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MEETING OVERVIEW

The Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting of the 34th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (34th SAW) was held in the Aquarium Conference Room of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA during November 26-30, 2001. The SARC Chairman was Dr. Robin Cook, Aberdeen Marine Laboratory. Members of the SARC included scientists from the NEFSC, the Northeast Regional Office (NERO), the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), the University of Rhode Island, the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Table 1). Support for Drs. Cook and Mohn was provided by the Center for Independent Experts, University of Miami. In addition, 52 other persons attended some or all of the meeting (Table 2). The meeting agenda is presented in Table 3.

Table 1. SAW-34 SARC Composition.

Chairman, **Robin Cook (FRS, Aberdeen, UK)**

NEFSC, NMFS Regional Office
Russell Brown, Jay Burnett
Loretta O'Brien, Bill Overholtz,
John Witzig

Regional Fishery Management Councils
Andrew Applegate, NEFMC
Richard Seagraves, MAFMC

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission/States:
Megan Gamble, ASMFC - Gary Nelson, MA

Other experts:
Joseph DeAlteris (URI), Roger Hanlon (MBL)
Bob Mohn (DFO/BIO, Halifax)

Advisors:
Kathy Downey, Jack Jones,
Robert Lane, Maggie Raymond

Opening

Dr. Terrence Smith, Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW) Chairman, welcomed the meeting participants and briefly reviewed the overall SAW process. Dr. Cook reviewed the agenda and discussed the conduct of the meeting.

Table 2. List of Participants

NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Frank Almeida	Ralph Mayo
John Boreman	Henry Milliken
Jon Brodziak	Steve Murawski
Steve Cadrin	Paul Nitschke
Peter Chase	Paul Rago
David Curelli	Anne Richards
Michael Fogarty	Marjorie Rossman
Wendy Gabriel	Fred Serchuk
Lisa Hendrickson	Gary Shepherd
Devorah Hart	Pie Smith
Joe Idoine	Terry Smith
Larry Jacobson	Katherine Sosebee
Ambrose Jearld	Lorraine Spenle
Chad Keith	Sandra Sutherland
Han-Lin Lai	Mark Terceiro
Kathy Lang	Michelle Thompson
Chris Legault	Jim Weinberg
Jason Link	Susan Wigley
	Amy Wittingham

NEFMC/ASMFC/States/Industry

Sarah Babson-Pike, NERO
Steve Correia, MA
Steve Gorniak, Cornell
Phil Haring, NEFMC
Jill Jennings, Observer
Bob Johnson, MA
Jeremy King, MA
Albert Leo, Cornell
Leslie Anne McGee, NEFMC
J.J. Maguire, Industry
Garth Peterson, Congressional
David Pierce, MA
Eric Powell, Industry
John Quinlan, WHOI
Mark Simonitsch, Industry

Table 3. Agenda of the 34th Northeast regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW-34) Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC) meeting.

Aquarium Conference Room NEFSC Woods Hole Laboratory Woods Hole, Massachusetts November 26-30, 2001 AGENDA			
TOPIC	WORKING GROUP	SARC LEADER	RAPPORTEUR(S)
& PRESENTER(S)			
MONDAY, 26 November (1:00 - 5:30 PM).....			
Opening			
Welcome		Terry Smith, SAW Chairman	P. Smith
Introduction		Robin Cook, SARC Chairman	
Agenda			
Conduct of meeting			
Georges Bank winter flounder (B)	L. Hendrickson	W. Overholtz	P. Nitschke
Informal reception (6:00 PM) at SWOPE Building (Marine Biological Laboratory)			
TUESDAY, 27 November (8:30 AM - 6:00 PM).....			
Goosefish (C)	R. A. Richards	R. Brown	C. Legault
WEDNESDAY, 28 November (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).....			
Loligo (A)	L. Jacobson H. Lai J. Brodziak	B. Mohn	G. Shepherd
THURSDAY, 29 November (8:30 AM - 6:00 PM).....			
Review Advisory Reports and Sections for the SARC Report			
FRIDAY, 30 November (8:30 AM - Noon PM).....			
SARC comments, research recommendations, and 2nd drafts of Advisory Reports			
Other business		P. Smith	

The Process

The Northeast Coordinating Council, which guides the SAW process, is composed of the executives of the five partner organizations responsible for fisheries management in the Northeast Region (NMFS/Northeast Fisheries Science Center, New England Fishery Management Council, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission). Working groups assemble the data for assessments, decide on methodology, and prepare

documents for SARC review. The SARC members have a dual role; panelists are both reviewers of assessments and drafters of management advice. More specifically, although the SARC's primary role is peer review of the assessments tabled at the meeting, the Committee also prepares a report with advice for fishery managers contained in the 34th *SAW Advisory Report*.

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

Table 4. SAW-34 Working Group meetings and participants.

Working Group and Participants	Meeting Date	Stock/Species
<u>Southern Demersal Working Group</u> J. Brodziak, NEFSC R. Brown, NEFSC S. Cadrin, NEFSC L. Hendrickson, NEFSC R. Mayo, NEFSC P. Nitschke, NEFSC L. O'Brien, NEFSC K. Sosebee, NEFSC M. Terceiro, NEFSC (Chair) S. Wigley, NEFSC	29-30 October, 2001	Georges Bank winter flounder
<u>Southern Demersal Working Group</u> A. Applegate, NEFMC K. Downey, Industry H. Franco, Industry P. Haring, Industry P. Kavanagh, Industry C. Legault, NEFSC J. Maguire, Industry J. Mahoney, NERO N. McHugh, NEFSC H. Milliken, NEFSC A. Richards, NEFSC G. Shepherd, NEFSC T. Smith, NEFSC K. Sosebee, NEFSC M. Terceiro, NEFSC M. Vassal, Industry A. Wittingham, NEFSC S. Wigley, NEFSC	31 October and 2 November, 2001	Goosefish

Working Group and Participants	Meeting Date	Stock/Species (continued)
<u>Invertebrate Subcommittee</u> J. Brodziak, NEFSC S. Cadrin, NEFSC C. Glass, Manomet L. Jacobson, NEFSC (Chair) C. Keith, NEFSC H. Lai, NEFSC G. Monsen, Industry E. Powell, Industry P. Rago, NEFSC R. Seagraves, MAFMC J. Weinberg, NEFSC	26 September, 2001 5-6, November 2001	Longfinned Squid

Agenda and Reports

The SAW-34 SARC agenda (Table 3) included presentations on assessments for Georges Bank winter flounder, mnkfish, and long-finned squid.

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 trawl surveys is presented in Figure 2.

SARC documentation includes two reports; one containing the assessments, SARC comments, and research recommendations (this report, the

SARC Consensus Summary), and another produced in a standard format which includes the status of stocks and management advice (SARC Advisory Report). The draft reports were made available at two sessions of the SAW-34 Public Review Workshop held during regularly scheduled NEFMC and MAFMC meetings (January 15, Portsmouth NH; January 30, Secaucus NJ, respectively). The documents will be published in the NEFSC Reference Document series as the 34th *SARC Consensus Summary of Assessments* and the 34th *SAW Public Review Workshop Report* (the latter document includes the Advisory Report), after the Public Review Workshop sessions.

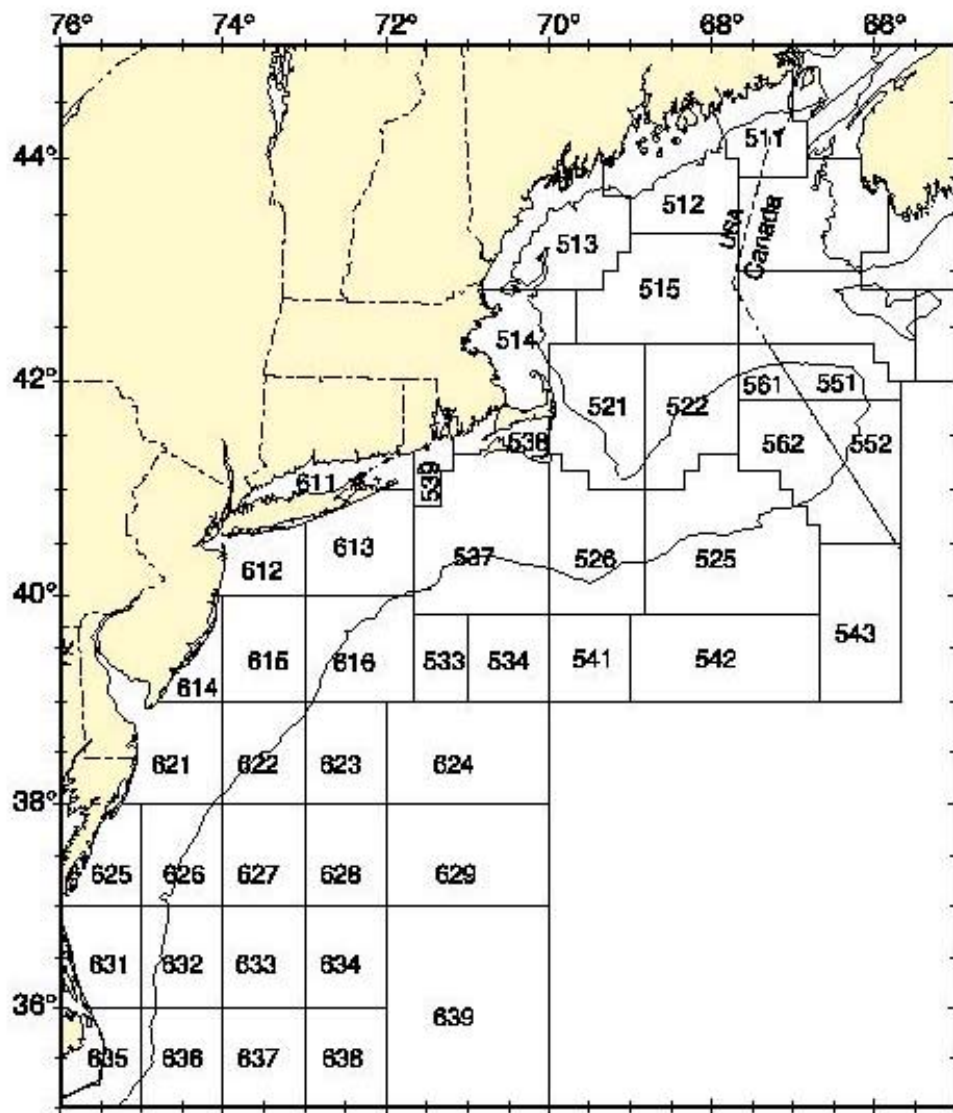


Figure 1. Statistical areas used for catch monitoring in offshore fisheries in the Northeast United States.

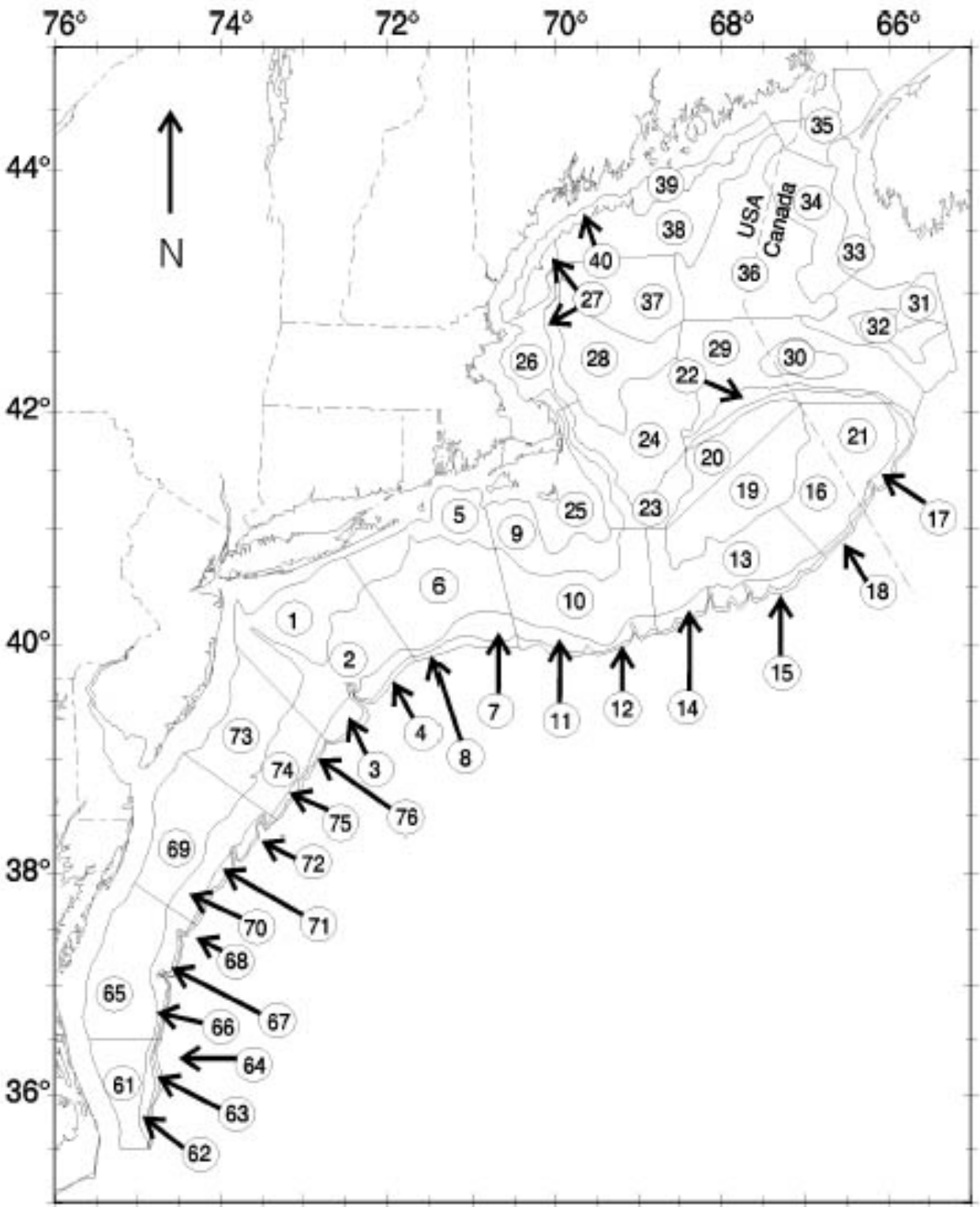


Figure 2. Offshore sampling strata used in NEFSC bottom trawl surveys.