



- 1) ACSSWG: What is this?
Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group
- 2) Our plan: An interdisciplinary review
- 3) A timeline from WG to operations



Atlantic Cod Stock Structure Working Group

Atlantic cod have been a mainstay of coastal economies around the Northern Atlantic for hundred of years. While cod in the North Atlantic are similar to one another in many ways, the population is actually made up of discrete stock components distinguished by differences in characteristics like size, growth rate, and even genetics. While it is well known that there are multiple cod stocks, fully identifying those stocks on a biological and ecological scale has proven elusive.

In the Northwest Atlantic, both the United States and Canada have long histories of harvesting and trading these fish, and each country is responsible for managing cod fisheries within their waters. While some cod stocks stay within a country's waters, some also straddle the international boundaries as well as those set up for management purposes. Understanding how the stocks that constitute the cod population are the same and how they are different is a key part of improving how we manage and use these fish and what can be done to restore their numbers.

Researchers in the U.S. and Canada regularly monitor and study cod. These scientists may be working for government, or universities, or non-profit organizations. To compose a complete and detailed picture of the cod stocks means mounting a truly international and interdisciplinary effort to bring together all of the data, studies, and knowledge about stock components.

In February 2018, a working group was convened to take on this challenge. Organizers plan a two-year effort: one year to synthesize information about stock structure and one year to look into the management implications of their findings. The NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center is hosting the working group and updates on their activities will be posted here.



Photo credit: [Staticflickr.com](#)

More on Atlantic cod

- [Consumer guide](#)
- [2017 U.S. assessment update](#)

Contacts

- **Co-Chairs**
Rich McBride
NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center
508-495-2244

Meetings

Upcoming

- **June 19 Symposium:** Cod Population Structure and New England

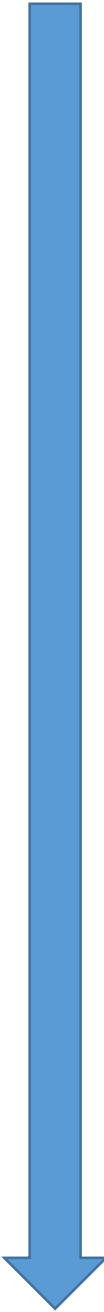
Updates

- **February 2018:** Group Formation
- **May 14**
Group Objectives
Group Terms of Reference



An interdisciplinary review draft outline, June 2018

- Front matter
 - purpose, WG process, terms and management context, document organization
- Life history (juvenile/adult) (McBride)
- Other phenotypic (meristic, morphometric) (DeCelles)
- Genetic (mitochondrial, nuclear) (Kovach)
- Early life history and dispersal modeling (Dean)
- Natural Markers (Kerr)
- Applied Markers (Cadrin)
- Simulation Modeling (Kerr)
- Back matter
 - synthesis, conclusions, appendices



WG research track (2018-2019)

Year 1 report: interdisciplinary review, a consensus on the most scientifically supported stock structure, and recommendations for further research (to complete by February 2019),

Year 2 report: identifies the implications of the year 1 report for monitoring, assessment, and management (to complete in 2019),

Pre-peer-review dissemination

Post on website, present to managers

Peer-review (2020)

CIE or SSC or TMGC are default bodies for this

Post-peer-review dissemination

Post on website, present to managers

Council/NRCC

Decision on new or alternative stock units

Assessment modelers

Research track on new approaches given this information

NMFS/DFO (TRAC and US domestic stocks), etc.

Benchmark-update assessment cycle