

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

Dear Mr. Howard:

The answers to the Council's three questions are listed below;

1. What ran smoothly in your sector?

I have to agree with Dan Salerno from Sector 2, NOTHING .All but one of the fishermen in Sector 13 suffered some type of financial burden due to the new sector system. The one owner/captain that did not suffer leased his fish. His leasing of his fish resulted in nine men losing their jobs and the support facilities/services losing revenue.

2. What are the top five problems your sector encountered that impeded operations from running smoothly?

- No retention of MA/SNE winter flounder which led to the waste of a resource as all marketable winter flounder caught in the SNE broad stock area had to be discarded at sea which resulted in the loss of revenue to the vessel.
- Vague instructions regarding data management and reconciliation with the Agency which led to uncertainty of the sector's overall ACE usage during the year
- Mid-season adjustments to the sub-ACLs for Pollock and Georges Bank yellowtail flounder not only affected the sector's annual catch entitlement, but also had an impact on all trades that had occurred prior to these adjustments.
- Dockside monitoring was a waste of money. Duplication of data. Interruption of off loading caused several fishermen to suffer financial losses with their lobster off loads in the heat of the summer.
- No un-biased panel to review disputes between boats and at sea monitors with regards to discards.

3. What potential modifications to the FMP do you think would be helpful for the sector operation?

- The ability to carry over more than 10% if the science indicates no damage will be done to the species
- Removal of minimum fish size limits. This would limit the need for the At-Sea monitoring program and thus relieve the industry of the huge monetary burden that they face starting May 1, 2012.
- No future Dockside monitoring programs instead have the “Green Police” spot check any boat they want. Better use of taxpayer dollars.

John Haran, Sector Manager

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