



Based on input from the fishing industry and sector participants, we will now be publishing **Multispecies Fishery Bulletin** instead of **Sector News**.

This will allow us to cover a broader range of topics affecting the groundfish fishery. We also have adjusted the format to provide more space for content.

We'd love to hear what you think about the changes!

Gearing Up for 2010

Final review and implementation of Amendment 16 is not the only action that must be taken before new groundfish regulations come on line in May 2010. NOAA Fisheries Service must also review and implement Framework 44. In order for sectors to operate in 2010, they must also be authorized to fish and given an allocation.

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) is expected to submit Framework 44 which contains, among other things, groundfish stock allocations for 2010-2012, to NOAA Fisheries Service for regulatory review shortly.

Highlights of Proposed Framework 44

The following was voted for inclusion in Framework 44 at the November NEFMC meeting.

- ◆ Revised trip limit for Gulf of Maine cod and new trip limit for pollock (see next page for details)
- ◆ Scallop fishery to be allocated 100% of its historic yellowtail flounder bycatch levels (Georges Bank and southern New England/Mid-Atlantic) for 2010 and

90% of that amount for the next two years

- ◆ Limited access scallop fleet would be required to land all legal-sized yellowtail flounder

Other Action Taken by the NEFMC that Impacts the Groundfish Fishery

During its November meeting, the Council also voted to include in Amendment 15 to the scallop fishery management plan the ability to make an adjustment to the 2011 yellowtail flounder allocation.

This adjustment would only be made if the scallop fishery had an overage in any yellowtail subcomponent that resulted in the overall catch limit for the yellowtail flounder stock being exceeded in 2010.



Cod and Haddock (circa 1930); Credit NOAA

NEFMC Sets Groundfish Allocations for 2010-2012

Now posted, but yet to be approved by NOAA, on the New England Fishery management Council website are 2010-2012 allocations for

- ◆ Groundfish sectors
- ◆ Vessels fishing under days-at-sea regulations; and
- ◆ Recreational fisheries

To view proposed annual catch limits go to:

<http://www.nefmc.org/nemulti/index.html>

Upcoming Groundfish Management Actions

What	When
NEFMC submits FW 44 to NOAA	December
Sector/AM 16 Proposed Rules publish Public Comment Periods open	December
FW 44 Proposed Rule publishes Public Comment Period opens	January
AM16/Sector/FW 44 Final Rules publish	Mar/April
AM 16/FW 44/Sectors Final Rules implemented	May 1



Framework 44 Adjustments to Proposed Amendment 16 Measures

	Proposed in AM 16	Revised through FW 44
GOM Cod Trip Limit	2,000 lb/DAS, up to 12,000 lb/trip for DAS vessels; 750 lb/trip for Handgear A vessels; & 200 lb/trip for Handgear B vessels	Retain the existing limit for DAS vessels of 800 lb/DAS, up to 4,000 lb/trip; 300 lb/trip limit for Handgear A vessels; & 75 lb/trip for Handgear B vessels
Pollock Trip Limit	Unlimited trip limit for pollock	Trip limit of 1,000 lb/DAS, up to 10,000 lb/trip
In-season Management	Regional Administrator only has authority to adjust measures in U.S./Canada area in-season	Authority for Regional Administrator to adjust trip limits & DAS charging in-season

Reminder: Deadline for 2011 Data Corrections

December 31, 2009 is the deadline for submitting requests for federal multispecies permit holders landings history data corrections to be used when allocations are made for fishing year 2011.

Please be sure that all supporting documentation is submitted along with the correction request.

Landings history data will be used to calculate your Potential Sector Contribution (PSC) for 2011.

If you have not already done so, you may request trip history information from NOAA by sending an email to: fso.data.requests@noaa.gov.

Seafood Dealer Telephone Townhall Planned for January

NOAA Fisheries Service will be hosting a telephone townhall meeting to provide seafood dealers with an opportunity to ask questions about how proposed groundfish measures for 2010 will affect them.

The townhall will be a followup to ongoing outreach meetings, which will be conducted over the next several weeks. NOAA Fisheries Service port agents are meeting with local dealers to discuss proposed measures included in the NEFMC's Amendment 16 to the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. The Amendment is currently under review by our agency and we expect to publish a proposed rule detailing Amendment 16 measures and soliciting public comment on them shortly.

The townhall is scheduled for January

12, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. A permit holder letter will be distributed to all federal seafood dealers, which will include further details and toll-free call-in information.

We hope to have a good turnout for the call, so we can address any concerns dealers may have about how proposed regulations may impact their business.

If you have questions or want to learn more about the telephone townhall, please feel free to contact Maggie Mooney-Seus @ 978-281-9175 or via Email @ Marjorie.Mooney-Seus@noaa.gov

Multispecies Fishery Bulletin (formerly Sector News) is a monthly publication providing updates on groundfish management 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 or 978-281-9175.

To view previous issues of Sector News or learn more about sector management please visit our website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>