



Proposed Amendment 16 Common Pool Measures

This information sheet contains a brief overview of common pool measures as proposed in Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, which was approved by the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) at its June 2009 meeting. These measures will not be effective until NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approves Amendment 16 and implements the approved measures through a final rule. This information sheet is advisory only, and is intended to provide information that may be applicable for permit holders deciding whether to participate in sectors or the common pool in fishing year 2010, should Amendment 16 be approved and implemented.

Amendment 16 proposes expanding sector management, as well as modifying management measures for non-sector (common pool) vessels. These measures are intended to rebuild overfished groundfish stocks consistent with applicable law, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Amendment 16, however, must first be reviewed and approved by NMFS to ensure that it complies with all applicable laws. Amendment 16, if approved, is scheduled to be effective May 1, 2010. A proposed rule soliciting public comment is anticipated to be published in December 2009.

Proposed Revisions to Reporting Requirements (all vessels):

- Declaration into one or more of the four broad stock areas prior to the start of each trip (see Figure 1).
- Trip-level catch reports for trips into multiple broad stock areas.
- Weekly submission of Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

Proposed Effort Controls for Common Pool Vessels:

- 50% reduction in Days-at-sea (DAS) from **2006** levels (i.e., about a 32% reduction from 2009 DAS allocations).
- 24-hour DAS counting (i.e., any DAS or part of a DAS fished is counted as 24 hours).
- Elimination of current differential DAS areas.
- Implementation of Restricted Gear Areas (RGAs):
 - Vessels may fish in specific areas only with specific gears (see Figure 2).
 - Gears allowed: Haddock separator trawl, Ruhle trawl, rope trawl, handgear, longline/tub trawls, stand-up gillnets, and tie-down gillnets with 10" or larger mesh.
 - Vessel monitoring system declarations would be required to fish in these areas.
 - A vessel could fish inside/outside of these areas on the same trip, but would be subject to the most restrictive measures (i.e., gear, trip limits, etc.)
 - Existing gear performance standards (i.e., revised trip limits) would apply to gear used in these areas (i.e., 500 lb of all flatfish combined, no lobsters, etc.).
 - Other gear would not be allowed on board when in these areas.

Revised trip limits:

- Cod:
 - DAS vessels: 2,000 lb/DAS, up to 12,000 lb/trip in the Gulf of Maine (GOM), and up to 20,000 lb/trip on Georges Bank (GB).
 - Handgear A vessels: 750 lb/trip.
 - Handgear B vessels: 200 lb/trip.
- Yellowtail flounder:
 - 250 lb/DAS, up to 1,500 lb/trip in Cape Cod/GOM and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA)
 - Determined annually on GB.
- Prohibited species (i.e., no landings allowed): SNE/MA winter flounder, windowpane flounder, ocean pout, and Atlantic wolffish.

Proposed Revisions to DAS Measures:

- DAS Transfer Program conservation tax would be eliminated (no refund for previous transfers).
- Permits in Confirmation of Permit History (CPH) would be able to participate in DAS Leasing and Transfer Programs.
- Current DAS leasing cap (i.e., 2001 DAS allocation) would be eliminated.

Proposed Revisions to Special Access Program (SAP) Measures:

- Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP season and area would be expanded.
- Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP would be renewed.
- Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder SAP would be revised to facilitate the targeting of haddock, including revised gear requirements and an extended season.
- SNE/MA Winter Flounder SAP would be eliminated.

Proposed Revisions to Size Limits (all vessels):

- Atlantic halibut minimum size limit would be increased to 41 inches.
- Haddock minimum size limit would be decreased to 18 inches.

Proposed Accountability Measures (AMs) for the Common Pool:

- Fishing years 2010 and 2011: In the year following an overage of any of the annual catch limits (ACLs) specified for common pool vessels, the rate DAS are charged would be increased proportional to the overage. For example, if 120% of the GOM cod ACL for common pool vessels is caught in 2010, DAS used by common pool vessels in the GOM during 2011 would be charged at a rate of 28.8 hours charged for every 24 hours fished (1.2 x 24-hours).
- Fishing year 2012 and beyond: There would be trimester hard quotas for each stock, inseason trip limit adjustments, closed areas triggered by catch thresholds to prevent exceeding quotas, quota deductions following a quota overage, and 20% random dockside monitoring coverage.

Figure 1: Proposed Broad Stock Reporting Areas.

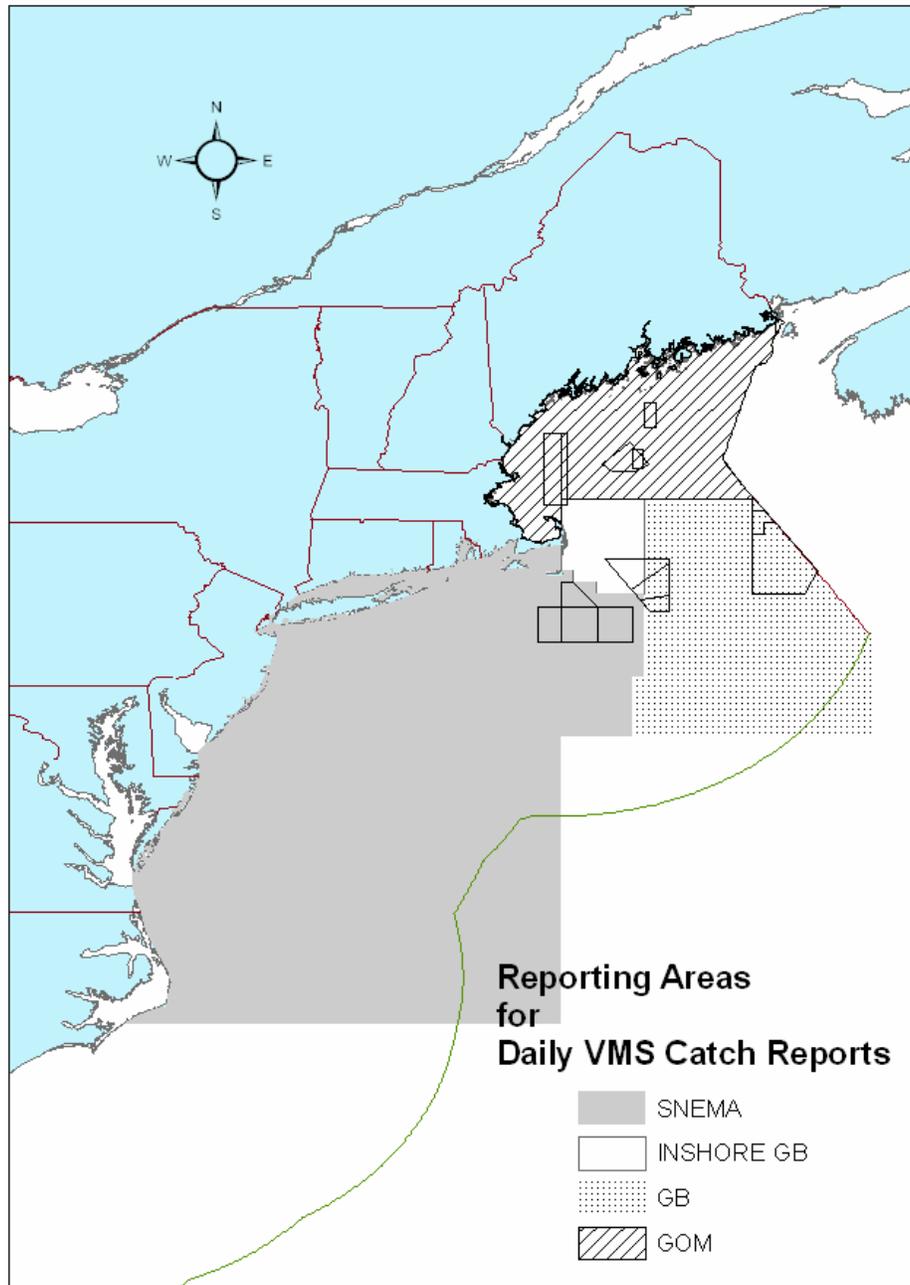
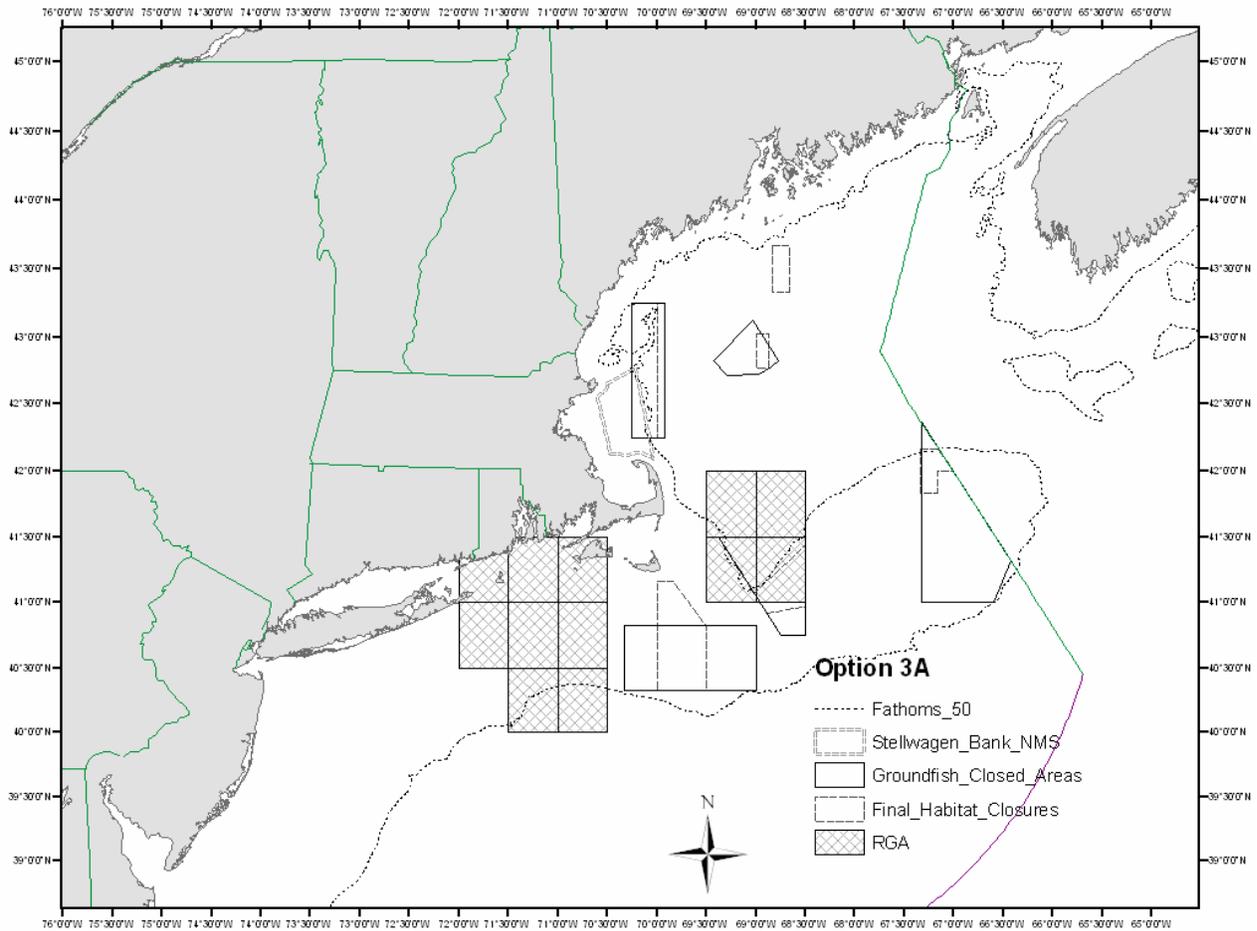


Figure 2: Proposed Restricted Gear Areas (RGAs) and Coordinates.



Western Georges Bank Multispecies RGA		
Point	N. lat.	W. long.
Point 1	42°00'	69°30'
Point 2	42°00'	68°30'
Point 3	41°00'	68°30'
Point 4	41°00'	69°30'

Southern New England Multispecies RGA		
Point	N. lat.	W. long.
Point 1	Intersection of Massachusetts coast and 70°30'	
Point 2	40°00'	70°30'
Point 3	40°00'	71°30'
Point 4	40°30'	71°30'
Point 5	40°30'	72°00'
Point 6	North to intersection with Connecticut coast and 72°00'.	