

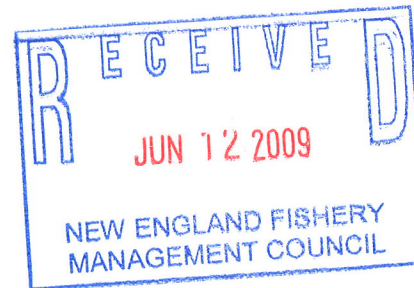
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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
 NORTHEAST REGION  
 55 Great Republic Drive  
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

JUN 11 2009

Mr. Paul Howard  
 Executive Director  
 New England Fishery Management Council  
 50 Water Street  
 Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Paul:

The Fishery Statistics Office (FSO) has compared Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector- and Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector-reported landings with dealer-reported cod landings for the periods FY04-FY08 and FY07-FY08, respectively (Table 1).

Table 1. Sector-reported Georges Bank cod landings divided by dealer-reported cod landings by fishing year.

Fishing Year	Hook Sector-reported Georges Bank cod landings/Dealer-reported cod landings	Fixed Gear Sector-reported Georges Bank cod landings/Dealer-reported cod landings
2004	100.8%	
2005	96.8%	
2006	101.2%	
2007	93.0%	96.0%
2008	101.2%	100.9%

In general, Sector- and dealer-reported landings are very similar and are considered to be reliable sources of commercial landings information. In addition, FSO has indicated that Sector reporting over the time periods considered has been exemplary, with regular monthly reports sent in a timely manner without interruption or delay.

Please contact Dr. John Witzig at 978-281-9232 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
 Regional Administrator

