

Appendix A. Management History of Gulf of Maine Cod.

Table 1. A Brief Chronology of Management Measures Affecting Gulf of Maine Cod, 1973-2003.

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1973

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits implemented by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) for Division 5Y (Gulf of Maine) cod.

Minimum codend mesh size at 4 2" (114 mm).

1977

Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) implemented. Management under the auspices of the New England Fishery Management Council.

1977-1982

Management of groundfish resources under the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic groundfish. Carried forward TACs; implemented by vessel tonnage class and calendar quarter with trip limits.

Minimum codend mesh size increased to 5 1/8" (130 mm).

1982-1985

Management of groundfish resources under the Interim Plan for Atlantic groundfish.

Eliminated direct catch controls; primary tools for fishery management were minimum mesh sizes and minimum landing sizes.

1983

Minimum codend mesh size increased to 5 2" (140 mm).

1986

Northeast Multi-species FMP implemented. Amendments 1-4 retained indirect controls, including minimum mesh and minimum fish landing sizes.

1989

Minimum fish size = 19" (48 cm) for commercial and recreational sectors.

1994

January 1 Amendment 5

50% reduction in F and effort over 5-7 years.

Days at Sea (DAS) monitoring

Implemented a Mandatory Reporting Scheme

May 1 Amendment 5 (again)

Minimum codend mesh size increased to 6" (152 mm), diamond or square.

1996

May 1 Amendment 7

Established rebuilding program based on Fmax target fishing mortality

Established Target TACs

Accelerated Days at Sea reductions

Established Framework Adjustment Process and the Multi-species Monitoring Committee to permit annual adjustments to management measures

Minimum fish size increased to 20" (51 cm) for recreational sector.

1997

May 1 Framework 20

Target TAC: 2,605 mt

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit: 1,000 or 1,500 lbs/day

Minimum fish size increased to 21" (53 cm) for recreational sector.

Appendix A: Table 1 (Continued).

1998

May 1 Framework 25

Target TAC: 1,800 mt with trigger provision

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit 700 lbs/day

Series of 1-month rolling closures from Massachusetts Bay to Penobscot Bay.

Year-round closure of portions of Jeffreys Ledge and Stellwagen Bank (WGOM Closed Area)

June 25 Framework trigger pulled

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit: 400 lbs/day

1999

February 1 Framework 26

Additional month-block (30x30 minutes) closures implemented for February and April

May 1 Framework 27

Target TAC: 1,300 mt with trigger provision

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit: 200 lbs/day

Minimum square mesh increased to 6.5" (165 mm); diamond mesh remains at 6" (152 mm).

May 28 Framework trigger pulled

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit: 30 lbs/day

August 3 Interim Rule

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit: 100 lbs/day

November 15

Amendment 9 Implemented with new overfishing definitions, and set Optimum Yield for 12 groundfish species to bring plan into complete compliance with the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

2000

January 5 Framework 31

Gulf of Maine cod trip limit: 400 lbs/day- 4,000 maximum/trip.

Additional month-block (30x30 minutes) closures implemented for February

May 1 Framework 33

Target TAC: 1,900 mt with trigger provision

Continuation of most Framework 27 and 31 measures

Year-round closure of WGOM area extended until April, 2002.

November 1 Framework trigger pulled

One-month closure of Cashes Ledge

2001

January 1 Framework trigger pulled

Additional month-block (30x30 minutes) closures implemented for January

May 1 Annual Adjustment

Target TAC: 1,118 mt

Continuation of most Framework 27 and 31, and 33 measures.

2002

Continuation of most Framework 27 and 31, and 33 measures.

August 1 Interim Rule: Baseline DAS revised as follows:

Additional month-block (30x30 minutes) closures required for May and June, 2003.

The used DAS baseline for a limited access permit is calculated based on the highest number of DAS that a vessel(s) fished during any single fishing year among the 1996 through 2000 fishing years, which includes the period May 1, 1996, through April 30, 2001, not to exceed the vessel=s current DAS allocation in any given year.

Baseline DAS for FY 2002, beginning May 1 reduced by 20% from the above.

Minimum fish size increased to 22" (56 cm) for the commercial sector and 23" (58 cm) for the recreational sector.

Trip limit increased to 500 lbs/day. Maximum possession limit remains at 4000 lbs.

Redefines and divides the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank (GOM/GB) Regulated Mesh Area (RMA) into two areas: The GOM RMA, which is the area north of the GOM cod exemption line currently used to define the areas where the GOM cod and GB cod trip limits apply (42 deg, 20 min N Lat); and the GB RMA, which is that part of the current GOM/ GB RMA that lies south of the GOM cod exemption.

2003

Continuation of most Framework 27 and 31, and 33 measures.

June 27 Final Emergency Rule:

Continues the DAS baseline that was established for each vessel by the August 1, 2002, interim rule, based on the permit history of that vessel.

Baseline DAS for FY 2003, beginning May 1 until implementation of Amendment 13 reduced by 20% from the above.

Continues the RMAs established by the August 1, 2002, interim rule.

Continues the closure areas established under the August 1, 2002, interim rule for the Western Gulf of Maine (WGOM) Area Closure, the Rolling Closure Areas, and the Cashes Ledge Closure Area.

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Table 2. Recent Management Measures affecting New England Groundfish Stocks, 2002-2007.

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2002
February 15-March 11: Northern Shrimp season (25 days with days off)
<p>May 1: Interim rule as a result of FW 33 lawsuit settlement agreement. Continuation of most measures from previous frameworks.</p> <p><u>DAS</u>: 15 hour minimum charged for all trips over 3 hours Vessels limited to 25 percent of allocation May 1 through July 31, 2002 (only) Prohibition on front-loading DAS</p> <p><u>Minimum size</u>: Cod 22 in.</p> <p><u>Gear</u>: GOM Regulated Mesh Area (RMA): 6.5 in. diamond or square codend minimum, 6.5 inch mesh for trip gillnets, 6.5 inch mesh standup (roundfish) or 7 inch mesh tiedown (flatfish) for day gillnets. All areas: day gillnets limited to 50 standup/100 tiedown nets.</p> <p><u>Hook gear</u>: de-hooking devices with spacing of less than six inches prohibited.</p> <p><u>Closures</u>: WGOM year round closure extended (was to sunset May 1); Cashes Ledge Closed Area (year round); year round Cashes Ledge East and West closure added; add blocks 124/125 May, blocks 132/133 June,</p> <p><u>Recreational</u>: Cod minimum size 23 in., GOM party/charter limited to 10 fish combined cod/haddock, all areas private recreational limited to 10 cod</p> <p><u>Possession limits</u>: Remain the same. Haddock possession limit of 3,000 lbs.-DAS/30,000 lbs.-trip through September 30.</p>
<p>June 1: Revised interim rule</p> <p><u>Minimum size</u>: Cod 19 in.</p> <p><u>Closures</u>: Year-round Cashes Ledge east and west closures removed</p> <p><u>Gear</u>: <u>Hook</u>: Requirement for six-inch spacing for de-hooking gear removed</p>
<p>July 4: Haddock daily limit suspended. Possession limit of 30,000 lbs.-trip until September 30, 50,000 lbs.-trip thereafter.</p>
<p>August 1: Emergency rule implementing FW 33 lawsuit settlement agreement.</p> <p><u>DAS</u>: DAS allocation for each permit reduced 20 percent from maximum used FY 1996-2000 (est 71,218 allocated, including carry-over). DAS counted by the minute, except for day gillnet vessels (15 hour minimum). (This change reverted to DAS counting in effect in FY 2001). Prohibition on front-loading DAS clock.</p> <p><u>Minimum size</u>: Cod 22 in.</p> <p><u>Gear</u>: <u>Trawl</u>: GOM/GB RMAs: 6.5 in. diamond or square codend minimum; Southern New England RMA changed to 70W to 74W (vice 72-30W). 6.5 in. square, 7 in. diamond codend in SNE RMA. <u>Gillnet</u>: GOM: Trip gillnets – 6.5 in. mesh/150 nets; Day – 6.5 in./50 standup nets, 7 in./100 tiedown nets (prohibited March-June); GB – 6.5 in./50 nets, SNE – 6.5 in./75 nets; Mid-Atlantic: Trip – 5.5 in. diamond/6 in. square, Day – 5.5 in. diamond/6 in. square.</p> <p><u>Hook</u>: no de-hookers with less than 6 in/. spacing, 12/0 circle hooks or larger; GOM: 2,000 rigged hooks, GB: 3,600 rigged hooks</p> <p><u>Closures</u>: Add GB seasonal closure areas, May – Blocks 80, 81, 118, 119, 120 (south of 42-20N)</p> <p><u>Possession limits</u>: <u>Yellowtail flounder</u>: SNE/MA: landing/possession of yellowtail flounder prohibited south of 40N. Mar 1 – May 31: 250 lbs./trip, June 1 – February 28: 500 lbs.-DAS/4,000 lbs. – trip. <u>Cod</u>: GOM: 500 lbs.-DAS/4,000 lbs./trip. Open access commercial permits limited to 200 lbs. regulated groundfish.</p> <p><u>Recreational</u>: Cod/haddock: 23 in. minimum size. Party/charter: GOM RMA: April-November, 10 cod/haddock combined per person, Dec-Mar – 10 cod/haddock combined, no more than 5 cod per person per trip. Private: GOM RMA: December-March – 10 cod/haddock combined, no more than 5 cod.</p>

Appendix A: Table 2 (Continued)
2003
January 15-February 27: Northern Shrimp season (38 days with days off)
March 13: Haddock possession limit suspended until May 1.
May 1: Haddock possession limit of 3,000 lbs-DAS/30,000 lbs.-trip
May 1: Framework Adjustment 37 Modifications to whiting management measures: extension of Cultivator Shoal whiting fishery by one month (June 15-October 31), changes to default measures, minor changes to Cape Cod Bay Raised Footrope Trawl exemption area.
May 13: Haddock possession limit revised to 30,000 lbs./trip (no daily limit).
July 9: Framework Adjustment 38 Raised footrope trawl whiting fishery in the inshore GOM, July 1 – November 30 each year.
July 28: Final emergency rule implementing FW 33 lawsuit settlement agreement <u>Recreational</u> : Haddock, 21 in. minimum size. Party/charter: GOM: Apr-Nov, 10 cod per person, December-March, 5 cod per person. Private: GOM: December-March, 10 cod/haddock combined, no more than 5 cod. Other areas: 10 cod/haddock combined.
October 7: Haddock possession limit suspended for the remainder of the fishing year.
2004
January 19-March 12: Northern Shrimp season (40 days with days off)
May 1: Implementation of Amendment 13. Measures based on emergency rule and measures in effect prior to interim rule. <u>DAS</u> : DAS for each permit re-categorized. Category 1: 60% of maximum DAS used FY 1996-2001 in years that permit landed 5,000 pounds regulated groundfish (est. 43,000 allocated). Category B: 40% of maximum DAS used FY 1996-2001 in years that permit landed 5,000 pounds regulated groundfish; can only be used in specific programs. DAS leasing and transfer programs allow DAS exchanges between vessels under limited conditions. (200 lbs. of winter flounder can be retained by vessels fishing for fluke west of 72-30 W without using a DAS). <u>Minimum Size</u> : No change from emergency rule <u>Gear</u> : <u>Trawl</u> : No change from emergency rule. <u>Gillnet</u> : GOM/GB: Day-6.5 in./50 standup nets, no seasonal restriction on tie-down nets; Trip: 6.5 in. mesh/150 nets. SNE/MA: 6.5 in. in. mesh/75 nets. <u>Hook</u> : <u>GOM</u> : 2,000 hooks. <u>GB</u> : 3,600 hooks <u>Closures</u> : Same as emergency rule, with addition of habitat closed areas; all except Jeffrey Bank and NLCA habitat closed area are within existing year-round closed areas. <u>Possession limits</u> : <u>GOM cod</u> : 800 lbs-DAS/4,000 lbs.-trip. <u>GB cod</u> : 1,000 lbs.-DAS/10,000 lbs.-trip. <u>CC/GOM yellowtail flounder</u> : April, May, October, November - 250 lbs. trip, other months 750 lbs.-DAS/3,000 lbs-trip. <u>SNE/MA yellowtail flounder</u> : March -June, 250 lbs. trip, other months 750 lbs.-DAS/3,000 lbs-trip. <u>Haddock</u> : 3,000 lbs.-DAS/30,000 lbs.-trip. <u>Special Management Programs</u> : <u>US/Canada Area</u> : hard TAC on cod, haddock (SAs 561, 562), yellowtail flounder (SAs 522, 525, 561, 562). Cod possession limit: 500 lbs-DAS/5,000 lbs-trip. No DAS charged to/from SAs 561, 562. <u>Exempted Fisheries</u> : Northern Shrimp fishery area restriction removed; General Category scallop fishery exemption in SAs 537, 538, 539, and 613.
May 14: Haddock possession limit suspended for remainder of the fishing year.
June 1: CAII Yellowtail Flounder Special Access Program Access to CAII south of 41-30N by trawl vessels targeting yellowtail flounder. Limited to 320 trips (total), two trips per vessel per month, yellowtail flounder limited to 30,000 lbs./trip. Authorized use of Category B DAS.
June 23: Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP. 10-in. square mesh twine top required for all scallop dredge vessels in all areas.
September 3: CAII Yellowtail Flounder SAP ends (no trips can begin after this date)

November 2: Framework Adjustment 39 (Scallop Framework Adjustment 16)

Appendix A: Table 2 (Continued)

Scallop dredge vessel access to portions of groundfish mortality CAII and NLCA in 2004, CAI and CAII in 2005, and CAI and NLCA in 2006.

Season: June 15 through January 31.

Possession limits: 1,000 lbs. regulated groundfish, no more than 100 lbs. cod. In NLCA, limited to 250 lbs.-trip yellowtail flounder in June. (Outside of access program, scallop vessels continue to be limited to 300 lbs. regulated groundfish per trip).

Yellowtail flounder catch capped at 10 percent of target TAC for the stock.

October 1: Closure of SAs 561 and 562 to all fishing on a multispecies DAS. Prohibition on the possession of yellowtail flounder from SAs 522, 525, 561, 562.

November 19: Framework Adjustment 40A

Closed Area I Haddock SAP

Access to small area of CAI to target haddock using longlines. Limited to 1,000 mt haddock TAC. Season ends December 31.

Eastern US/CA Area Haddock SAP Pilot Program

Access to northern corner of CAII and adjacent area to target haddock using separator trawl. Season: May 1 through December 31. Authorized use of Category B DAS.

Category B (regular) DAS Pilot Program

Vessels can use Category B (regular) DAS to target healthy stocks. Catch (kept and discarded) limited to 100 lbs. of cod, American plaice, white hake, witch flounder, ocean pout, SNE/MA winter flounder and windowpane flounder, 25 lbs.-DAS/250 lbs.-trip of yellowtail flounder. Maximum of 1,000 DAS can be used in each of four quarters from November 1, 2004 through October 31, 2005.

2006 Framework Adjustment 42

Established Bmsy targets and Fmsy thresholds for 18 groundfish stocks reviewed at GARMII in August 2005. This framework also established formal rebuilding plans for stocks that were classified as overfished, i.e., where the 2004 stock biomass was estimated to be less than ½ Bmsy