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## **Updated Northeast (NE) Multispecies (Groundfish) Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for Fishing Year 2011**

The ACLs for sectors and the common pool have been adjusted based on final sector enrollment. As of May 1, 2011, there were 829 vessels in sectors and 646 vessels in the common pool limited access fishery. Table 1 shows the ACLs for fishing year (FY) 2011, and Table 2 shows the FY 2011 annual catch entitlements (ACE) for each sector based on its May 1, 2011, final roster.

### **Corrections, Clarifications, and Modifications for the NE Multispecies Fishery**

The groundfish regulations implementing Amendment 16, Framework Adjustment (FW) 44, and FW 45, and some other previous actions, contained some errors and omissions, so we have changed the regulations to fix them. Here is a summary of the changes which are now in effect.

#### 1. Dockside Monitoring (DSM) Operations Standards

We are no longer requiring dockside monitors to board the vessel at the end of an offload. If we require hold inspections in the future, we will notify you and provide instructions. We are seeking comment on this change. Comments are due by August 18, 2011.

#### 2. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Requirements

Vessels must now submit a VTR for all trips, including trips only setting gear, trips ended because of a mechanical breakdown, and trips transiting with fish on board from one offload port to another offload port. The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) approved this requirement in Amendment 5, which stated: "logbooks are required of all vessels with a multispecies permit and must be completed for all trips rather than for only trips on which groundfish were landed." It is important that we get VTRs from all trips, including set-only trips and trips ended early, so that we can accurately monitor catch and vessel activity.

**CATCH REPORT UPDATE:** For set-only trips, you must now input your VTR serial number in your vessel monitoring system (VMS) catch report rather than the "set-only" code that was used before. This will link the VMS catch report and VTR for all trips.

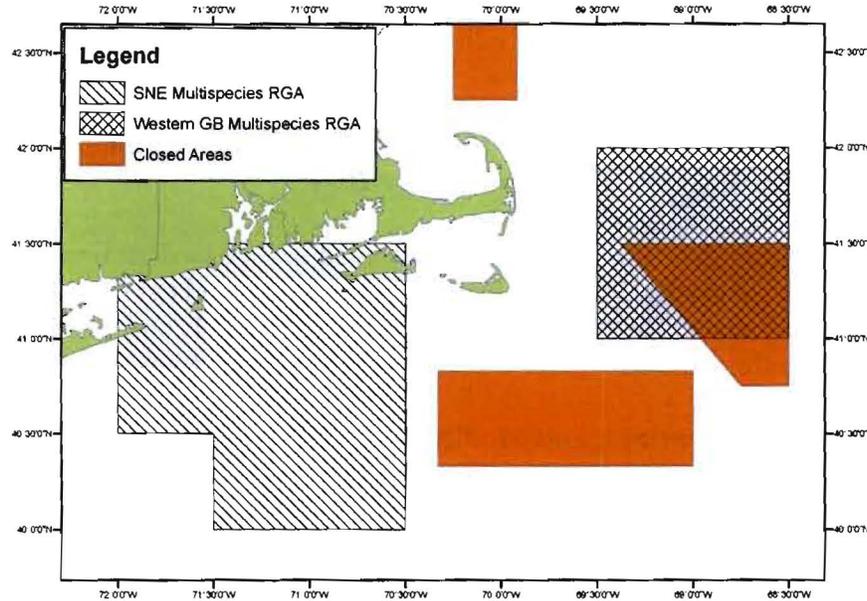
#### 3. Dealer Prohibitions

Dealers may not import or export zero-retention species (i.e., ocean pout, windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolfish, and Southern New England Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) winter flounder). This will eliminate any uncertainty in cases where a dealer may be in possession of prohibited species or stocks that were obtained from sources other than U.S. fishing vessels.

#### 4. Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas (RGA)

Groundfish RGAs apply only to vessels fishing in the common pool under a groundfish DAS. Sector vessels are exempt from Groundfish RGAs.

Figure 1. Groundfish RGAs Applicable to Common Pool Vessels.



#### 5. Small Vessel Category Possession Limits

Small Vessel category vessels may retain up to 300 lb of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, combined, and one Atlantic halibut per trip, without being subject to DAS restrictions. Small Vessel category vessels are prohibited from possessing windowpane flounder, ocean pout, Atlantic wolffish, and SNE/MA winter flounder.

#### 6. Accountability Measure (AM) for Stocks Not Allocated to Sectors

Sector vessel catch of stocks not allocated to sectors (i.e., Atlantic halibut, SNE/MA winter flounder, ocean pout, windowpane flounder, and Atlantic wolffish) during FYs 2010 and 2011 will be added to the catch of these stocks by common pool vessels to determine if the common pool AMs will be triggered. This reflects the Council's intent that the groundfish AMs must be sufficient to prevent overfishing on each stock as a whole for FYs 2010 and 2011.

#### 7. Multispecies Minimum Fish Sizes and Fillet Provisions

We have expanded the existing fillet exemption from certain size restrictions for at-home consumption to all vessels issued a limited access groundfish DAS permit, including those that are fishing in a sector. Crew members may retain up to 25 lb of fillets that measure less than the minimum fish size, if the fillets are from legal-sized fish and are not for sale. All catch by a sector vessel, including fillets retained by crew, count against the sector ACE.

All fillets or fish parts being landed for at-home consumption will be multiplied by 3 and added to the weight of whole fish on board. The total weight of whole fish and fillets combined may not exceed trip limits for common pool vessels or ACE for sector vessels. This will accurately account for the fish landed for at-home consumption.

## 8. Special Management Programs (SAP)

Groundfish vessels fishing with trawl gear may use a haddock separator trawl, flounder net, or Ruhle trawl in the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP when it is open to targeting yellowtail flounder. When this SAP is only open to target haddock, groundfish vessels must use a haddock separator trawl, a Ruhle trawl, or hook gear.

Common pool vessels may use a 6-inch codend within the Georges Bank (GB) cod stock area when fishing in the Regular B DAS Program with a haddock separator trawl, a Ruhle trawl, or other approved trawl gear.

Sector vessels may use squid and mackerel as bait in the Closed Area I Hook Gear Haddock SAP, but common pool vessels may not.

## 9. Sector Monitoring

We have removed the 10-minute requirement for monitoring providers to confirm trip-start hails (TSH) and trip-end hails (TEH). Vessel operators must contact the DSM service provider via a back-up system to confirm the receipt of the TSH or TEH report if it is not received by VMS.

Roving monitors (RM) no longer need to sort species by market class.

Catch offloaded to a truck is now exempt from the tote-tagging requirement if all of the following three conditions are met: (1) The RM that observed the offload at the dock must also serve as the dockside monitor when the truck is offloaded at the dealer; (2) the RM must follow the truck, in line of sight, from the remote offload location to the dealer where the actual weighing of the fish occurs; and (3) the truck must be loaded with only the catch from the one trip being monitored. Tote-tagging requirements are intended to ensure that all catch offloaded from a vessel to a truck can be tracked from the offload site to the dealer, where it will be accurately weighed and reported.

## 10. Sector Reporting Requirements

We have changed the deadline for submission of the weekly sector catch report from 2359 hr on Thursday, to 0700 hr of the second Monday following the reporting week. Fishing weeks begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. The weekly sector catch report is now due 8 days after the end of the fishing week.

## 11. Recreational and Charter/Party Vessel Restrictions

Vessels having a letter of authorization (LOA) to fish as a charter/party vessel in any of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) closed areas may not fish on a sector trip, under a groundfish DAS, or under the provisions of the Small Vessel, Handgear A, or Handgear B categories during the period of participation specified on the LOA.

## 12. Possession Prohibition for Certain Stocks

Possession of windowpane flounder and ocean pout is prohibited in all fisheries, including private recreational anglers, charter/party vessels, and other fisheries such as the scallop fishery.

### 13. Monkfish Declarations

A groundfish vessel already on a sector trip can change its fishing activity to include monkfish. A vessel fishing in the groundfish fishery can now change its fishing activity declaration after leaving port to reflect the vessel operator's intention to also fish in the monkfish fishery on the same trip.

This is just a summary of the changes made by the Correction Rule, and not a substitute for the regulations. For additional details, please visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultifr.html>.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail, including closure notices, by visiting our website and clicking on "Permit Holder Letters."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

Table 1. Adjusted Total ACLs, Sub-ACLs, and ACL-Subcomponents for FY 2011 (mt). \*

	GB Cod	GOM Cod	GB Haddock	GOM Haddock	GB Yellowtail Flounder**	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	Plaice	Witch Flounder	GB Winter Flounder	GOM Winter Flounder	Redfish	White Hake	Pollock
Total Groundfish Sub-ACL	4301	4825	30840	787	1142	524	940	3108	1236	2007	158	7541	2974	13952
Preliminary Common Pool Sub-ACL	99	126	129	12	12	115	31	78	25	13	9	58	35	138
Final Common Pool Sub-ACL	<b>93</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>104</b>
% Change	-6.06%	-17.46%	46.51%	-36.98%	66.67%	4.35%	-14.08%	-10.26%	0.00%	7.98%	-12.10%	-37.93%	-20.00%	-24.64%
Preliminary Sector Sub-ACL	4202	4699	30711	775	779	409	909	3030	1211	1994	149	7483	2939	13814
Final Sector Sub-ACL	<b>4208</b>	<b>4721</b>	<b>30651</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>3038</b>	<b>1211</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>7505</b>	<b>2946</b>	<b>13848</b>
% Change	0.14%	0.47%	-0.20%	0.57%	44.03%	-1.22%	0.48%	0.26%	0.00%	-0.05%	0.73%	0.29%	0.24%	0.25%

\*All sub-ACL values for sectors outlined in Table 4 assume that each sector MRI has a valid permit for FY 2011.

\*\*The large increase in the adjusted values of GB Yellowtail Flounder sub-ACL is due to the signing of the International Fisheries Agreement Clarification Act (2011).

Table 2. Adjusted ACE Each Sector Receives By Stock for FY 2011 (1,000 lb)\*†

Sector Name	GB Cod East	GB Cod West	GOM Cod	GB Haddock East	GB Haddock West	GOM Haddock	GB Yellowtail Flounder	SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	Plaice	Witch Flounder	GB Winter Flounder	GOM Winter Flounder	Redfish	White Hake	Pollock
FGS	124	2547	211	1350	2969	23	0	3	40	38	23	1	8	482	384	2413
MPBS	0	10	44	2	4	1	0	0	6	44	9	0	3	4	12	68
NCCS	1	15	81	26	57	6	21	8	13	10	6	3	3	73	56	139
NEFS II	25	504	2105	2441	5369	318	36	17	433	600	370	72	74	2762	420	3802
NEFS III	6	114	1852	34	75	213	1	5	197	302	84	1	38	258	336	2373
NEFS IV	19	385	778	1136	2497	104	54	26	102	623	228	31	16	1091	505	1713
NEFS V	9	182	11	834	1833	6	163	270	22	100	47	88	1	48	15	95
NEFS VI	13	258	264	621	1365	66	68	59	59	259	138	63	13	882	256	1011
NEFS VII	19	397	46	805	1771	10	228	43	56	233	84	503	3	107	49	213
NEFS VIII	28	580	53	1242	2730	4	286	65	138	119	71	714	12	72	33	188
NEFS IX	65	1325	175	2543	5593	82	694	94	221	574	228	1893	8	960	269	1198
NEFS X	5	107	588	66	146	45	0	6	286	138	98	1	95	94	64	465
NEFS XI	2	36	1333	8	17	43	0	0	45	102	42	0	7	159	160	2024
NEFS XII	0	1	258	1	1	15	0	0	10	51	17	0	1	176	164	911
NEFS XIII	35	723	75	3162	6955	15	434	146	63	264	137	479	4	759	123	720
PCCGS	0	8	424	7	15	37	0	8	18	395	104	0	4	338	239	931
SHS 1	72	1483	1952	6124	13467	696	294	88	216	2699	918	440	21	8006	3351	11931
SHS 3	5	108	72	414	911	26	13	36	46	77	39	19	11	270	57	323
TSS	3	61	85	308	677	8	182	14	42	69	26	85	7	1	1	12
All Sectors Combined	431	8845	10408	21123	46452	1718	2475	890	2014	6697	2669	4394	331	16545	6494	30530
Common Pool	10	196	229	130	286	17	43	265	59	155	55	30	17	80	63	229

-Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector (FGS), Maine Permit Bank Sector (MPBS), Northeast Coastal Communities Sector (NCCS), Northeast Fishery Sectors (NEFS), Port Clyde Community Groundfish Sector (PCCGS), Sustainable Harvest Sector (SHS), and Tri-State Sector (TSS)

\*All ACE values for sectors outlined in Table 2 assume that each sector MRI has a valid permit for FY 2011.

† Values are before any ACE increases or reductions from FY 2010 underages or overages.