

Science, Service, Stewardship



Northeast Multispecies Sector Allocation

National Catch Shares Workshop
La Jolla, CA,

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November 17, 2009

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Overview

- 1977 First G'fish Plan – Quota/Derbies
- 1982 Interim G'fish Plan – Indirect effort controls
- 1986 Comprehensive G'fish Plan – More of same
- 1991 Consent Decree - CLF
- 1994 Amendment 5 Limited access/DAS
- 1996 Amendment 7 Accelerated DAS reductions
- 1999 Amendment 9 Bio Reference Points
- 1999 Report to Congress – Initiate A13
- 2003 Settlement Agreement – CLF and Others
- 2004 Amendment 13 – Redefined DAS, Sector Allocation, Tradable DAS
- 2006 FW-44 Initiate scoping for A16
- 2010 Amendment 16 – ACL/AM, Revised Sector Allocation, Common Pool



Statistics

- FY2007 1,500 Limited Access Permits
- FY2007 1,000 with DAS
- 2000 – 2003 Number of “Active” Permits averaged 1,000 – 900
- 2004 – 2008 Number “Active” Permits decline to 600 or 700
- 2004-2007 Revenue \$85 million in constant \$
- DAS Use range from 60-70%



Management Issues

- Since 2004 Effort Controls Keeping under TACs set by assessments
- Retrospective Patterns in Assessments – Challenge going forward
- Perception/Reality(?) that DAS not working – Lack of Accountability
- 2006 MSA Reauthorization – Require ACL
- Referendum Requirement
- Sector Allocation



Management Goals

- **Goal 1:** Consistent with the National Standards and other required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other applicable law, manage the northeast multispecies complex at sustainable levels.
- **Goal 2:** Create a management system so that fleet capacity will be commensurate with resource status so as to achieve goals of economic efficiency and biological conservation and that encourages diversity within the fishery.
- **Goal 3:** Maintain a directed commercial and recreational fishery for northeast multispecies.
- **Goal 4:** Minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on fishing communities and shoreside infrastructure.
- **Goal 5:** Provide reasonable and regulated access to the groundfish species covered in this plan to all members of the public of the United States for seafood consumption and recreational purposes during the stock rebuilding period without compromising the Amendment 13 objectives or timetable. If necessary, management measures could be modified in the future to insure that the overall plan objectives are met.
- **Goal 6:** To promote stewardship within the fishery.



Management Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Achieve, on a continuing basis, optimum yield (OY) for the U.S. fishing industry.
- **Objective 2:** Clarify the status determination criteria (biological reference points and control rules) for groundfish stocks so they are consistent with the National Standard guidelines and applicable law.
- **Objective 3:** Adopt fishery management measures that constrain fishing mortality to levels that are compliant with the Sustainable Fisheries Act.
- **Objective 4:** Implement rebuilding schedules for overfished stocks, and prevent overfishing.
- **Objective 5:** Adopt measures as appropriate to support international transboundary management of resources.
- **Objective 6:** Promote research and improve the collection of information to better understand groundfish population dynamics, biology and ecology, and to improve assessment procedures in cooperation with the industry.
- **Objective 7:** To the extent possible, maintain a diverse groundfish fishery, including different gear types, vessel sizes, geographic locations, and levels of participation.
- **Objective 8: Develop biological, economic and social measures of success for the groundfish fishery and resource that insure accountability in achieving fishery management objectives.**
- **Objective 9:** Adopt measures consistent with the habitat provisions of the M-S Act, including identification of EFH and minimizing impacts on habitat to the extent practicable.
- **Objective 10:** Identify and minimize bycatch, which include regulatory discards, to the extent practicable, and to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.



Sector Objectives (Samples)

- Port Clyde
 - Implement community-based fisheries management in New England.
 - Create a model for future sectors in the New England groundfish fishery.
- Fixed Gear
 - Sustain a viable fixed gear fishery on Georges Bank.
 - Sustain a viable commercial groundfish fleet in Chatham/Harwichport, Massachusetts.
 - Assure that the fixed gear fleet will contribute to fisheries sustainability through utilization of a hard TAC.
 - Create new opportunities for the Georges Bank fixed gear fleet, such as opportunities to pursue healthy or rebuilding groundfish stocks instead of GB cod.
 - Retain access for small boat fishermen on Georges Bank.
 - Promote stewardship of the GB cod resource.



Sector Allocation Elements

- Eligibility – Limited Access Permit
- Qualification – History 1996-2006 by stock
 - Exception for GB cod for current sector member
- PSC – Calculated for every eligible permit
- Not convertible into quota unless join a sector
- Annual Catch Entitlement – Commercial ACL multiplied by sector PSC
- Inter-Sector tradability of ACE
- Universal Exemptions from Regulations
- Sector-Specific Exemption Requests
- Each Sector Submits Operations Plan and EA



Sector Allocation Elements (contd)

- 18 Sectors Approved under Amendment 16
- 17 Sectors Submit Roster, Operations Plan, and EA on September 1, 2009
- 729 Permits, 300 – 400 “members”
- 1 Sector Lease-Only
- Ops Plans for 16 Sectors – Create internal ITQ
- Until April 30, 2010 to “opt out”