



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276
SEP 25 2009

Dear Sector Proponents and Seafood Dealers:

NOAA Fisheries Service will host its fourth workshop on sector reporting in the groundfish fishery on October 14-15, 2009 at our Northeast Regional Office. The purpose of the workshop is to develop data quality standards and fine tune sector reporting procedures. This workshop will be critical to the successful launch of sectors on May 1, 2010.

To help promote an effective dialogue and open discussion, we enlisted the help of professional facilitators, The Touchstone Consulting Group. Prior to the workshop, Touchstone staff will provide you with background materials. They also may contact you for an interview in order to gather information to help define overarching themes that will be used to shape the workshop agenda. Any feedback you provide will be kept strictly confidential. I encourage you to speak freely to ensure that we can address your questions and concerns during the meeting.

To learn more about the sector management development process, please visit our sector webpage <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>. It contains information on past workshops, other background materials as well as specifics about the upcoming workshop in October including a draft agenda and other relevant documents.

During this transition into sector management, it is critical that we all work together to share information and tackle any implementation challenges that may arise so that sectors have a solid footing and can be successful. I, and my staff, appreciate your support in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Northeast Regional Administrator

