

Science, Service, Stewardship



Groundfish Sector Implementation Update

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Sector/A16 Implementation: Key Points

- We are on track for a May 1 start date.
- This has been a huge development project for NMFS and industry.
- After May 1, we need to continue the effort and collaboration with industry to refine systems, respond to problems, and improve efficiency.



Sector/A16 Implementation: Who's involved?

- NMFS
 - NERO: Sustainable Fisheries Division, Fisheries Statistics Division, Outreach & Communications, NEPA staff
 - NEFSC: Populations Dynamics Branch, NE Fisheries Observer Program, Data Management Systems Branch
 - OLE: Field Staff, VMS Program
 - Many others: GCNE, GCEL, PRD, HCD, HQ, etc.
- Industry
 - Sector organizers, managers, member permit holders
 - Dealers
 - Monitoring provider companies



Sector/A16 Implementation: Regulations & Ops Plans

- Three **major** rulemaking packages
 - A16, with an EIS drafted by NEFMC staff
 - Sector rule with operations plans & NEPA documents for each sector (17)
 - Framework 44, with an EA drafted by NEFMC staff



Sector/A16 Implementation: Timeline

Amendment 16

- 6/25/09 NEFMC adopted final measures
- 10/16/09 NEFMC submitted Amdt 16 FEIS to NMFS
- 11/29/09 A16 FEIS comments closed
- 12/18/09 Proposed rule published in the Federal Register
- 1/20/10 Proposed rule comment period closed
- 3/31/10 Final rule publishes with 30-day delayed effectiveness

Sector rule

- 9/1/09 Draft ops plans & EA sections were due
- 12/22/10 Proposed rule published in the Federal Register
- 1/21/10 Proposed rule comment period closed
- 3/31/10 Final rule publishes with 30-day delayed effectiveness

Framework 44

- 11/18/09 NEFMC adopts ACLs and Fwk 44 measures
- ~2/1/10 Proposed rule publishes in the Federal Register
- ~3/1/10 Proposed rule comment period closes
- 3/31/10 Final rule publishes with 30-day delayed effectiveness



Sector/A16 Implementation: Regulations & Ops Plans

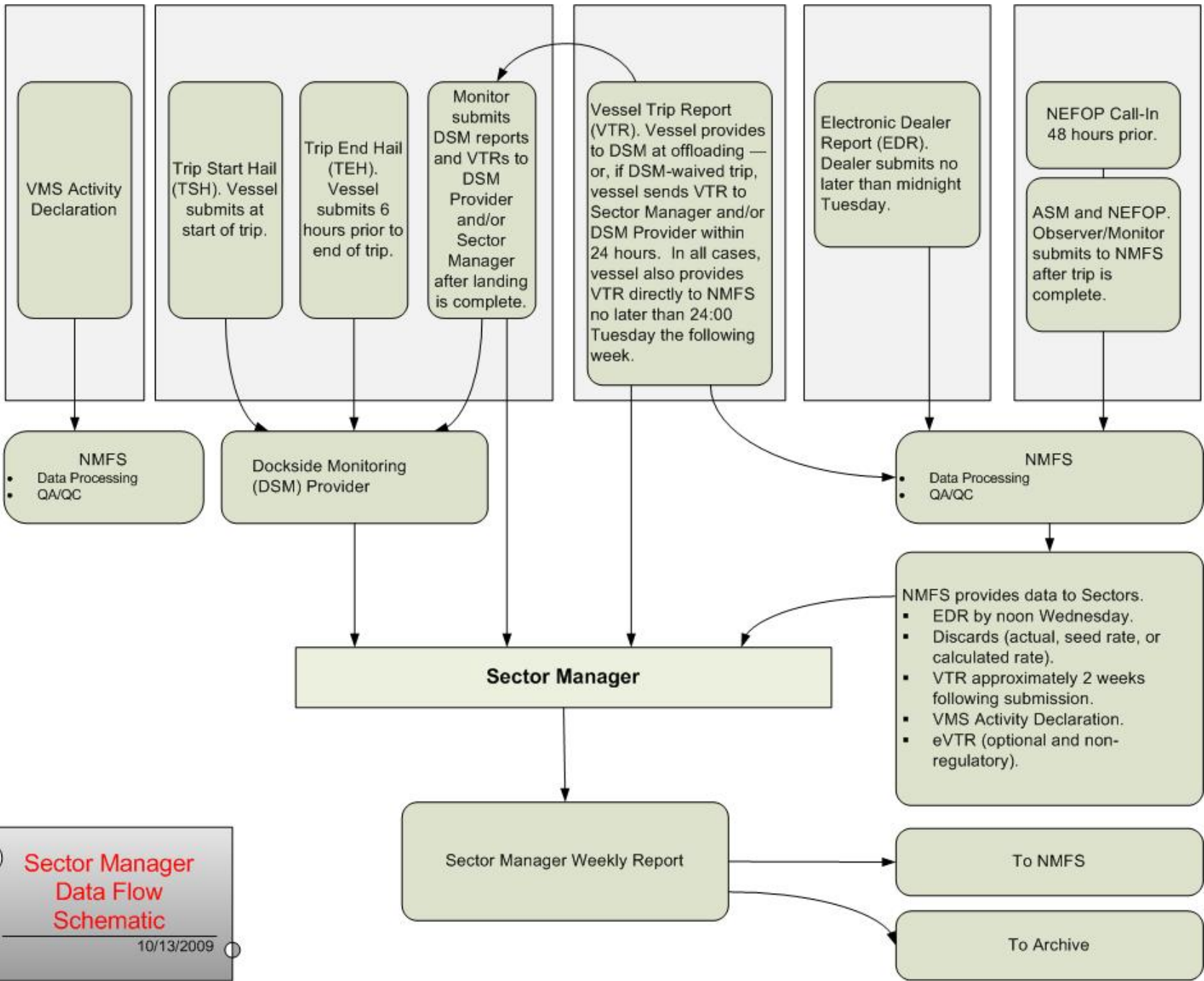
- NEFMC deferred some implementation details to NMFS. Program details must be developed to be:
 - Consistent with A16
 - Enforceable
 - Practicable for all sectors
 - Flexible/adaptive for special cases & lessons learned
 - Consistent with or preparatory to common-pool implementation
- Collaboration, analysis, problem-solving, & communications.



Sector/A16 Implementation: Regulations & Ops Plans

- New programs and policies
 - Dockside monitoring
 - At-sea monitoring
 - Reporting standards and data management procedures, including the manager's weekly report
 - Discard estimation methodology
 - Catch apportionment matrix
- Program details, including all reporting and monitoring, are addressed in the sector operations plan & regulations.

SOURCES



Sector Manager Data Flow Schematic
10/13/2009



Sector/A16 Implementation: Finer Scale Data Quality

- Stepped up effort to improve dealer reporting correctness and timeliness. Dealer report cards, town hall meeting, 1-on-1 meetings.
- Vessel trip reports to be submitted weekly to NMFS and daily to either sector managers or the monitoring provider.
- Systems to improve matching of all trip information
- Workshop with American Society for Quality aided NMFS and sector managers with enhancing data quality systems.
- Close, continued communications between NMFS and sectors; sector weekly report auditing and resolution of differing balances.
- PSCs distributed for review; data correction program.
- Archival data validation/correction.



Sector/A16 Implementation: Sector Data Mgmt Projects

- Data on the web – vessel-level
- Allocation management system, trip-level catch accounting
- Sector information management module
 - Repository of sector information
 - Member trip information
 - Manager’s weekly report upload
 - ACE transfer requests and approvals
- Enhanced report matching



Sector/A16 Implementation: Electronic VTR

- E-reporting work with the study fleet since 2002.
- Several industry & 3rd party e-reporting initiatives.
- Pilot study with around 25 vessels, thru October 2010
 - NMFS E-VTR program & 3rd party software systems.
 - Variety of issues to be addressed before NMFS can accept paper-free vessel reporting.



Sector/A16 Implementation: Communications

- Workshops (5)
- Sector reporting working group
- Monthly newsletters
- A16, Sector Rule, Fwk 44: media rollout, media queries
- CFN inserts
- Sector information webpages
- Daily informal communications
- 1-on-1 dealer report card meetings.
- Telephone town hall for dealers
- Briefings for NOAA leadership, Members of Congress



Sector/A16 Implementation: Post-May 1 Operations

- Staffing to provide consistent points of contact for sectors.
- Continued close communications with industry
 - Info, constituent service
 - Problem/issue discernment
- Adaptive management – flexibility in program details post-May 1, 2010.
 - In-season refinements
 - Planning for Fishing-Year 2011



Sector/A16 Implementation

Thanks for the opportunity to speak to the Council about implementation of groundfish sectors.

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