine, Josef	Hunter, Margaret - Maine DMR
Jearld, Ambrose	Kelly, Steve - REMSA
Mayo, Ralph	King, Jeremy - MA DMF
McHugh, Nancy	Kuzirian, Alan - MBL
Moser, Joshua	Lazar, Najih - RI DFW
Murawski, Steve	Lewis, Michael - ASMFC
Nitshcke, Paul	Lovett, Katie - NMFS
O'Brien, Loretta	McNamee, Jason - RI DEM
Serchuk, Fred	Munger, Lydia - ASMFC
Shepherd, Gary	O'Shea, Vincent - ASMFC
Smith, Pie	Quinlan, John - Rutgers IMCS
Smith, Terry	Sharov, Alexei - MD DNR
Sosebee, Katherine	Welch, Stuart - U.S.G.S
Sutherland, Sandra	
Terceiro, Mark	
Thompson, Michele	

**Table 3. Agenda of the 36th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop
(SAW-36) Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) Meeting**

Aquarium Conference Room - NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory
Woods Hole, Massachusetts
2 - 6 December, 2002

TOPIC	WORKING GROUP & PRESENTER(S)	SARC LEADER	RAPPORTEUR
MONDAY, 2 December (1:00 - 5:00 PM).....			
Opening			
Welcome	Terry Smith, SAW Chairman		P. Smith
Introduction	Andy Payne, SARC Chairman		
Yellowtail flounder (A)	SAW Southern Demersal Working Group S. Cadrin	H. Stone	R. Mayo
TUESDAY, 3 December (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).....			
SNE/MA winter flounder (B1)	ASMFC winter flounder technical committee M. Terceiro	J. Wheeler	P. Nitschke
Gulf of Maine winter flounder (B2)	ASMFC winter flounder technical committee P. Nitschke	E. Williams	M. Terceiro
Northern shrimp (C)	ASMFC northern shrimp technical committee M. Hunter	L. Lee	R. Glenn
Informal reception (6:00 PM) at SWOPE Building (Marine Biological Laboratory)			
WEDNESDAY, 4 December (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).....			
SNE/MA yellowtail flounder (A1)	SAW Southern Demersal Working Group S. Cadrin	H. Stone	S. Wigley
Cape Cod yellowtail flounder (A2)	SAW Southern Demersal Working Group S. Cadrin	A. Applegate	J. King
Atlantic striped bass (D)	ASMFC striped bass technical committee A. Sharov/ S. Welch	P. Piavis	M. Gamble
THURSDAY, 5 December (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).....			
Review Advisory Reports and Consensus Summary Sections for the SARC Report			
FRIDAY, 6 December (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).....			
SARC comments, research recommendations, and 2nd drafts of Advisory Reports			
Other business		P. Smith	

The Process

The Northeast Regional Coordinating Council, which guides the SAW process, is composed of the chief executives of the five partner organizations (NMFS/NEFSC, NMFS/NER, NEFMC, MAFMC, ASMFC). Working groups assemble the data for assessments, decide on methodology, and prepare documents for SARC review. The SARC members have a dual role \cap panelists are both reviewers of assessments and drafters of management advice. As products of the meeting, the Committee prepares two reports: a summary of the assessments with advice for fishery managers known as the *Advisory Report on Stock Status*; and a more detailed report of the assessment, results, discussions and recommendations known as the *Consensus Summary of Assessments* (this report).

Assessments for SARC review were prepared at meetings listed in Table 4.

Table 4. SAW-36 Working Group meetings and participants.

Working Group and Participants	Stock/Species	Meeting Date
<u>SAW Southern Demersal Subcommittee</u>		
	Yellowtail flounder stock structure	August 29, 2002
Frank Almeida	NEFSC	
Jon Brodziak	NEFSC	
Steve Cadrin	NEFSC	
Hemant Chikarmane	MBL	
Laurel Col	NEFSC	
Alexandra Hangsterfer	MBL	
Jeremy King	MADMF	
Alan Kuzirian	MBL	
Chris Legault	NEFSC	
Ralph Mayo	NEFSC	
Tom Nies	NEFMC	
Loretta O'Brien	NEFSC	
Bill Overholtz	NEFSC	
Paul Rago	NEFSC	
Tim Sheehan	NEFSC	
Vaughn Silva	NEFSC	
Sandy Sutherland	NEFSC	
Mark Terceiro, chair	NEFSC	
Michelle Thompson	NEFSC	
Susan Wigley	NEFSC	

Table 4. (cont.) SAW-36 Working Group meetings and participants.

Working Group and Participants	Stock/Species	Meeting Date
	SNE/MA yellowtail flounder CC/GOM yellowtail flounder	Sept. 30 - October 4, 2002
Steve Cadrin	NEFSC	
Steve Correia	MA DMF	
Jeremy King	MA DMF	
Gary Shepherd	NEFSC	
Kathy Sosebee	NEFSC	
Mark Terceiro, chair	NEFSC	
<u>ASMFC Winter Flounder Technical Committee</u>		
	SNE/MA winter flounder GOM winter flounder	September 24-25, 2002
Jay Burnett	NEFSC	
Steve Cadrin	NEFSC	
Steve Correia	MA DMF, Chair	
Laura Lee	ASMFC, RIDMF	
Chris Legault	NEFSC	
Anne Mooney	NY DEC	
Lydia Munger	ASMFC	
Paul Nitschke	NEFSC	
Sally Sherman	ME DMR	
David Simpson	CT DEP	
Kathy Sosebee	NEFSC	
Mark Terceiro	NEFSC	
Susan Wigley	NEFSC	
<u>ASMFC Northern Shrimp Technical Committee</u>		
	Northern Shrimp	May 15, 2002 September 23-24, 2002
Robert Glenn	MA DMF	
Margaret Hunter, chair	ME DMR	
Josef Idoine	NEFSC	
Clare McBane	NH F&G	

Table 4. (cont.) SAW-36 Working Group meetings and participants.

<u>Working Group and Participants</u>	<u>Stock/Species</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
<u>ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Tagging. Committee</u>		Linthicum, MD July 23-24, 2002
Robert Beal	ASMFC	
Megan Gamble	ASMFC	
Bob Harris	VIMS	
Desmond Kahn	DE DFW	
Tina McCrobie	USFWS	
Kim McKown	NYS DEC	
Vic Vecchio	NYS DEC	
Beth Versak	MD DNR	
Stuart Welch	USGS, WVU	
<u>ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee</u>		Linthicum, MD September 10-12, 2002
Mike Armstrong	MA DMF	
Tom Baum	NJ DFW	
Robert Beal	ASMFC	
John Carmichael	NC DMF	
Vic Crecco	CT DMF	
Megan Gamble	ASMFC	
Mark Gibson	RI DFW	
Doug Grout	NH DFW	
Phil Jones	MD DNR	
Desmond Kahn	DE DFW	
Kim McKown	NYS DEC	
Gary Nelson	MA DMF	
Rob O'Reilly	VRMC	
Alexi Sharov	MD DNR	
Gary Shepherd	NEFSC	
Tom Squiers	ME DMR	

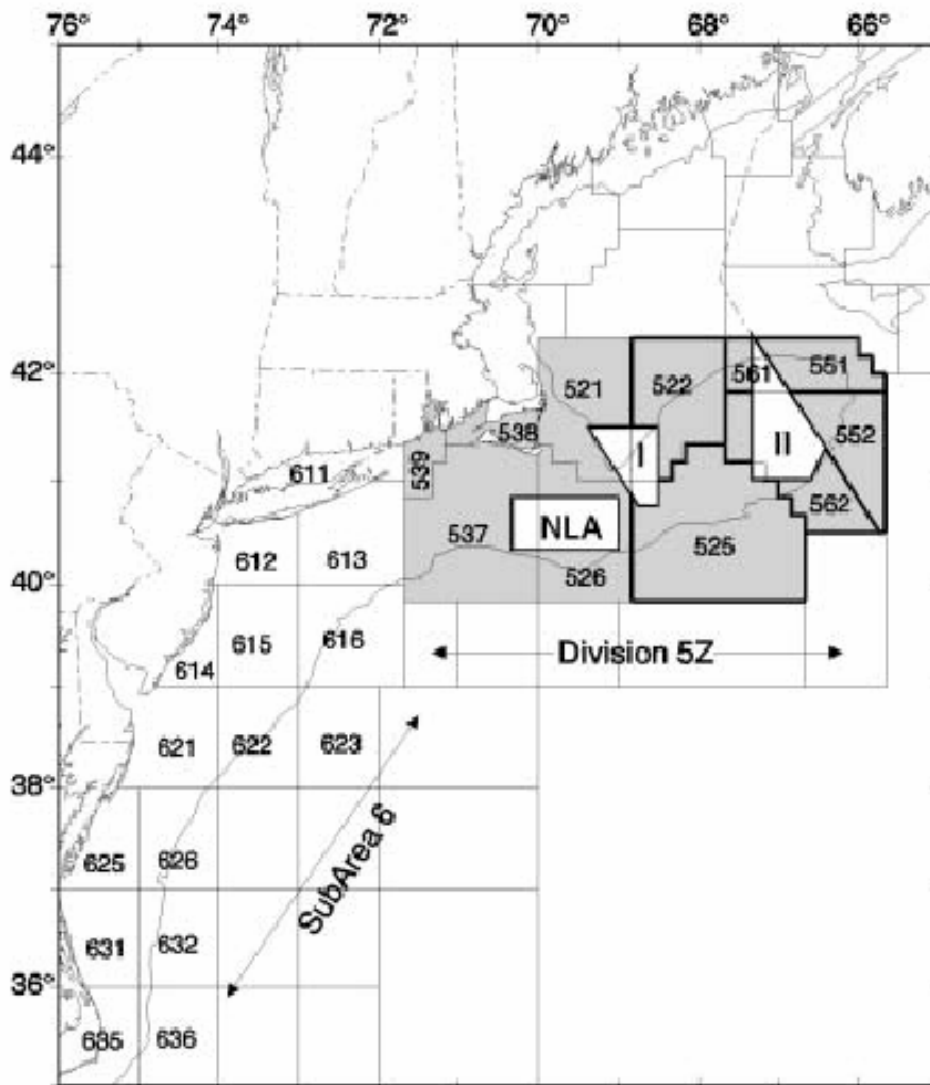
Agenda and Reports

The 36th SARC included presentations on assessments for yellowtail flounder (two stocks), winter flounder (two stocks), and northern shrimp as well as a presentation on assessment methodologies for striped bass. Prior to the presentation and discussion of individual yellowtail flounder stock assessments, the SARC discussed the issue of stock identification for the species. Information was offered by the SAW southern demersal group that led the SARC to conclude that, for assessment purposes, three stocks be classified: Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA), Georges Bank, and Cape Cod/Gulf of Maine (CC/GOM). Assessments for the SNE/MA and CC/GOM stocks were then reviewed by the panel. The two winter flounder stocks assessed and reviewed by the panel are the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic stock (SNE/MA) (as previously defined) and the Gulf of Maine stock (previously defined). The GOM winter flounder assessment was the first analytical assessment (VPA via ADAPT) offered for the stock. The winter flounder assessments were prepared by the ASMFC's winter flounder technical committee as was the assessment for northern shrimp. The striped bass information reviewed by the SARC was not an assessment, per se, but rather materials to address a set of questions (Terms of Reference) which related to specific issues of assessment methodology offered by the ASMFC.

SARC documentation includes two reports: one containing the assessments, SARC comments, and research recommendations (the Consensus Summary Report), and another produced in a standard format which includes information on stock status and management advice (Advisory Report). The draft reports were provided to the NEFMC, MAFMC and ASMFC in January. Presentations to the Councils and Commissions took place in January and February 2003 (MAFMC, 23 January, Atlantic City; NEFMC, 29 January, Portsmouth NH; ASMFC, 25 February, Crystal City VA). Following review by the Councils and Commission, the documents are finalized and published in the NEFSC Reference Document series as the *36th SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments* (this report) and the *36th SAW Public Review Workshop Report* (which includes the final version of the Advisory Report).

A chart of US commercial statistical areas used to report landings in the Northwest Atlantic is presented in Figure 1. A chart showing the sampling strata used in NEFSC bottom trawls surveys is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 1. Statistical areas used for catch monitoring in offshore fisheries in the Northeast United States.



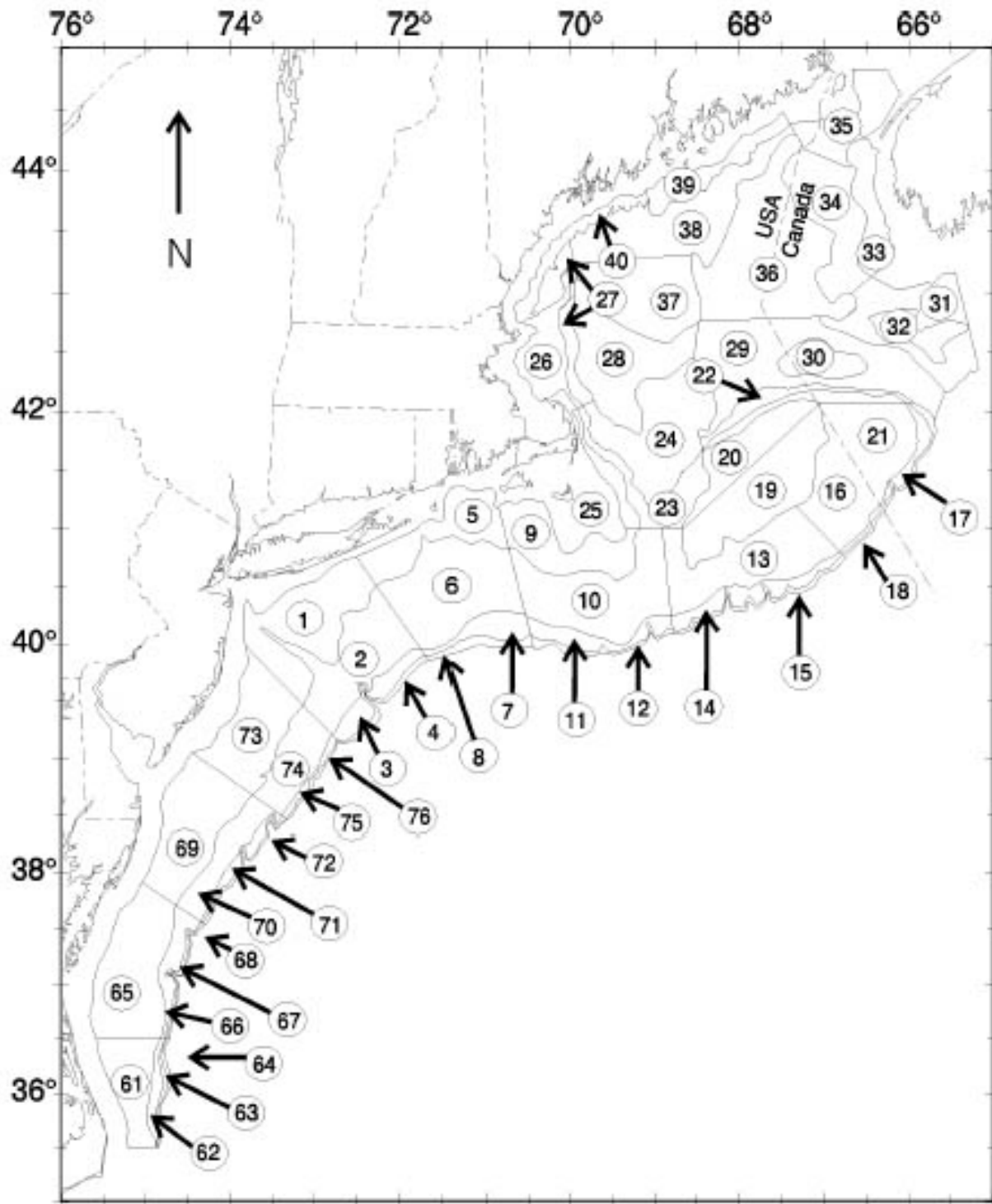


Figure 2. Offshore sampling strata used in NEFSC bottom trawl surveys.