

Section 1. Introduction

The Northern Demersal Working Group and the Southern Demersal Working Group met on an intermittent basis during July and August, 2000, and in joint session on 30 and 31 August, 2000 to review assessments of 19 stocks of groundfish regulated by the Northeast Multi-species Fishery Management Plan.

This report was prepared for the NEFMC Multi-Species Monitoring Committee for use in developing management advice for the 2001 fishing year. This report represents a summary of the assessment results presented to the Joint Working Group at its 30-31 August, 2000 Final Review Meeting. The report consists of this introduction, followed by a concise section for each of the 19 stocks in the review. A concluding section contains overall comments by the Joint Working Group, an evaluation of the quality of the data and assessments, and recommendations for future improvement. This Working Group report contains information on current stock status, with no explicit references to management advice.

Terms of Reference

The agreed terms of reference for this assessment review cycle are as follows:

- a) For stocks where sufficient data are available for 1999, determine 1999 fishing mortality, spawning stock biomass, and mean biomass, and stock size at the beginning of 2000.
- b) For stocks where 1999 landings and indices of current biomass are available, use proxies to determine whether there has been a significant change in exploitation rate or stock biomass between 1998 and 1999.

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List of Stocks Reviewed

The letter associated with each of the stocks listed below corresponds to a section of this report following the introductory section. The 19 stocks comprised 4 categories, corresponding to the review status or assessment methodology used to determine stock status as follows:

- 1) Stocks reviewed by the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee in April, 2000
 - A. Georges Bank Cod
 - B. Georges Bank Haddock
 - C. Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder

- 2) Stocks for which a VPA was performed to estimate 1999 F
 - D. So. New England Yellowtail Flounder
 - E. Cape Cod Yellowtail Flounder
 - F. Gulf of Maine Cod

- 3) Stocks for which projection methodology was used to derive 1999 F
 - G. Witch Flounder
 - H. American Plaice
 - I. Georges Bank Winter Flounder
 - J. So. New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder
 - K. White Hake

- 4) Stocks for which index assessment methods were applied to evaluate 1999 exploitation ratios
 - L. Pollock
 - M. Redfish
 - N. Ocean Pout
 - O. Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Windowpane
 - P. So. New England/Mid-Atlantic Windowpane
 - Q. Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder
 - R. Gulf of Maine Haddock
 - S. Atlantic Halibut

Section 2. Stock Assessments for 19 Northeast Groundfish Stocks

The following sub-sections A-S contain a summary of the detailed assessment working papers reviewed by the joint meeting of the SAW Northern Demersal and Southern Demersal Working Groups on 30 and 31 August, 2000.