



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION

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Sector News is a monthly publication 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.

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Sector Information Management

What are some of the keys to successful multispecies sectors? Timely and accurate catch reporting and data management. Who is responsible? Ultimately we all have roles in ensuring that fishing trips and landings are monitored and that data are collected, and recorded correctly and submitted on time. *(Some of the following measures were defined under Amendment 16 by the New England Fishery Management Council. Others were developed during subsequent discussions between sector representatives and NOAA Fisheries Service staff.)*

Sector Vessel Operator. To help ensure that sector managers, dealers and NOAA Fisheries Service have the timely information needed to effectively track sector catch, vessel operators will have some new responsibilities.

- 1) Notify the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program 48 hours before beginning a trip to determine if the trip will receive an at-sea monitor or a waiver. Day-boats may notify the program once for all trips in an upcoming week;
- 2) Submit a trip start hail at the beginning of a sector trip. This formatted report will notify the dockside monitoring service provider of when and where you expect to return to port and land your catch. Other information that is critical to include is vessel permit number and Vessel Trip Report (VTR) serial number (on the first page used for the trip);
- 3) Submit a trip end hail six hours before landing for all trips at least six hours in duration or occurring more than six hours from port. For shorter trips that are closer to port, submit immediately upon completion of the last tow. This formatted report will update your intended landing details and will provide an estimate of the amount of fish to be landed. Details concerning all the information that must be included in the trip start and end hail reports and how they will be transmitted are being finalized;
- 4) Complete and submit a VTR. Remember to start a new VTR page for each statistical area fished or gear change. Submit a copy of the VTR to the dockside monitor upon landing or to the sector manager within 24 hours if no monitor is present when your vessel comes into port. VTRs will have to be submitted to NOAA weekly. It is essential that all information required on the VTR be fully completed; and
- 5) Make sure that your VTR serial number and vessel permit number are accurately recorded by both the dealer and any dockside monitors.

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Another Chance to Join a Sector in 2010

At its September meeting, the New England Fishery Management Council voted to develop additional common pool management measures which, if approved, will be effective on May 1, 2010, along with the Amendment 16 measures. The measures being considered include further trip limits and differential days-at-sea reductions. Although it is possible that new or adjusted trip limits or differential days-at-sea measures could be developed for any stock, the stocks of particular interest to the Council are pollock and Gulf of Maine cod. Final recommendations for 2010 management measures will be made by the Council during their November 17-19 meeting in Newport, RI.

Given the proposed changes to the common pool measures, NOAA and the Council realize that some fishing industry members who did not join a sector, may want to reconsider sector enrollment. There may be further opportunities to participate in a sector.

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Deadline Extended for 2011 Data Corrections

If you are interested in participating in a multispecies fishery sector in 2011, there is still time to submit requests for data corrections so that your Potential Sector Contribution (PSC) can be calculated in time for the start of the fishing year.

NOAA Fisheries Service is extending the deadline for data corrections for the 2011 fishing year to **December 31, 2009**.

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.

Another Chance to Join a Sector *cont'd from page 1*

If any of the 17 sectors, which already have submitted operations plans, are willing to reopen their rosters and admit new members, groundfish vessels may join one of those sectors before **November 20, 2009**. The reopening of rosters will not affect those vessels previously enrolled in a sector. In other words, they will still be able to begin fishing on May 1, 2010. However, any new vessels in a sector may face a delay in the start of their fishing year, if the addition requires a supplemental environmental analysis (e.g., they are using a different type of fishing gear than those previously enrolled in a sector or the geographic scope of the sector's fishing area is altered.)

Two of the 19 sectors that are proposed by the Council in Amendment 16 have not yet submitted operations plans for FY 2010. Therefore, there may be an opportunity to join either of these sectors, if they decide to submit an operations plan for FY 2010. However, due to the relatively short amount of time between now and the beginning of FY 2010, it is unlikely that either of these sectors could start by May 1, 2010. Vessels committed to participating in a sector may not fish during FY 2010 until approval of the sector operations plan.

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Dockside Monitors and Providers. The Council has proposed dockside monitoring of 50 percent of the sector fishing trips that occur in fishing year 2010, 20 percent in 2011, and 20 percent for both sectors and the common pool thereafter. Monitors will meet the vessel at the dock to observe the offloading and weigh-out of catch. The monitors need to prepare a dockside monitoring report and submit it to the dockside monitoring service provider. The service provider will then transmit the report electronically to the sector managers within 24 hours of the landing event.

Dealers. The requirements for federally-permitted dealer reporting -- a weekly report to NOAA -- will not change. What has changed is that sector managers will be critically dependent upon dealers submitting their reports on-time (by Tuesday midnight). Dealer reports provide a census of landings and allow sector managers and NOAA to track each sector's allocation. It will be more important than ever that the dealer correctly report the selling vessel's permit number and VTR serial number.

To learn more about NEW dealer requirements as outlined in the proposed regulations, please visit our webpage and click on [Seafood Dealers' Guide to Multispecies Sector Management](#) under the heading [Information Sheets and Other Background Materials](#)

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

NOAA Fisheries Service. Knowing the level of discards is critical for a sector manager to determine total catch and manage the sector's fishing allocations. To support the requirement, NOAA has committed to providing a minimum of 30 percent at-sea monitoring/observer coverage for all vessels (sector and common pool vessels).

The agency has committed to helping sectors by making much of the information it receives about sector trips available in a single place. We are developing a secure website through which sector managers will be able to download the following information:

- Dealer reports
- Vessel trip reports
- Discard amounts for trips that were monitored

- Estimated discard rates for trips that were not monitored
- VMS activity declaration

Sector Managers. Sector managers are responsible for ensuring that sectors do not exceed their allocations. Each Thursday by midnight, managers must submit a weekly report to NOAA.

Managers have to gather and incorporate a variety of information from NOAA (listed above), member vessels, and the dockside monitoring provider to ensure that all trips and catch from the prior week have been accounted for and subtracted from the sector's allocation for each stock. A technical team consisting of NOAA and industry groups is currently working on the exact format and content of that report.

What to Do if Information is Missing

As the manager compiles the weekly report, he/she may realize that a trip occurred, but the dealer report and/or VTR are missing. How can the manager balance the books and make sure the allocation is not exceeded?

NOAA has developed a protocol that will help sector managers fill in the blanks by substituting information from secondary sources or using an assumed value based on the vessel's past performance. This "apportionment algorithm," as it is called, is set up to be precautionary. That way, when the primary trip records are missing, managers will fill in the blanks with figures that are likely to be greater than the actual catch.

The main point of this approach is to get as full an accounting as possible to inform the manager's decisions about operations the following week. Of course, managers will be able to update the report when the primary data sources are received.

