

## Sector Vessel Groundfish Discard Requirements August 31, 2010

1) Sector vessels may not discard any legal-sized groundfish of allocated stocks. In addition, they are prohibited from retaining any ocean pout, windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolffish, and Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic winter flounder. Atlantic halibut may not be possessed once the one-fish per trip limit is reached.

2) Current federal minimum fish sizes for commercial vessels:

Cod	22 in	55.9 cm	Amer. plaice, dab	14 in	35.6 cm
Haddock	18 in	45.7 cm	Atlantic halibut	41 in	104.1 cm
Pollock	19 in	48.3 cm	Redfish	9 in	22.9 cm
Witch flounder	14 in	35.6 cm	Winter flounder,	12 in	30.5 cm
Yellowtail flounder	13 in	33.0 cm	blackback		
White hake	No minimum size				

3) Sector vessel captains are responsible for determining if caught fish are of legal size. Observers are responsible for recording information about the catch, including the disposition (reason for retention or discarding) of the fish as determined by the captain.

4) For questions about these requirements, contact your sector manager or NOAA Fisheries Service staff at (978) 281-9315.