Overview of Stock Status
Winter Flounder, *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*

**SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND/MID-ATLANTIC STOCK**

**Management Considerations:**

**Condition:** Overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Stock is at 16% of target SSB.

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**

- F Target (75% FMSY) = 0.217
- F Target (BMSY) = 0.29

- SSB Target (BMSY) = 48.1 mil.lbs (21,831 mt)

**FMP Status:**

Amendment 1 (March 2005), Addendum 1 (2006)

**Primary Management Measures:**

Winter flounder are managed as two separate stocks in state waters; Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) and Gulf of Maine (GOM). For the GOM, Addendum I, approved in May 2009, requires an 11% reduction in fishing mortality for the recreational sector and a 250 pound possession limit for non-federally permitted commercial fishermen (estimated 31% reduction in harvest). Recreational reductions may be achieved by using possession limits, seasons, or other measures. Commercial measures under the final interim rule are intended to achieve at least an 11% reduction in fishing mortality.

For the SNE/MA, the Addendum establishes a two fish recreational bag limit with current size limits and seasons maintained and a 50 pound possession limit for non-federally permitted commercial fishermen. Both measures will allow for the consistent application of management measures in state water fisheries and are intended to complement the federal interim rule which prohibits any take of SNE/MA winter flounder from offshore waters (an estimated 62% reduction in fishing mortality). The Board set bag and possession limits that are low enough to discourage directed fishing but allow fishermen to keep their winter flounder bycatch. The two fish recreational bag limit is estimated to achieve approximately a 50% reduction in harvest, while the 50 pound commercial possession limit is estimated to achieve approximately a 65% reduction in harvest.

**GULF OF MAINE STOCK**

**Management Considerations:**

**Condition:** Overfished status is unknown and overfishing is not occurring*

**FMP Stock Rebuilding Goals:**

* The SAW/SARC GOM analytical assessment model was not accepted, BMSY and FMSY are unknown, and consequently the F and SSB targets could not be generated. A proxy F Threshold was derived from a length-based yield per recruit analysis. The overfishing status is based on the ratio of 2010 catch to survey based swept area estimate of biomass exceeding 30 cm in length.

**Updated 12/15/11**