

Draft Amendment 16

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Tom Nies and Anne Hawkins  
NEFMC  
June, 2009

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*"It is the intent of the NEFMC to ...  
move [groundfish management] towards  
an output-based management system  
beginning with Amendment 16 and to be  
further developed in Amendment 17."*

*October 9, 2008*

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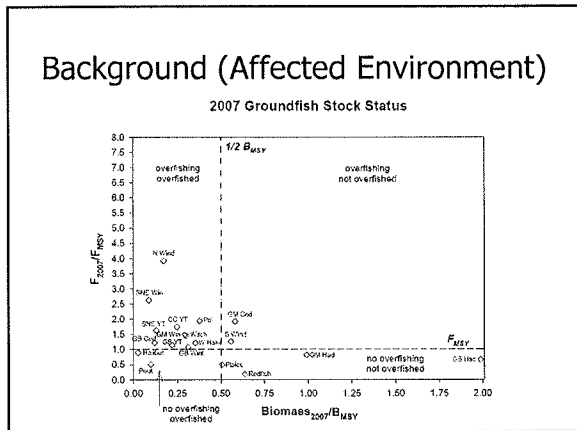
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## Amendment Overview

- Revised sector policies
- Revised effort controls
- New administrative measures
- Implement new legal requirements for Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs)

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## Sector Policies

- What is a sector?
- New terms: PSC, ACE
- Clarification of sector administration
- New reporting/monitoring requirements

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## Sector Policies

- Option: Confirmation of permit history permits (those that are not currently on a vessel, but show a history of landings) will not need to be activated in order to join a sector
- Special rules for ACE transfer

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## Sector Administration

- Operations plan requirements
- Annual report requirements
- ACE for all stocks allocated
- Enforcement provisions if sector disbands/vessel leaves sector

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## Potential Sector Contributions

- No action: Landings history alone, "most recent" five years
- Alternative 1: Landings history alone, FY 96-2006
- Alternative 2: Landings history and "capacity" (applied to stocks caught)
- Alternative 3: Landings history and "capacity" (applied to all stocks)
- Alternative 4: Landings history and FW 42 allocated Category A DAS, applied to all stocks

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## Sector Monitoring

- Dockside monitoring and phase-in of at sea observers
  - Coverage to be specified
  - Rough cost estimates for both programs:
    - All trips: \$13,000 - \$18,000 per vessel (lower if not all trips monitored)
- Sector member liability:
  - Joint and several liability for all or certain sector violations

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### Effort Controls – Commercial Fishery

- No Action: 18 percent DAS reduction
- Option 2A: 18 percent DAS reduction, expanded differential DAS
- Option 3A: 50 percent DAS reduction, 24-hour clock, no differential DAS
- Option 4: 40 percent DAS reduction, restricted gear areas, differential DAS

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### Recreational Measures - Allocation

- Commercial/recreational allocation for GOM cod and GOM haddock (years 1996-2006 or 2001-2006)

Stock	Years	Preliminary Estimate of Recreational Allocation
GOM Cod (1)	1996 – 2006	25.1%
GOM Cod (2)	2001 – 2006	33.7%
GOM Haddock (1)	1996 – 2006	17.6%
GOM Haddock (2)	2001 – 2006	27.5%

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### Recreational Measures – Mortality Controls

- Options depend on allocation decision. If 1996-2006:
  - GOM cod: 26 in. min, or 6 fish bag limit, or November 1 – April 15 prohibition
  - GOM haddock: 21 in. minimum, or 9 fish bag, or 18 in. and 7 fish bag
- If 2001-2006, minimum size for GOM haddock reduced to 18 inches

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## Recreational Measures - Other

- Landing fillets:
  - Fillets allowed to be landed with the skin off, legal-sized fish OR
  - Fillets must have at least two square inches of skin on the fillet, legal-sized fillets
- Limits on hooks:
  - Proposed that 2-hook per line limit is removed

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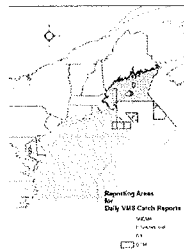
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## Reporting Requirements

- Four broad reporting areas:
- Common pool discard rate:
  - Will be determined, by gear, based on total landings of a stock OR on a trip-by-trip basis
  - Will be based on either the most recent stock assessment OR observer data



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## Additional Rules and Programs

- Changes to minimum size:
  - Halibut: 41 inches total length
  - Haddock: 18 inches for commercial vessels
- Atlantic wolffish prohibition on retention
- SNE/MA small mesh fisheries gear:
  - All vessels in SNEMA area using bottom trawl gear with a codend smaller than 6.5 inches must use drop chains of at least 12 inches

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## Additional Rules and Programs

- Possession of limited access multispecies and scallop permits by the same vessel
- GOM haddock sink gillnet pilot program
- DAS transfer and leasing programs
- Special management programs:
  - Generally revised to focus efforts on haddock and redfish

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## Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)

- *A catch level that, if exceeded, triggers an automatic response (Accountability Measure, or AM) to end overfishing*
- ACL will be determined by the Council based on guidance from the PDT.
  - ACL may be broken into sub-components
  - If the ACL is exceeded, it may be adjusted in subsequent years to prevent overfishing
- ACLs to be specified this fall

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## Accountability Measures

- Commercial:
  - Hard TAC system overlaid with trimester TACs
  - Differential DAS adjustment/adjustments to DAS
  - Sectors: Hard TACs
- Recreational: adjustments to season, minimum size, or bag limits. Either decided by Council, NMFS, or NMFS after consulting Council

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Questions?

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