



Transboundary Management Guidance Committee

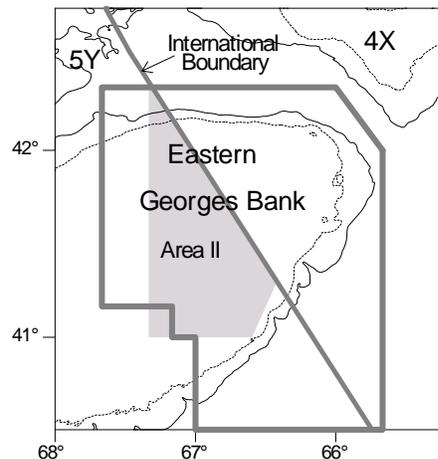
Guidance Document 2006/01 Addendum

The Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC), established in 2000, is a government – industry committee comprised of representatives from Canada and the United States. The Committee’s purpose is to develop guidance in the form of harvest strategies, resource sharing and management processes for Canadian and US management authorities for the cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder transboundary resources on Georges Bank. In September of 2006 the TMGC’s guidance for the 2007 fishing year was conveyed to both countries. The guidance for eastern Georges Bank haddock was accepted but the guidance for eastern Georges Bank cod and for Georges Bank yellowtail flounder was remanded by the USA (the New England Fishery Management Council) to the TMGC for further development. This addendum documents the guidance resulting from further consideration.

Eastern Georges Bank Cod [5Zjm; 551, 552, 561, 562]

Original Guidance:

The TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined Canada/USA TAC for Eastern Georges Bank cod for the 2007 fishing year is 1,900 mt. This corresponds to a very low risk, less than 25% probability, of exceeding the F_{ref} of 0.18 in 2007. At this level of harvest there is greater than neutral risk (60%) that stock biomass will decrease from 2007 to 2008, however the decline is nominal. The annual allocation shares for 2007 between countries are based on a combination of historical catches (25% weighting) and resource distribution based on trawl surveys (75% weighting). Combining these factors entitles the USA to 26% and Canada to 74%, resulting in a national quota of 494 mt for the USA and 1,406 mt for Canada.



Point of Contention:

The guidance on 2007 national TAC allocations failed to account for the Canadian TAC overage during 2005.

Resolution:

The TMGC notes that the 2005 TAC was based on the 2004 assessment that did not include discards. While the total Canadian catch (landings and discards) exceeded the 2005 Canadian TAC allocation, the landings did not exceed the allocation. Accordingly, the TMGC concluded that a deduction was not required and the original guidance is recommended. The TMGC notes that the Eastern Georges Bank cod assessment has incorporated discards since 2005, as have the assessments for Eastern Georges Bank haddock and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder. There is agreement that in the future, all elements of catch (landings and discards) will be applied against all TACs in the current

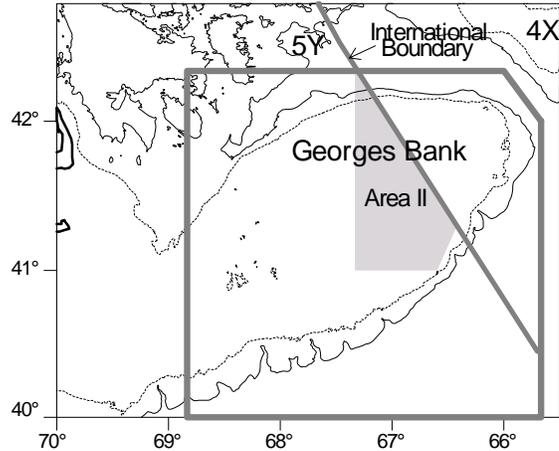


and subsequent years and that any overage, including an overage due to discards, will be deducted from the appropriate TAC of the responsible nation during the following year.

Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder [5Zhjmn; 522,525, 551, 552, 561, 562]

Original Guidance:

The TMGC concluded that the most appropriate combined Canada/USA TAC for the 2007 fishing year is 1,500 mt. This corresponds to an F of 0.31 and represents a risk greater than 50%, of exceeding the F_{ref} of 0.25. However, with a catch of 1,500 mt in 2007, the age 4+ biomass is expected to increase by 43%. The annual allocation shares for 2007 between countries are based on a combination of historical catches (25% weighting) and resource distribution based on trawl surveys (75% weighting). Combining these factors entitles the USA to 72% and Canada to 28%, resulting in a national quota of 1,080 mt for the USA and 420 mt for Canada.



Point of Contention:

The guidance did not respect the rebuilding program recently adopted by the New England Fishery Management Council or the TMGC harvest strategy.

Resolution:

The TMGC was aware that its original guidance corresponded to an F of 0.31 and represented a risk greater than 50%, of exceeding the F_{ref} of 0.25. In arriving at the guidance, the TMGC recognized the substantial change in the perception of stock status based on the updated assessment and the extensive adjustments to harvests that this change entailed.

On further consideration, the TMGC concluded that an appropriate combined Canada/USA TAC for the 2007 fishing year is 1,250 mt. This represents a neutral risk (50%) of exceeding the F_{ref} of 0.25. The annual allocation shares for 2007 between countries are based on a combination of historical catches (25% weighting) and resource distribution based on trawl surveys (75% weighting). Combining these factors entitles the USA to 72% and Canada to 28%, resulting in a national quota of 900 mt for the USA and 350 mt for Canada.