



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION

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NOAA

Sector: a group of persons holding limited access vessel permits who have voluntarily entered into a contract and agree to certain fishery restrictions for a specified period of time, and which has been granted a TAC(s) [total allowable catch] in order to achieve objectives consistent with applicable Fishery Management Plan goals and objectives.

New England Fishery Management Council, Sector Policy, 2008

NOAA Commits Support to Expand Fishing Sectors

Requests Further Funding for 2010

With 17 new sectors and modifications to two existing sectors being proposed under the New England Fishery Management Council's Amendment 16 to its Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), NOAA Fisheries Service has pledged \$16.7 million to help get this widely supported management approach up and running in 2010. Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., under secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA administrator, announced the funding in April. The President also requested \$18.6 million for NOAA to continue this effort in 2010.



In 2009, the funds will be divided approximately into thirds to support sector building, sector monitoring, and cooperative research with industry. Sector building tasks (\$4.9 million) include providing technical assistance to those of you who will be serving as sector managers and developing operations plans, along with funding for development and testing of data gathering and reporting systems, both at-sea and on-shore. A portion of these sector building task funds will be used to offset some of your sector start up costs such as developing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and data management capabilities.

Sector monitoring tasks (\$5.8 million) include deployment of electronic trip logbooks on more vessels, and monitors at-sea and dockside as well as additional fishery observers. Cooperative research with interested fishermen (\$6.0 million) will focus on industry-based surveys, testing of research survey trawl gear and development of trawl gear that reduces catch of unwanted fish.

Sector News is a monthly publication for sector members, providing updates on sector management development in Northeast fisheries. We welcome your suggestions for improvements we can make or information you would like to see included in future issues. Please send comments to: Marjorie.Mooney-Seus@noaa.gov. For more information on sectors, please visit our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>





Priorities for Getting Sectors Online in 2010

What deadlines Do We Face?

In order to implement sectors by May 2010 (the start of the fishing year), NOAA Fisheries Service needs to undertake substantial preparations in fiscal year 2009.

Most notably, the agency, with the help of fishermen and the New England Fishery Management Council, must develop estimates of the share of the Total Allowable Catch that would be allocated to each fishing vessel. This will be based on its records of past catches and possibly on the days-at-sea allocated to the vessel and the vessel's length and horsepower characteristics, depending on which allocation alternative is selected at the June Council meeting. NOAA Fisheries Service sent out a series of permit holder letters notifying you of the release of summary landings data. These include the following available at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>

- ◇ February 17 letter explained NOAA's process of selecting data sources and determining vessels' potential sector contributions (PSC)* for fishing year 2010
- ◇ March 25 letter notified you that the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act provides for release of data used to make decisions in limited access fisheries, making it easier for you to review your data and make an informed decision about whether to join a sector
- ◇ May 4 letter contained a customized landings data report for multispecies permit holders for nine regulated species, comprising 15 stocks. Historic landings data were provided over two time periods being considered by the Council for sector allocations under Amendment 16 (i.e., 1996- 2006 and 2003-2007)

A letter will be sent shortly to all permit holders detailing corrections to PSCs calculated for individual vessels, which were a result of procedural errors.

Since one of the benefits of being in a sector and operating under a hard quota is greater flexibility in fishing when and where you want, we also will be distributing information sheets in response to requested regulatory exemptions which will detail when and why regulations were established and what sectors must demonstrate to obtain an exemption from these regulations.

On June 10-11, the agency hosted the first of two workshops on sector monitoring and reporting. During the workshop, data and reporting requirements for dockside and at-sea monitoring programs were defined. These requirements are key elements of sector operations plans.

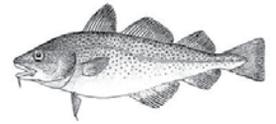
Another important component of the operations plan is the Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in order for NOAA Fisheries Service to make an informed decision as to whether or not to approve the operations of a sector. As part of our ongoing NEPA outreach efforts, NOAA staff will be available in the Regional Office Hearing Rooms on June 29-30 to work one-on-one with sector representatives tasked with preparing the EAs for individual or groups of sectors. Sector representatives are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. NOAA staff will review Chapters 1-3 and discuss specifics of what is needed for Chapters 4 and 5. Please contact Cheryl Quaine to make an appointment at Cheryl.Quaine@noaa.gov or 978-281-9174.

For general questions on the sector development process contact Mark Grant, our sector policy analyst, at Mark.Grant@noaa.gov or 978-281-9145.

Sector Operations Plans, including EAs, are due September 1, 2009.

To handle the increased volume of data expected when new sectors are added in 2010, we are developing new software programs and quality assurance procedures. The goal is to make sure that we have adequate systems in place to support sectors and help ensure their success.

*Potential Sector Contribution (PSC): an individual proportion of the total available catch for the sector species.



Sector Development Timeline

When	What
June 9-10	1st Monitoring Workshop
June 17	Groundfish Committee Meeting
June 23-25	NEFMC Meeting
June 29-30	NEPA Workshop
July 8	2nd Monitoring Workshop
September 1	2010 Sector Ops Plans and EAs due
September 22-24	NEFMC Meeting
November 17-19	NEFMC Meeting
December	Publish AM 16 Proposed Rule NEFMC submits ABC/ACL specification package
January, 2010	Publish Proposed Rule on Sectors Publish ABC/ACL Proposed Rule
March	Publish A16 Final Rule Publish Final Sector Rules Publish ABC/ACL Final Rule
April	Send out Sector LOAs
May 1	A16 & Sectors become effective

* schedule subject to change