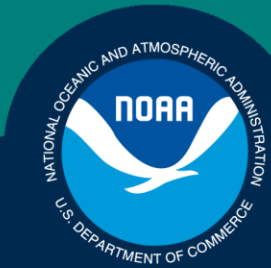


Science, Service, Stewardship



NOAA

Response to Management Review

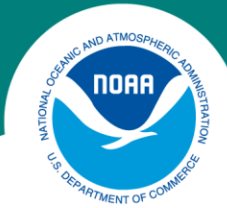
September 26, 2011

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**



Response to the Review of the NE Fishery Management Process

- The review provided recommendations across several categories.
- The Region is leading responses for recommendations to simplify governance and communications and the Center for improved science collaboration and data management.
- Working with the Councils, the Region and Center have developed a work plan to address these recommendations.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Develop an Operating Agreement with the Councils:

- An agreement outlining Region, Council and GC responsibilities has been drafted and was sent to Council staff for review on September 20th.
- The agreement includes a process for posting Council timelines so that the public is better able to participate in the Council process.
- A meeting between staff from the Region and New England Council will be held in October. Discussions will focus on additional ways to improve the management process.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Simplify and Reduce Redundancies in Fishery Regulations:

- Work with the Councils to find ways to simplify regulations such as redundancies in the replacement, upgrade, and permit history program.
- Work with PDTs and Committees to explore ways to simplify regulations during development.
- At the meeting between Region and New England Council staff, will discuss ways to streamline the specification setting process.



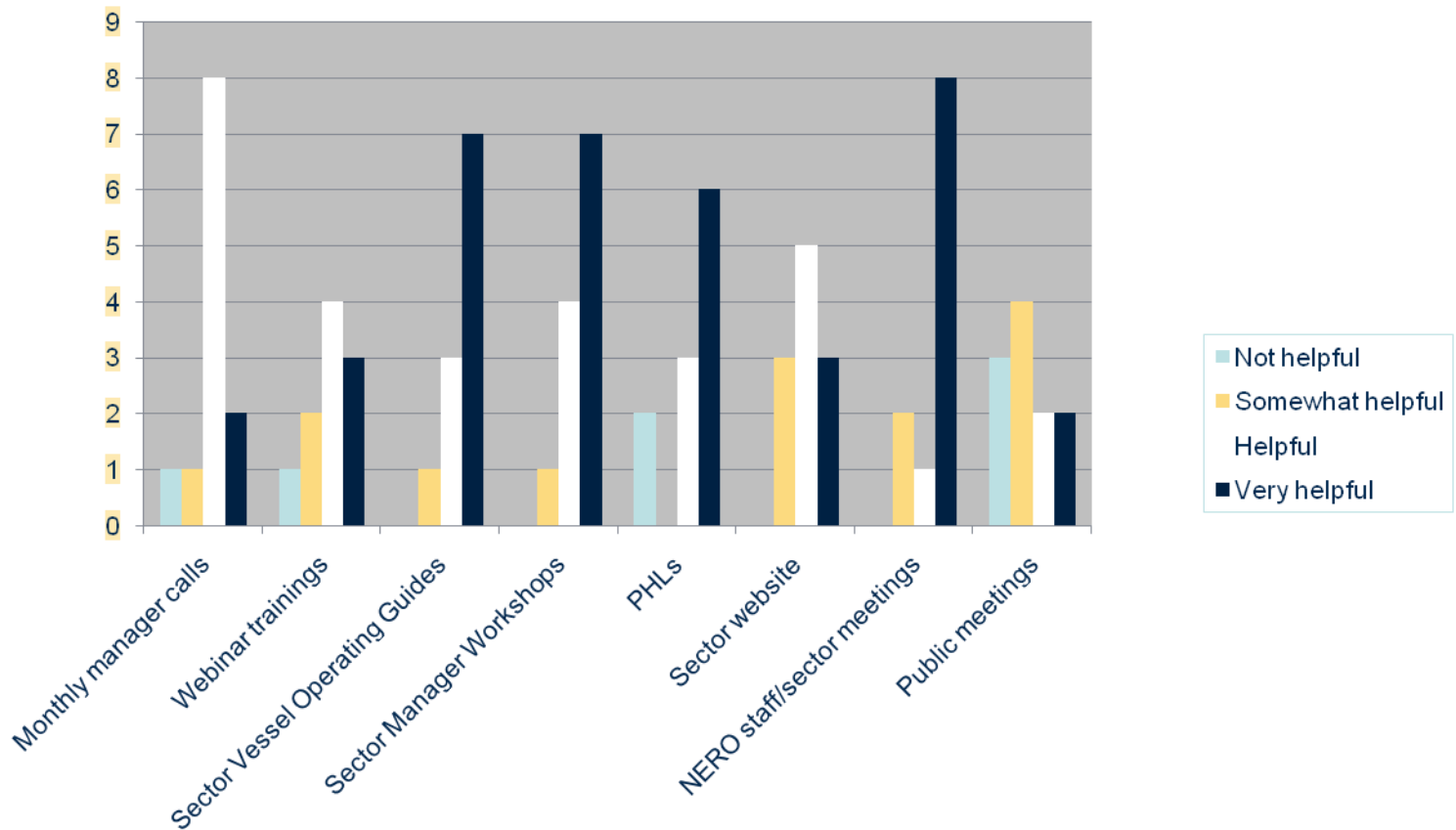
Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Simplify Communication:

- Established a Communications Team over the summer to focus on improved outreach and communications.
- Seeking input on communications needs and concerns when Region and Center staff meet and interact with industry to seek feedback on the most effective types of communication.
- Conducted an outreach survey with sector managers and obtained helpful feedback on sector outreach methods used by the Region.

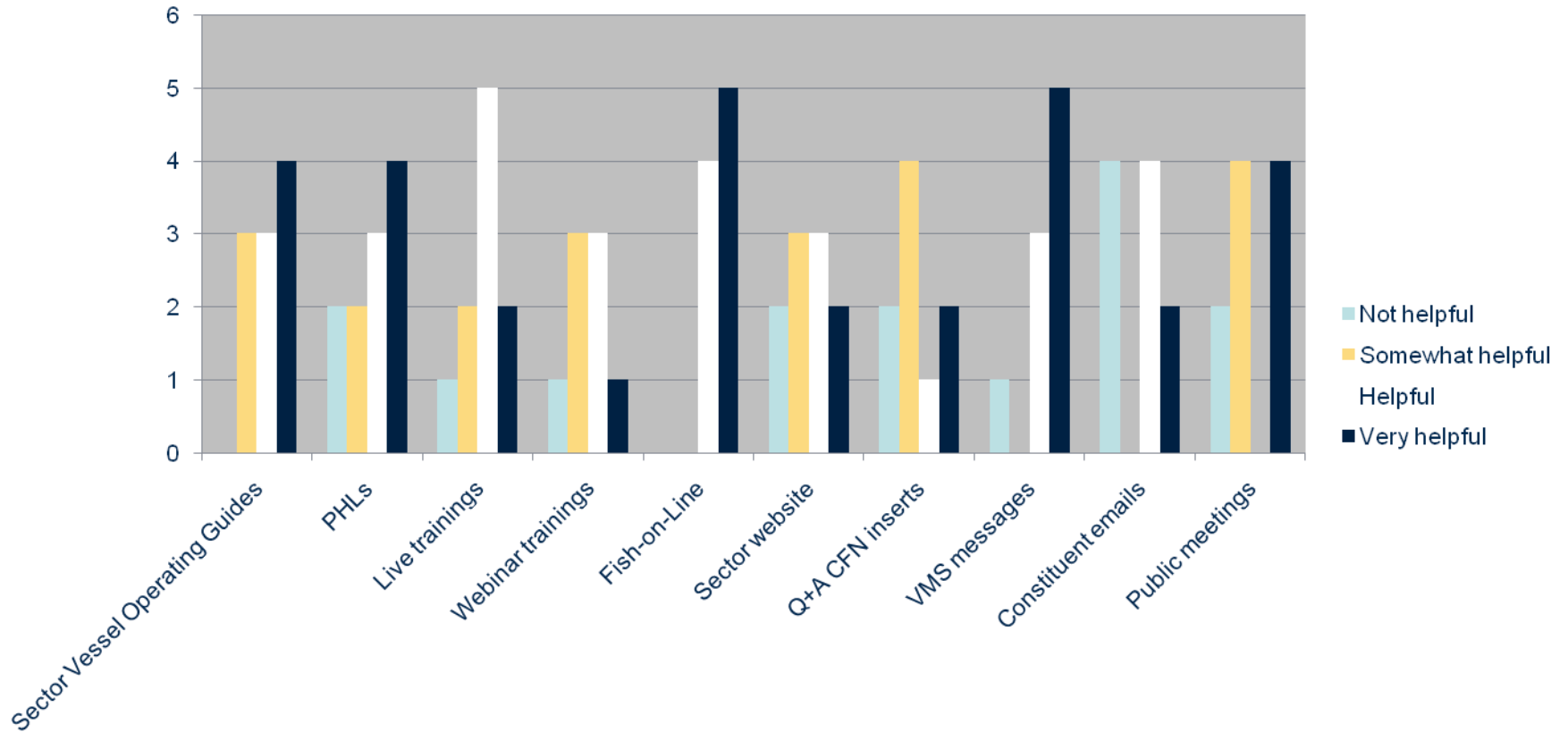


Results of Sector Outreach Survey from Sector Managers





Results of Sector Outreach Survey from Sector Vessels





Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Make Outreach and Communications Easier to Understand:

- Provided “plain language” training for Region, Center, GC and Council staff on September 15th. Additional training will be scheduled.
- Transitioning to the use of “plain language” in external communications.
- Looking at ways to consolidate the number of duplicate letters that industry receives from us.
- Developing improvements to the Region’s website to make it more user-friendly.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Simplify Contacting Staff by Phone:

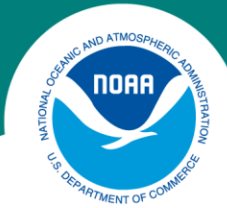
- Exploring ways to reduce the number of times that calls are transferred and ensure that the public reaches the appropriate individual to answer their question.
- Starting in October, will provide feedback when data requests are received and an approximate timeframe for when the request will be filled.
- Developing a web page/pamphlet to direct the public toward the appropriate point of contact for help responding to specific questions.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Conduct comprehensive analysis of all data systems:

- Develop integrated system vision, including current systems from the Region and Center, would look like.
 - A complete inventory
 - A description of the data flow from vessel to council
 - Design integrated regional reporting and data management system
- Requested a review by the NESDIS, NGDC. First meeting is taking place today. Report later this fall.
- Electronic Vessel Trip Reports (eVTR): will speed processing of data, reduce errors, relieve the industry of having to obtain, carry, and fill-out paper logbooks. Implemented in June.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Simplify stock assessment process:

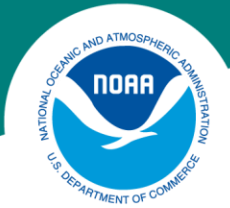
- Since 2009, NRCC ACL Working Group has been developing revised stock assessment and review process to increase early participation by the SSCs in the stock assessment process. Approved in April 2011.
 - Assessment Oversight Panel (SSC Chairs and a Senior NEFSC assessment scientist)
 - Conduct integrated peer reviews - panels include SSC member responsible for the stock.
 - Operational vs. Research Track



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Enhance the Cooperative Research and RSA Programs:

- Revise the 2009 strategic planning document and improve transparency.
 - Ten strategic planning meetings held (May to Sept) to solicit stakeholder input.
- New research ideas and/or priorities will be presented to the Research Coordinating Committee in October.
- Update NCRP website to provide more information on funded projects and funding process, especially for RSA projects, by October.
- Continue 'roundtable' discussions to ensure that redundant activities do not occur.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Increase the amount of economic and social information prepared for fishery regulations:

- Embed economists and social scientists into earliest discussions of fishery management actions.
- Participate in National SSC Workshop in October 2011 focusing on improving the integration of social science in Council process.
- Initiated new data collection initiatives on the socioeconomic characteristics of vessel crews and owners and on the fixed costs of vessel operations.
- Developing a practical guide for conducting social impact assessments of fishery regulations.



Highlights of Actions in the Work Plan

Improve collection, processing and availability of observer and aging data:

- Observer data - Bottlenecks addressed through upgrades and implementation of new data entry systems.
- Age Data - Bottlenecks addressed through several avenues:
 - New data collection system deployed on the bottom trawl survey.
 - New partnerships with ME & MA to coordinate aging of Atlantic halibut, cusk and winter flounder.
- Invested in inexpensive equipment upgrades to speed up sample processing.



Next Steps

- Will provide the Council with updates as progress on our response to the review continues.
- Questions or Comments?