

3.3 Ending Overfishing

The M-S Act also requires the Council to submit a management plan that will end overfishing where it is occurring. The measures in this amendment that are designed to rebuild overfished stocks are also designed to end overfishing. Some stocks are both overfished and overfishing is occurring – formal rebuilding programs for these stocks will also end overfishing. Based on stock status as described in section 9.2.1.1, the following table lists those stocks where overfishing is occurring whether or not they are overfished. This table uses the definition of overfishing applied by NMFS and proposed by the Council – that is, a fishing mortality rate that exceeds the maximum fishing mortality threshold. Fishing mortality in 2001 is compared to the F_{MSY} shown earlier to make this determination. Projected fishing mortality in calendar year 2002 is also shown.

Stock	F2001	F2002 (Projected)	FMSY
Gulf of Maine Cod	0.47	0.33	0.23
Georges Bank Cod	0.38	0.43	0.18
Cape Cod/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	0.75	0.68	0.17
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder	0.91	0.85	0.26
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder	0.51	0.44	0.32
American Plaice	0.43	0.27	0.17 (F40%)
Witch Flounder	0.76 (SAW 37)	0.41 (SAW 37)	0.23 (F40%)
White Hake	1.36 (C/I)	0.91 (C/I)	0.55 (C/I)
Atlantic Halibut	unknown	unknown	0.06

Table 12 – Stocks where overfishing is occurring. (Source: GARM 2002. Projected 2002 F estimates provided by NEFSC, unpublished data, except for witch flounder)