



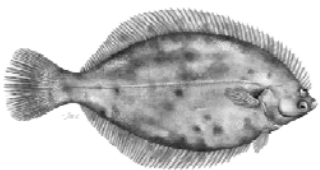
*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations
for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful
restoration well in progress by 2015*

Draft Addendum III

Winter Flounder Specifications

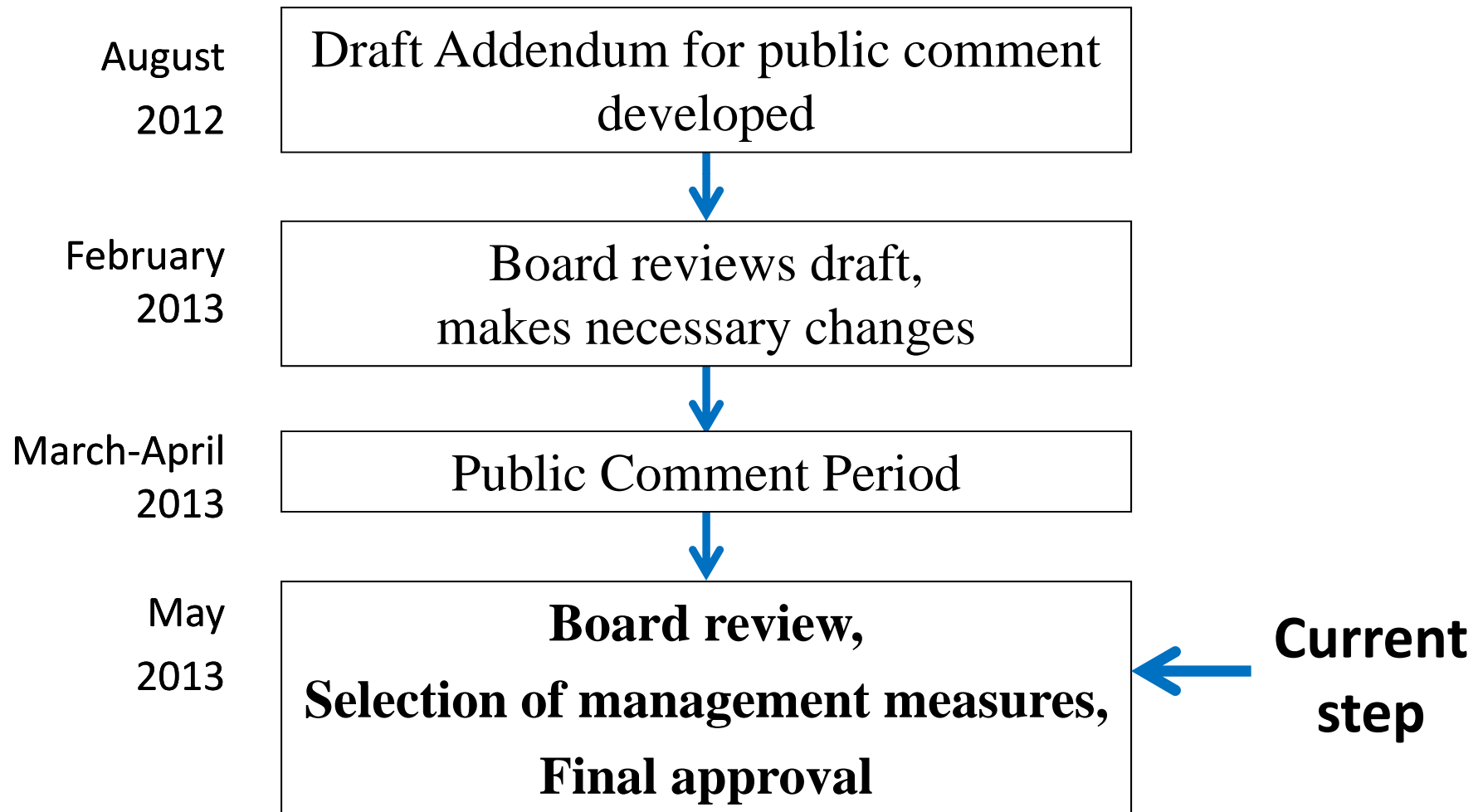
Winter Flounder Management Board

May2013





Introduction





Statement of the Problem

- **To respond to changes in the federal ACL, an addendum must be initiated to change state water management measures.**

- **State water landings are used to estimate state water sub-component.**
 - **Not an ACL, not subject to harvest control measures.**



Purpose of Draft Addendum III

- 1. Consider changes to the specification process for winter flounder commercial and recreational fisheries**
- 2. Consider in-season harvest control measures for the commercial fishery**



Issue 1: Annual Specification Process

For 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 Specifications

- **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



Issue 2:

Harvest Control Measure

Option 1: Status quo

- No harvest control measures in place for commercial state water harvest.



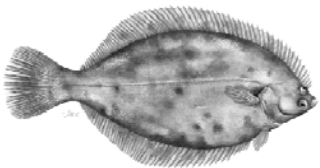
Issue 2: Harvest Control Measure

Option 2: Commercial Harvest Control Measures

- Establish a trigger that reduces state-water commercial trip limits when X% of the estimated state water sub-component is reached.
- The proposed percentages are:
 - 75%
 - 85%
 - 90%



Summary of Public Comments





Public Comments

- **Public comment period**
 - **February 23 – April 10**
 - **2 hearings (NH and RI)**
 - **7 total participants**
 - **2 comments**
 - **12 written comments**
 - **One group, 10 individuals**



Public Hearings

Comments from Public Hearings

Public Hearing (Location)	Issue 1: Commercial & Recreational Measures: Annual Specifications		Issue 2: Commercial Harvest Control Measures	
	Option 1: Status Quo	Option 2: Annual Specifications	Option 1: Status Quo	Option 2a: Trigger of X%
Portsmouth, NH		Opposed		
Providence, RI				



Written Comments

Topics

- Change recreational regulations
- Increase commercial trip limits
- Complete moratorium on fishing
- Gulf of Maine stock is in trouble
- Habitat concerns
- Socioeconomic importance



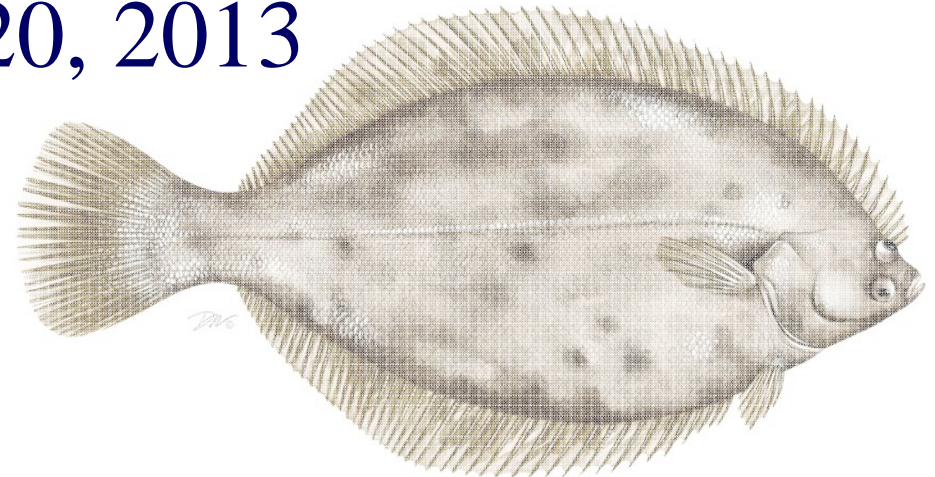
Board Action

- **Consider Draft Addendum III for approval.**



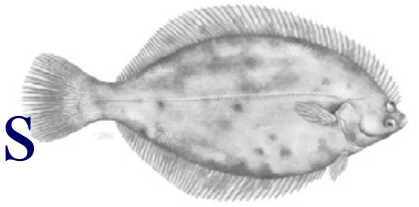
Winter Flounder TC Report

May 20, 2013

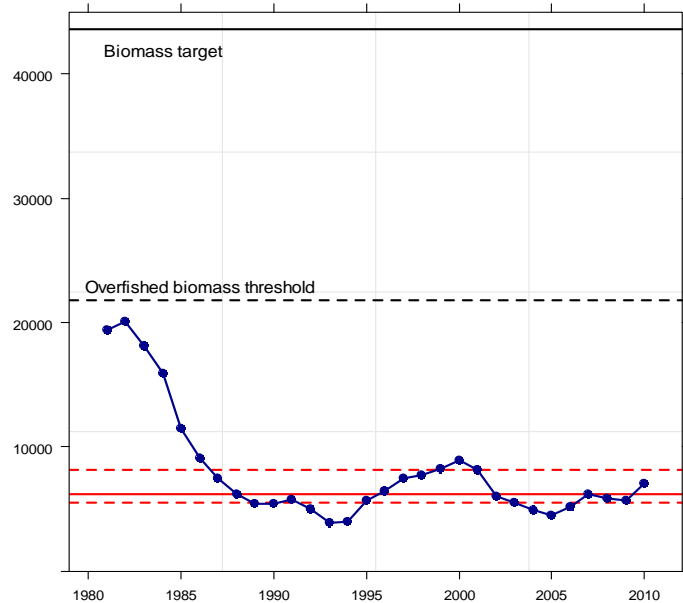




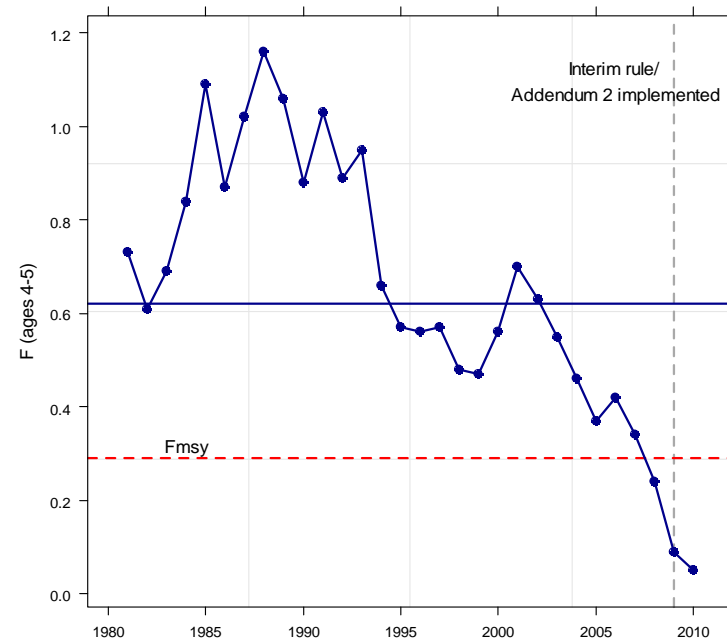
Current SNE-MA Status



- Overfished but overfishing not occurring
 - $SSB = 16\%$ of target



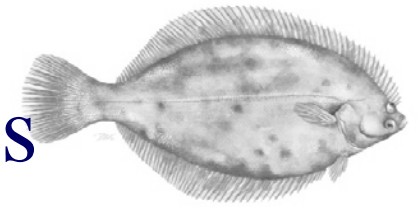
SSB



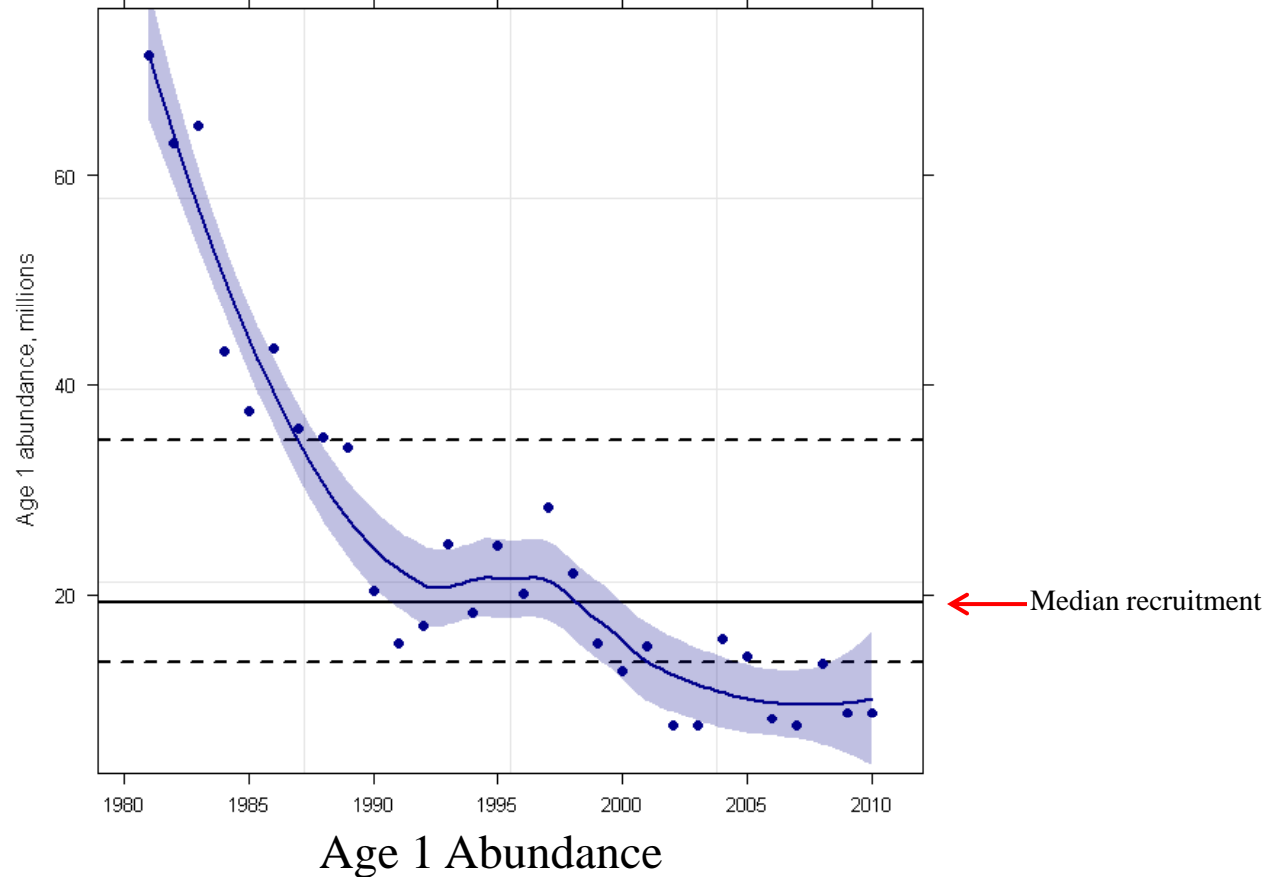
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Current SNE-MA Status

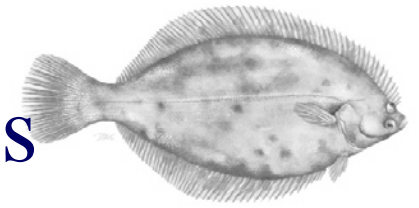


- Recruitment has been poor in recent years
 - Weak recruitment will slow stock recovery

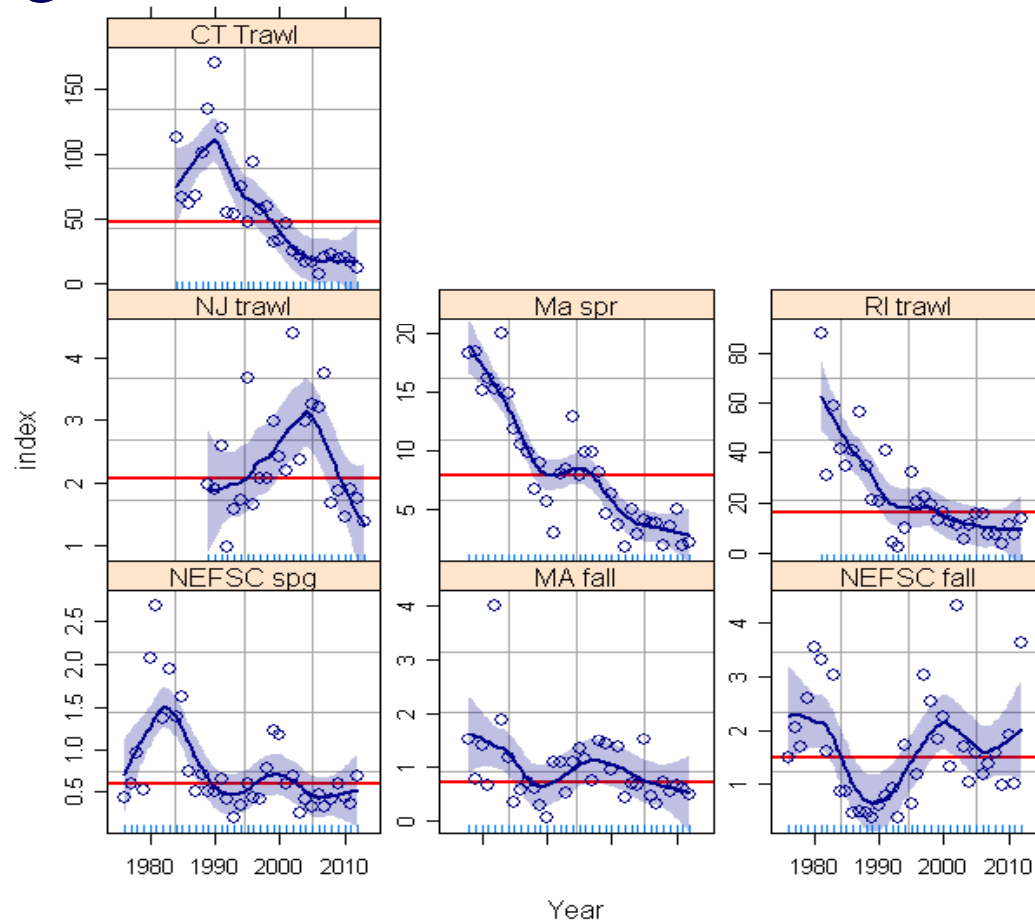




Current SNE-MA Status

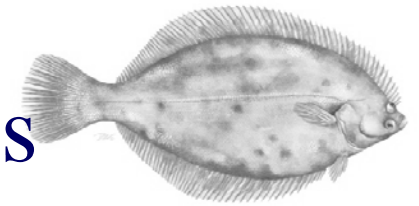


➤ Recent trends in indices indicate no strong rebuilding in stock

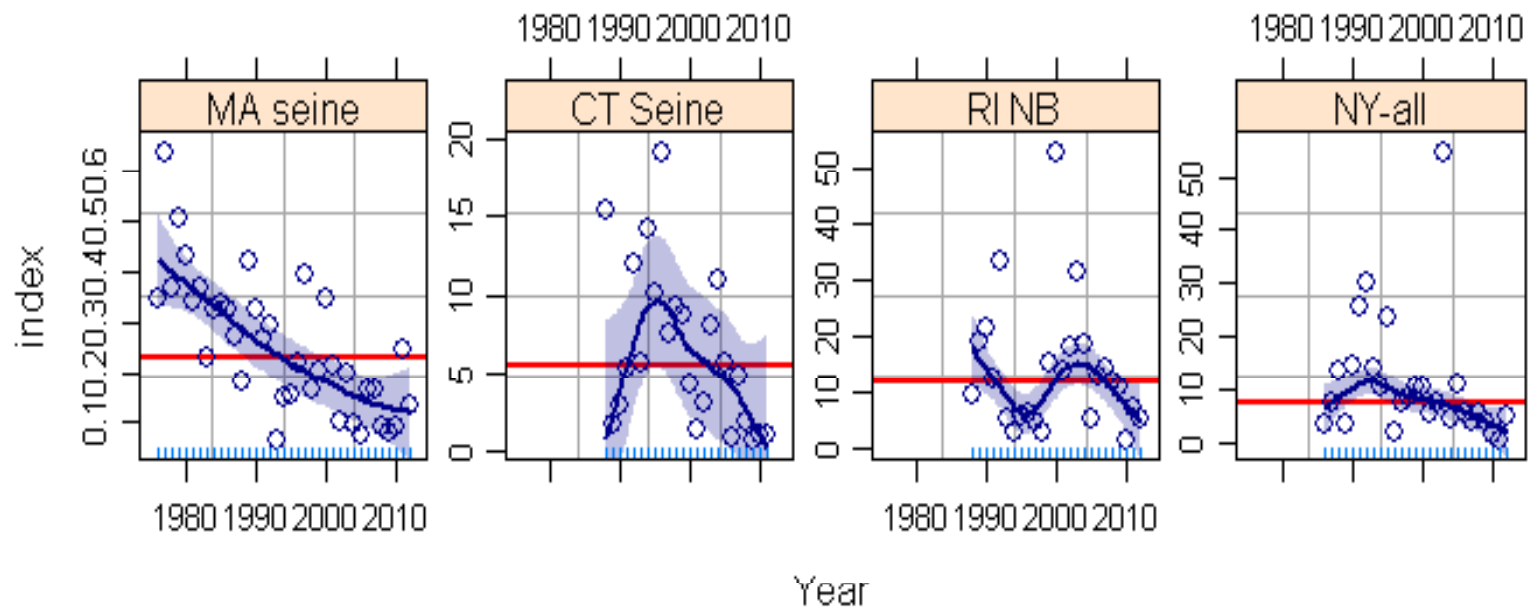




Current SNE-MA Status

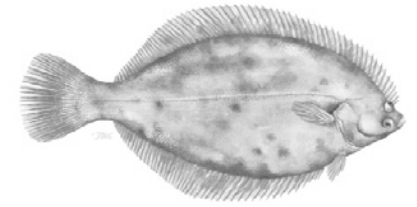


➤ Recruitment indices remain low





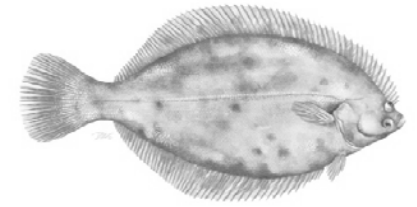
Reopening of Fishery



- TC has serious concerns about the reopening of the SNE-MA fishery
- Reopening is not related to improvement in stock status
 - Extension of rebuilding timeframe from 2014 to 2023 allows a slightly higher rebuilding F
 - Reaching the rebuilding target in 2023 will require 15% per year increase in SSB



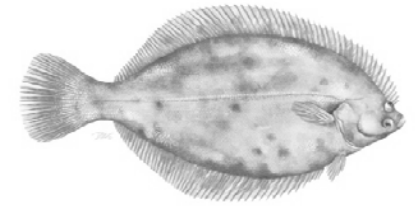
Reopening of Fishery



- Stock status remains poor
- Lifting of catch restrictions may result in further stock deterioration
- State waters fisheries operate on pre- and post-spawning aggregated fish which may cause localize depletion of spawning populations



Reopening of Fishery



- TC cannot predict the effects of increasing trip limits
- TC recommends that any increase should be accompanied by adoption of annual quota and harvest control measures to reduce the likelihood of exceeding the fishing mortality target
- Board may also wish to consider allocation among states and between rec & commercial groups

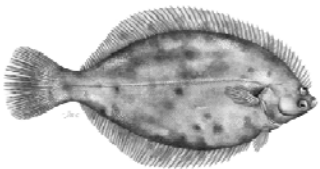


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Winter Flounder Federal Specifications

Winter Flounder Management Board

May2013





Federal Specifications: Gulf of Maine

2013-2015 Specifications in Metric Tons

Year	Total ACL	Other Sub-ACL	Groundfish Sub-ACL			State Water Sub-Component
			Preliminary	Common Pool	Total (Prelim+ CommonPool)	
2013	1,040	54	690	24	715	272
2014	1,040	54	690	24	715	272
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-

- 2013 GOM specifications = same as 2012's



Federal Specifications: Southern New England

2013-2015 Specifications in Metric Tons

Year	Total ACL	Other Sub-ACL	Groundfish Sub-ACL			State Water Sub-Component
			Preliminary	Common Pool	Total (Prelim+ CommonPool)	
2013 - 2015	1,612	168	1,068	142	1,210	235

- 2013 state-water subcomponent = 34% increase from 2012's 175 mt
- Total ACL = 167% of 2012's 603 mt