

**2021 Atlantic Cod Stock Structure
Science/Assessment Workshop
Exploring Stock Assessment Prospects & Data Needs
June 25, 2021
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

Workshop Objectives:

- Establish a common understanding of the goals and objectives of this Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Workshop series
- Learn how management strategy evaluation (MSE) could be applied to Atlantic cod decision-making and the data needed to support this effort.
- Provide an overview of typical assessment approaches available and their corresponding data needs.
- Explore what assessment methods are feasible for each of the five stocks based on the available data and evaluate other data sources and metrics that can be used to provide qualitative descriptions of stock status.

8:30 Welcome and Introductions – Erik Chapman, NH Sea Grant and Laura Taylor Singer, Facilitator

8:40 Goals and Objectives of the Science/Assessment Workshops – Russel Brown, NEFSC

8:50 Understanding Data Needs to Support Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) as a Tool for Decision Making – Lisa Kerr, GMRI

9:20 Overview of Routinely used Stock Assessment Approaches and What Corresponding Data is Need to Inform – NEFSC Staff

9:50 Data Review and Discussion of Relevant Assessment Approaches

- a. **Western Gulf of Maine (spring spawning population)**
- b. **Western Gulf of Maine/South Channel (winter spawning population)**
- c. **Georges Bank East**
- d. **Southern New England**
- e. **Eastern Gulf of Maine**

We will be reviewing each biological stock area to summarize the available data and present an initial suggestion/recommendation of which assessment approach can be supported by the data. Our discussion will focus on evaluating tradeoffs to determine the most probable and realistic expectation on what is possible or likely possible given the available data for each stock area.

11:00 BREAK

11:15 Data Review and Discussion of Assessment Approach (Continued)

12:15 Overview of Next Steps

12:30 Adjourn