



Amendment 16 Goals and Objectives: Looking Back on Year One

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Sector “Lessons Learned” Workshop
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Overview



- Amendment 16 implemented in 2010
 - Greatly expanded sector management system
 - Implemented annual catch limits and accountability measures that required large catch reductions

- Amendment 16 set goals and objectives
 - Were carried over from Amendment 13

- Have we met the goals so far?

Goals



- 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.*
- Achieved through the use of Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs)

Goals



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.

- No recent studies available
- Mid-2000's studies showed overcapacity on a few stocks based on TTACs; Under for others based on rebuilt levels

Goals



3) *Maintain a directed commercial and recreational fishery for northeast multispecies.*

- Achieved through allocation formula and persistence of both fisheries

Goals



4) Minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on fishing communities and shoreside infrastructure.

- Landings and revenues were expected to decline during rebuilding programs
- A16 had measures to mitigate losses
- Some evidence to show proportionally fewer active vessels in 2010

Goals



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.*

- Access not decreased beyond what was necessary for rebuilding

Goals



6) *To promote stewardship within the fishery.*

- Lack of indicators for this goal
- Indications it may have increased, including few sector violations and ACLs exceeded on only 2 stocks

Objectives



1) *Achieve, on a continuing basis, optimum yield (OY) for the U.S. fishing industry.*

- OY not the same as the ACL; Is achieved when fishing mortality target is reached
- Very few recent enough assessments to determine if OY met.
 - Pollock and winter flounder stocks were less than OY
 - GB yellowtail uncertain – overfished in 2009

Objectives



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.*

- Process specified in Amendment 16

Objectives



3) *Adopt fishery management measures that constrain fishing mortality to levels that are compliant with the Sustainable Fisheries Act.*

- Mortality levels are constrained to ACL and reinforced by AMs since A16
- Complicated by assessment uncertainty

Objectives



4) *Implement rebuilding schedules for overfished stocks, and prevent overfishing*

- All overfished stocks are currently on rebuilding plans

Objectives



5) Adopt measures as appropriate to support international transboundary management of resources.

- Amendment 13 adopted U.S./Canada Understanding; Catch levels updated in frameworks

Objectives



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.*

- Largely not done by Council but NMFS
- Industry recently more included in assessments

Objectives



- 7) To the extent possible, maintain a diverse groundfish fishery, including different gear types, vessel sizes, geographic locations, and levels of participation.*
- Council has initiated Amendment 18 to explore these issues
 - A16 may have had differentiated impacts; Further analysis expected in A18 development

Objectives



8) *Develop biological, economic and social measures of success for the groundfish fishery and resource that insure accountability in achieving fishery management objectives.*

- No performance indicators have been adopted

Objectives



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.*

- Omnibus habitat amendment under development
- Each FMP adjustment considers impacts to habitat and mitigating measures

Objectives



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 system designed to minimize bycatch by requiring all legal-sized fish to be landed
- Catch information for 2010 shows that discards have declined for many stocks

Conclusions



- Overall, majority of the goals met
- Several areas in which goals could be clarified or additional information needed, especially community and social impacts of Amendment 16
 - Will be useful to identify further “fixes” to the sector administration rules that will mitigate impacts.
 - Issues of fleet diversity would similarly benefit from additional information
 - For example, analysis of ideal fleet capacity in light of diversity and resource status
 - Goals should be clarified as to what types of diversity are desirable
 - Development of biological, economic, and social performance indicators, and periodic review
 - Clarify definition of stewardship, and develop associated performance indicators,
- Determine if OY has been met for all stocks in the fishery as stock assessments are updated, and consider long-term plan for achieving OY, recognizing the difficulty of achieving OY (as currently defined in FMP) on every stock in a mixed-stock fishery.



Questions?