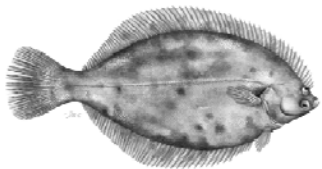




*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

Draft Addendum II for Board Consideration

GOM Winter Flounder Regulations

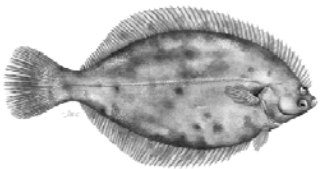


October 2012



Purpose

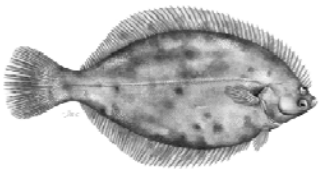
- Consider changes to the GOM Commercial and recreational fishery measures based on new stock assessment results





New Assessment: SAW/SARC 52

- Stock Status Changed
 - Not overfishing but overfished status could not be determined

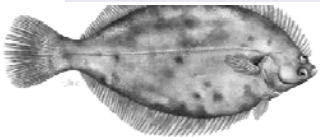




NMFS Response to New Assessment

- NOAA Fisheries takes Emergency Action
 - Doubles remainder of FY 2011 ACL
 - Doubles FY 2012 ACL

	Total ACL	Sector Sub ACL	Common Pool Sub ACL	State Water ACL SC	Other ACL SC
FY 2011 Emerg Rev	524 mt	313 mt	16 mt	163 mt	32 mt
FY 2012	1040 mt	690 mt	25 mt	272 mt	54 mt

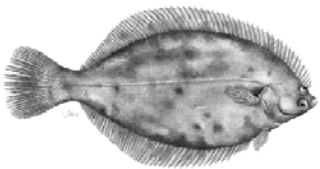




GOM Fishery

➤ Commercial Fishery

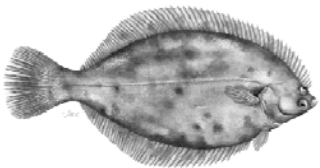
- MA harvest 99% of the non federal landings in recent years
- NH harvest less than 1% since 2009
- ME harvest has been zero in recent years





Distribution of Trips Before 250 lbs Trip Limit

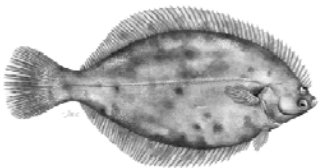
Winter flounder landings (per trip)	Cumulative percentage of trips (2005 – 2008)	Cumulative percentage of landings (2005 – 2008)
<50 lbs	67.1%	14.9%
50 – 99 lbs	81.0%	30.0%
100 – 250 lbs	93.3%	56.8%
251-500 lbs	98.1%	81.1%
>500 lbs	100.0%	100.0%





Distribution of Trips after the 250 lb Trip Limit

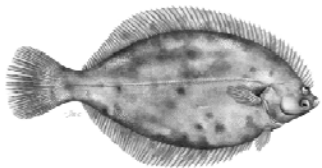
Winter flounder landings (per trip)	Cumulative percentage of trips (2010 - 2011)	Cumulative percentage of landings (2010 - 2011)
<50 lbs	75.4%	24.3%
50 – 99 lbs	87.8%	43.8%
100 – 250 lbs	99.2%	92.2%
251-500 lbs	99.7%	96.0%
>500 lbs	100.0%	100.0%





Recreational Harvest

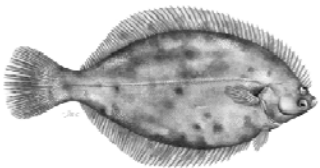
Year	Maine		New Hampshire		Massachusetts		Total	
	Harvest (mt)	PSE	Harvest (mt)	PSE	Harvest (mt)	PSE	Harvest (mt)	PSE
2006	0.00	0	4.22	62	30.51	55.6	34.73	117.6
2007			6.37	40.5	23.12	40.7	29.48	81.2
2008	0.00	0	7.83	35.3	124.69	57.8	132.52	93.1
2009	0.00	0	5.54	52.1	55.24	36.3	60.78	88.4
2010			0.83	52.8	32.95	44.3	33.79	97.1
2011			7.89	71.6	30.24	54.8	38.12	126.4





States Propose to Change GOM Measures

- Significant increase in the state water ACL subcomponent
- Provide relief to state water ground-fishermen under restrictions for other species
- Provide consentient recreational measures in the 3 states

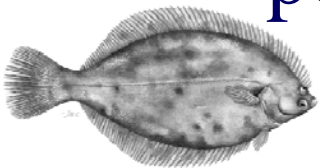




Proposed Measures

Commercial Measures

- Option 1: Status quo, Commercial vessels that have not been assigned a groundfish permit may possess 250 lbs per vessel
- Option 2: Commercial vessels that have not been assigned a groundfish permit may possess 500 lbs per vessel



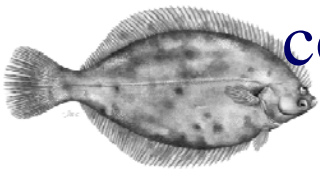


Proposed Measures

Recreational Measures

- Option 1 Status Quo, 11% reduction in F for recreational fishery:
 - States implemented reduction with season closures:
ME: Oct 1-Jun 30, NH: May 15-May 24, MA: Sept 1-Oct 31

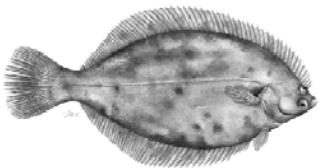
- Option 2: Remove the requirement for states to reduce F in the recreational fishery by 11%. States could open seasons to year round.





Public Comment Summary

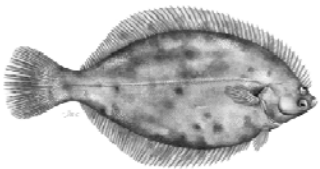
- 3 Hearings (ME, NH, and MA)
- 3 Written Comments Received
- Majority of commenters favored
 - Increasing the trip limit
 - Removal of the recreational season
- One commenter favored status quo





Advisory Panel Report

- 3 members on the call
 - 2 recreational fishermen (NH and ME)
 - 1 commercial fisherman (ME)
- Members do not think the science reflects the current status of the stock in their area
- Favor status quo options



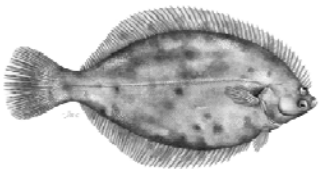


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Draft Addendum III for Public Comment

Winter Flounder Specifications

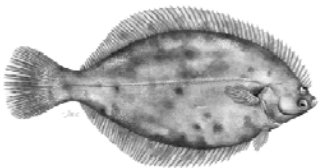
October 2012





Purpose

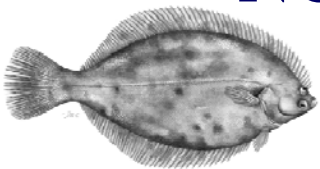
- Consider changes to the specification process for winter flounder commercial and recreational fisheries
- Consider in season accountability measures for the commercial fishery





Background

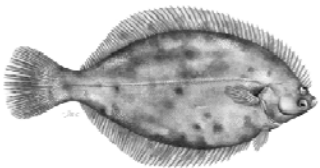
- With the NEFMC, NOAA Fisheries sets specifications for winter flounder
 - 3 year specifications, subject to review
 - Set Sector and sub-sector ALCS
 - Federal ACLs are subject to AM
- State water landings are estimated to account for state water harvest
 - NOT AN ACL and not subject to AMs





Background

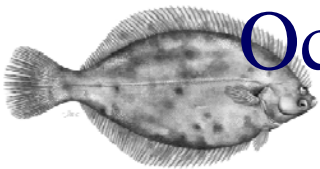
- State water harvest is controlled by output controls
 - Trip limits, seasons, size and bag limits





Statement of the Problem

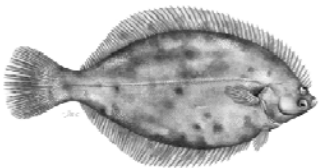
- To respond to changes in the federal ACL an addendum must be initiated to change state water management measures
 - Potential to not fully utilize state water harvest
- Example: Estimated state water harvest for FY 2012 is 272 MTs
 - Board is considering changes in the trip limit in October after the FY has started





Statement of the Problem

- No quota or AMs in state waters
- Commercial fishery
 - Use trip limits to control harvest
- TC recommended AM to control harvest to the federal estimated state water harvest

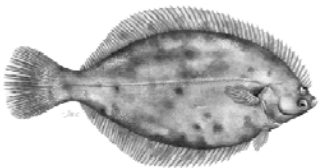




Proposed Measures

Commercial and Recreational Measures

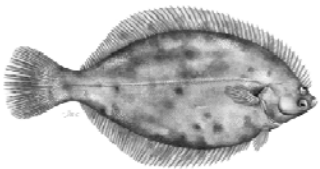
- Option 1: Status quo
 - Addendum process to change measures
- Option 2: Specification Process
 - Set annual or multi year specification based on the federally estimated state water harvest





Annual Specification

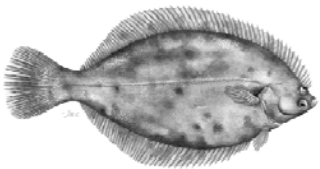
- Commercial measures that could be adjusted through Board action:
 - Trip limits
 - Size limits
 - Season





Annual Specifications

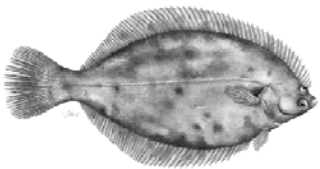
- Recreational measures that could be adjusted through Board action:
 - Size limits
 - Bag limits
 - Season





Proposed Measures

- Accountability Measures
- Option 1: Status quo
 - No AMs in place for state water harvest





Proposed Measures

➤ Option 2: Commercial AMs

- Establish a trigger for state water trip limits that closes state water fisheries when trigger is reached.
- A trigger is met when X% (options below) of the estimated state water harvest

→85%

→90%

→95%

