**Tab 2**

**Background on Canada-US Fisheries Management Structure**

In 1995, the Canada/United States (US) Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee (TRAC) was established to facilitate a more consistent approach to fisheries management in the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. TRAC is made up of scientists from both countries. Science advice on the three transboundary groundfish stocks (cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder) is provided annually at a July meeting. A map of the Georges Bank fishing area, also known as Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Division 5Z, is below for reference.

The Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC) is made up of government staff (both fisheries management and science) and industry from both Canada and the US. TMGC meets annually in September to develop joint catch advice for the three transboundary stocks. Advice from the TRAC process in July is used to inform these management recommendations.

Each country follows their own domestic process for approval of catch advice. In Canada, the TMGC recommendations are brought to the Gulf of Maine Advisory Committee (GOMAC) in October for discussion and feedback from stakeholders and rights holders.

Map of NAFO areas - 5Z

