

Description of Sector Data and Analysis Projects

The following is a list of projects that are anticipated or proposed that will provide information on the effects of sector implementation. This list includes all projects currently known to Council staff and does not imply endorsements or that the reports satisfy peer review requirements.

1. Community Profiles for the Northeast US Fisheries: These profiles, created in 2007, provide baseline data for certain types of community change over time, including number of vessels landing in or using the community as a homeport, revenues by species (where not confidential), demographic data from the census, and processing plants, fishing associations and support services.

2. Social and Economic Performance for Fisheries: The process of interactively identifying catch share performance measures for the Northeast Region through began in 2009 and was completed in mid-2010. It is based upon outreach to fisheries stakeholders and academics, and internal SSB processes. This plan is not static and will be revisited periodically to ensure that it remains relevant. The intention of this plan is to evaluate the social and economic outcomes of both catch share and non-catch share fisheries, as it is not enough to know if catch share fisheries provide intended outcomes. We also need to know whether they perform better on these measures than do fisheries managed under other regimes. Based on the review of literature and outreach efforts, we identify five performance measures that consistently emerged, along with a set of individual indicators on key components of these measures. The five overarching measures are: 1) Financial Viability, 2) Distributional Outcomes, 3) Stewardship, 4) Governance and 5) Well-being. Each Performance Measure has associated indicators.

3. White Paper: Measuring the Performance of the New England Multispecies Fishery (CapLog): Analysis prepared by private organization that “outlines a data-based approach for understanding the effects of sector management on the profile and economics of the New England groundfish fishery.” (Available at http://www.caploggroup.com/www.caploggroup.com/Publications_files/White%20Paper%20-%20Measuring%20the%20Performance%20of%20the%20New%20England%20Multispecies%20Fishery.pdf)

4. Social Capital Survey: In July 2010, GMRI released a report summarizing a survey on the social capital in the groundfish industry prior to sectors. “The success of individual sectors is likely to depend on the attitudes and capabilities of the members that join them, the skills and commitment of sector leaders, and on the strength of the relationships between members including their degree of trust and ability to work together. The value of these relationships and ability to work collaboratively is commonly referred to as social capital.” Results are still being analyzed. A preliminary summary report is available at: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/crd/crd1012/crd1012.pdf>

5. Sector Manager Phone Conferences: NERO has been conducting conference calls with sector managers to discuss concerns related to sector implementation. Calls were originally weekly, and currently monthly. Summaries of these calls may be available for review.

6. Convening sector manager meetings: GMRI convenes semi-regular meetings with the sector managers to discuss topics including the dockside monitoring funding formula, current research opportunities, training for new sector managers, monitoring and reporting, and ways to collaborate.

7. Ongoing development opportunities for sector managers and Board members: As part of GMRI's efforts to provide technical assistance to groundfish sectors, we continue to provide training opportunities for organizational development, business and data management, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms. These topics and others will help sectors become more efficient and less of a financial burden on their members.

8. Evaluation methodology and indicators for social, economic, and ecological goals of sector program: A team from MRAG and UW was tasked with developing an evaluation methodology for looking at the performance of Pacific groundfish and New England groundfish catch share programs. They are looking at the social, economic, and ecological goals of the programs, and the indicators to evaluate over time. They are also assessing what information exists and where there are gaps. If funding is granted after evaluation methodology, a full study will be executed.

9. Interim 9-Month Sector Report: The report provides an interim evaluation of the economic and social performance of the Northeast groundfish fishery for the 2010 fishing year. Fishery performance for Sector and Common Pool vessels during the first nine months of the 2010 fishing year (May 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011) is compared with performance during the first nine months of fishing years 2007, 2008, and 2009. Five types of indicators are analyzed: revenue, effort, average vessel performance, distributional issues, and employment. These indicators fall within the SSB Performance Measures.

10. Survey of Job Satisfaction, Well-being and Change in New England Fishing Communities: Primarily funded by URI and the Commercial Fisheries Research Fund (CFRF), minor supplemental funding by NOAA, this survey of fishermen in general, includes sections on participation in the management process, the effects of fishery management regulations, perspectives on catch shares, environmental ethics, job satisfaction, and well-being. This survey was implemented in 2009/2010 and will allow some pre-post catch share implementation comparisons. Results are currently being analyzed and will be made available to NEFSC SSB. Some questions from this 2009/2010 survey are also included in the NEFSC owner and crew surveys, thus allowing long-term tracking of those results.

11. Sector FY 2010 Survey: Telephone survey that will collect information from groundfish fishermen about their experience under sectors.

12. Groundfish Crew Rapid Assessment: utilizes ethnographic interviewing and focus groups to obtain a baseline snapshot of current crew conditions; identify potential impacts from the groundfish regulations; and assess how best to contact, measure, and track changes in the vessel crew population in the future. The SSB will integrate results from these interviews (due to SSB in June 2011) into the development of a survey instrument for sector crew.

13. Ownership Snapshot of GF Permits: Council staff will prepare a white paper detailing current ownership status in the groundfish fleet, including corporate ownership information, using a recently-completed NMFS database.

14. NEFMC Sector Review Workshop: TBD.

15. Sector Annual Reports: Under Amendment 16, each sector is required to provide a year-end report summarizing "the fishing activities of its members, including harvest levels of all species by sector vessels (landings *and* discards by gear type), enforcement actions, and other relevant information required to evaluate the performance of the sector. The annual report must report the number of sector vessels that fished for regulated groundfish and the permit numbers of those

vessels (except when this would violate protection of confidentiality), the number of vessels that fished for other species, the method used to estimate discards, the landing ports used by sector vessels while landing regulated groundfish, and any other information requested by the Regional Administrator.”

16. Year-End Sector Report: The report will update the analyses contained in the Interim Groundfish Report for the full 2010 fishing year. Additional analyses such as owner level indicators, net revenue indicators, an assessment of quota trading, will added where possible.

17. Dockside monitoring evaluation: GMRI is working with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) on contracting with an independent third party to evaluate the structure of both dockside and at-sea monitoring programs, focusing on the efficiency and costs. EDF will be funding this evaluation, and GMRI is serving as a liaison with an industry-based steering committee that will provide input into this process. Another evaluation is being performed by GMRI through the dockside monitoring grant from NMFS, but the specifics have yet to be determined. It is expected that the third-party dockside and at-sea monitoring evaluation inform this evaluation, and will enable GMRI to conduct additional research and/or follow up on implementing recommendations from the evaluation report.

18. Workshop on strategies to lower monitoring costs: NOAA is providing funding for both the dockside at at-sea monitoring programs through the 2012 fishing year (FY). Then, as the situation currently stands, these programs will transition to partial or full funding by the industry in FY 2013. As these costs would likely be unaffordable to the majority of fishing businesses, there is a need to start discussions around the transition and how to minimize these future costs to the industry. The third-party dockside and at-sea monitoring evaluation will inform this workshop, as well as the workshop steering committee. The timing of this workshop is dependent on the completion of the evaluation report.

19. Catch Share Workshop: The 2011 Management Priorities for the Council were approved at the November Council meeting in Brewster, MA. One of these priorities was to, “Conduct a workshop to develop a strategy and blueprint for catch share programs development in New England Fisheries, including goals and objectives, issues and recommendations for each type of program including CFAs and private/state permit banks.” This workshop will be discussed at the Council meeting in April 2011.

20. Comparative Ethnographic Analysis of Internal Sector Dynamics: Research project based on interviews with sector managers and members designed to systematically compare internal similarities and difference of the different groundfish sectors. The research will provide insight into factors affecting sector performance, provide an idea of the different ways that sectors may be creatively responding to their particular circumstances, and identify emerging innovations present in each sector related to governance, marketing activities, and quota trading practices, among others.

21. Broad Social and Economic Performance Measure Survey: This survey will follow up on the performance measures identified in Project #1 according to the work plan of the indicators.

22. Owner/Operator and Crew/Hired Captain Surveys: Based on the SSB Performance Measures, these surveys collect data needed for indicators for which NMFS does not currently collect data. Topics covered include standard population demographics; primary fishery; fishery demographics; involvement in fishery management and views on the management process; views on current management tools; family involvement in fishing and related industries; contribution

of fishing to household income; job satisfaction; ease of entry for new fishermen; and trends in bycatch.

23. Vessel Operating Costs Surveys: Contributing to the SSB Performance Measures, trips costs are collected by observers on an ongoing basis and fixed costs are obtained through a separate survey of vessel owners. Three years of data were collected (2006, 2007, and 2008). The fixed cost survey is currently being revised and will start up again in the Fall.

24. Fishing Community Vulnerability and Resilience in the Eastern United States: This project first creates indices of community commercial, recreational, and social dependence on fishing, and then evaluates them relative to vulnerability and resilience indices on community social and economic disruption, the ecosystem, and the natural environment. This project is a collaborative effort with SERO and SEFSC, and is a first step toward developing a protocol that will guide standardized nationwide analysis.