

[SECTOR MANAGER]
[SECTOR NAME]
[ADDRESS 1]
[ADDRESS 2]

December 24, 2009

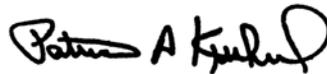
Dear SECTOR MANAGER,

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed applications from five companies requesting approval as service providers for Northeast (NE) multispecies sector dockside and at-sea monitoring programs for fishing year (FY) 2010 according to the proposed criteria and standards included in Amendment 16 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. NMFS has preliminarily determined all five companies would be eligible to provide dockside and at-sea monitoring services to sectors for FY 2010, based upon the completeness of each company's application and ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of a sector monitoring service provider as proposed in Amendment 16.

However, since NMFS has not yet approved or implemented the measures proposed in Amendment 16 upon which each company's application needs to be evaluated, a final decision regarding a company's eligibility cannot be made at this time. Until Amendment 16 is approved and implementing regulations are put into place, NMFS has no legal authority to make a final determination approving providers. NMFS anticipates announcing implementation of the Amendment 16 final rule, if approved, on or about March 31, 2010, and intends to announce its final decision regarding the eligibility for each monitoring company to provide monitoring services to sectors in that final rule.

Please contact Mark Grant, Sector Policy Analyst, at 978-281-9145 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

Attachment

Service providers preliminarily approved as eligible to provide dockside and/or at-sea monitoring services to sectors in FY 2010:

- A.I.S., Inc., 89 North Water Street, New Bedford, MA 02747, phone 508-990-9054, fax 508-990-9055, website www.aisobservers.com.
- East West Technical Services, 34 Batterson Drive, New Britain, CT 06053, phone 860-223-5165, fax 860-223-6005, email ewtsct@ewts.com.
- MRAG Americas, 65 Eastern Ave., Unit B2C, Essex, MA 01929, phone 978-768-3880, fax 978-768-3878, website www.mragamericas.com.
- Saltwater Inc., 733 N. Street, Anchorage, AK 99501, phone 907-276-3241, fax 907-258-5999, website www.saltwaterinc.com.

Service providers preliminarily approved as eligible to provide only dockside monitoring services to sectors in FY 2010:

- Atlantic Catch Data Ltd., 99 Wyse Road, Suite 815, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, CANADA B3A 4S5, phone 1-902-422-4745, fax 1-902-422-9780, website www.atlanticcatchdata.ca.