



Introducing 'Fish-on-Line'

Anyone holding a federal fishing permit will soon be able to access vessel data via the NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Regional Office's web portal, 'Fish-on-Line.'

With 'Fish-on-Line' it will be possible to track landings information such as information reported to NOAA by seafood dealers, and quickly address any missing information or inaccuracies in the data submitted.

Even though data will be more accessible, data confidentially is maintained. The Personal Identification Number (PIN) protected access means that only permit holders or their representatives will be able to access vessel landings information.

Once you receive a personal "PIN" in the mail, it will be easy to access your vessel landings data. Just follow these three simple steps:

1. From your internet browser go to the 'Fish-On-Line' website:
<https://www.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin/>
2. Type in your Permit Number.
3. Type in your assigned PIN. If you lose or forget your PIN, you may contact our offices and your PIN will be resent to you via mail.

Questions? Contact NOAA at 978-281-9133.

Multispecies Fishery Bulletin (formerly Sector News) is a monthly publication providing updates on groundfish management in the Northeast. Suggestions for how we can make it better? Contact: Marjorie.Mooney-Seus@noaa.gov or call 978-281-9175. For more information on sector management go to

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>

Proposed Framework Adjustment 44 Measures

On February 1, NOAA Fisheries Service proposed regulations to implement measures in Framework Adjustment 44 (FW 44) to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and define catch levels for fishing years 2010–2012.

FW 44 measures and specifications, if approved, are expected to be implemented in conjunction with approved measures in Amendment 16 to the FMP, as well as with approved sector operations plans authorized under the FMP.

FW 44 would also modify the Gulf of Maine cod and pollock trip limits approved in Amendment 16; provide the Regional Administrator authority

to implement inseason trip limit adjustments and/or differential days-at-sea (DAS) counting for any groundfish stock in order to prevent catch from exceeding the annual catch limit.

NOAA also is proposing to allocate zero trips to the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder Special Access Program (SAP) for fishing year 2010; limit the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP to the use of Category A DAS for common pool vessels; delay opening of the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area for trawl vessels; and implement a Georges Bank yellowtail flounder trip limit of 2,500 pounds.

To view the Framework 44 Proposed Rule go to:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/frdoc/10/10MultiFW44PR.pdf>

E-Mail comments may be submitted, identified by RIN 0648-AY29, via the Federal eRulemaking Portal

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Comments must be received by **March 1, 2010**

Sector Enrollment for Fishing Year 2010

On December 23, 2009, NOAA Fisheries Service announced an additional opportunity for eligible Northeast multispecies permit holders to join a sector, as well as an opportunity for permit holders that had already signed a sector contract to change their sector affiliation, and set a January 22, 2010, deadline for doing so for Fishing Year (FY) 2010 (May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011).

As a result of this additional oppor-

tunity, a total of 812 multispecies permit holders, representing 98% of the historic catch of groundfish, have enrolled in sectors for FY 2010, with 665 permit holders remaining in the common pool.

Although no additional vessels may join a sector in FY 2010, the total number of vessels currently enrolled in a sector could be reduced since these vessels still

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Seafood Dealer Telephone Townhall Highlights

Thirty-two people participated in the Northeast Regional Office's first telephone townhall meeting. The meeting was held on January 12 to discuss how Amendment 16 will impact seafood dealers.

Key topics of discussion included 1) the importance of on-time reporting; 2) the importance of including critical information in dealer reports (i.e., vessel trip report (VTR) serial number); 3) dockside monitoring for sectors; and 4) procedures for handling reporting discrepancies between dealer and dockside monitor data.

Why is Timely Information so important?

Each sector manager is required to complete a weekly catch report and to track how much of the sector's catch allocation has been used (i.e., Annual Catch Entitlement or ACE).

To complete these reports, sectors are dependent on timely and accurate information from dealers. NOAA also relies on dealer electronic reports to reconcile our available data with data generated by the sectors.

In order for this entire process to work efficiently, dealer reports need to be submitted on time, each Tuesday, to NOAA.

The Role of the VTR

Another key piece of information in the reporting process is the VTR. It is critical that dealer reports include an accurate VTR serial number because this number links the dealer data to the

vessel that has sold the catch.

With this information NOAA can identify where fish are caught, so we can effectively monitor overall catch by management area.

Dockside Monitoring

Amendment 16 requires that sectors hire approved monitoring companies and monitoring staff to validate catch offloaded from fishing vessels.

Seafood dealers have a role in this process. They need to 1) allow monitors safe access to observe offloading, 2) provide a copy of the weighout slip/tally sheet to the monitor, and 3) allow the monitor to sign the weighout slip/tally sheet or sign the monitor's report.

Reporting Requirements at Remote Offloading Locations

Offloading could be monitored directly from the boat to a truck. In this situation, the weighout and grading procedure would be monitored and the dockside monitor would make a copy of the tally or weighout of the fish. He/she would make sure that all fish are off the vessel. The dockside monitor would also confirm that all the fish (totes) are tagged if they are going to be weighed later at a different location.

Someone essentially needs to "follow the fish" to observe both sides of the operation, whether it is the same individual or not depends on the situation.

Addressing Discrepancies in Dockside Monitor and Dealer Data

Dockside monitoring data are primarily for use by sectors and will not be used by NOAA to track catch rates. Although this information will be used by OLE to en-

sure accurate reporting.

While the agency, on occasion, may request these data from sectors, the onus remains on sector managers to reconcile these data for their own use.

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have the option, unless otherwise specified in a sector's operations plan, to drop out

of a sector by April 30, 2010, and fish in the common pool for FY 2010.

Number of Permits Enrolled in FY 2010 Sectors

Sector Name	No. of Permits
Fixed Gear Sector	95
Northeast Coastal Communities Sector	19
Northeast Fisheries Sector 2	81
Northeast Fisheries Sector 3	81
Northeast Fisheries Sector 4	48
Northeast Fisheries Sector 5	41
Northeast Fisheries Sector 6	18
Northeast Fisheries Sector 7	27
Northeast Fisheries Sector 8	22
Northeast Fisheries Sector 9	51
Northeast Fisheries Sector 10	44
Northeast Fisheries Sector 11	48
Northeast Fisheries Sector 12	8
Northeast Fisheries Sector 13	35
Port Clyde Community Groundfish Sector	43
Sustainable Harvest Sector	129
Tri-State Sector	22
Total	812