

From: Eric Brazer
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2009 7:27 AM
To: Tom Nies
Cc: Paul Howard; John Pappalardo; Mark Grant; Cindy Smith; Bill Amaru; Vincent Balzano
Subject: GB Hook and Fixed Gear Sectors, and Tri-State Sector

Hi Tom,

As I indicated in my brief mic appearance yesterday evening, a few minor clarifications/changes are necessary A16 descriptions of the Georges Bank Cod Hook and Fixed Gear Sectors, and the Tri-State Sector. These descriptions were part of the initial proposal submitted in 2007, prior to the Council clearly defining the range of feasible and realistic exemptions and alternatives. Final details won't be available until after next week's final A16 vote; however, here is some preliminary information that should answer your questions.

GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector

This Sector submitted a revised draft proposal to the Council on May 1, 2009 with updated (and preliminary) information on gear, areas to be fished, participation, and parameters. One intent of this draft proposal was to provide information to update the A16 GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector description. Therefore, I request that these bulleted points be removed and replaced with language consistent with the majority of other Sector descriptions (based on the information contained in the May 1, 2009 proposal).

GB Cod Hook Sector

As I mentioned yesterday, preliminary internal discussions are occurring regarding the merging of the GB Cod Hook Sector into the GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector. However, at this point the two Sectors in questions are still two distinct and separate entities and must be considered as such. If the merging ultimately does not occur (final decision is pending), the Hook Sector will progress to meet all deadlines and requirements for full operation on May 1, 2010 within the bounds of what A16 allows. The suggested revisions included in the A16 document are no longer indicative of the requests the Hook Sector will be making, given the clarity that the Council has provided since the original submission. Therefore, I request that these bulleted points be removed. Here is a brief summary (not final; to be revised as seen fit upon Council approval of A16) of the potential FY2010 Hook Sector for your use in developing a revised A16 summary:

This sector will be formed of vessels that fish primarily on Georges Bank, but also in the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England. Requested exemptions are and will continue to be consistent with existing or proposed sector policies and other existing or proposed Sectors.

Initial Approval: July 2004

Primary hailing ports anticipated: Aunt Lydia's Cove, Chatham, MA; Stage Harbor, Chatham, MA; Saquatucket Harbor, Harwich, MA; Allen's Harbor, Harwich, MA; Wychmere Harbor, Harwich, MA. (Additional hailing ports may be specified in the Operations Plan.)

Primary unloading ports anticipated: Aunt Lydia's Cove, Chatham, MA; Stage Harbor, Chatham, MA; Saquatucket Harbor, Harwich, MA; Allen's Harbor, Harwich, MA; Wychmere Harbor, Harwich, MA. (Additional unloading ports may be specified in the Operations Plan.)

Primary gear: bottom longline, rod and reel, handlines

Potential secondary gear: none

Primary fishing areas: Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine

Potential other fishing areas: Southern New England

Estimated sector ACE share: 0-20% (but may exceed 20% subject to elimination of the 20% cap)

Stocks: All regulated groundfish as proposed by Amendment 16.

Estimated Number of Participating Permits (Active): ~30 (~25)

<p>Preliminary List of Exemptions To Be Requested</p> <p>To Be Revised As Permitted By The Final Amendment 16 Document</p> <p>(Analysis Necessary)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All universal exemptions • Trip limits any stock that the Sector receives an allocation; • Limits on the number of hooks that may be fished; • All non-spawning closures; • DAS and DAS-related regulations; • 72 hour observer call-in requirement for the Eastern US/Canada Area
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Tri-State Sector

Similar to what I've mentioned above, the Tri-State Sector description in A16 reflects the original 2007 proposal which is clearly not applicable at this time. In its final document submission, the Tri-State Sector will only be requesting exemptions that are consistent with A16 and consistent with those requested by other Sectors. Furthermore, GMRI and CCCHFA are currently in talks regarding permanent management of this Sector; as such, it would be appropriate to add their name to the Tri-State Sector description as a collaborative body. Here is a brief summary (not final; to be revised as seen fit upon Council approval of A16) of the potential FY2010 Tri-State Sector, for your use in developing a revised A16 summary:

This Sector will be formed of vessels that fish in Georges Bank, the Gulf of Maine and Southern New England. Requested exemptions are and will continue to be consistent with existing or proposed Sector policies and other existing or proposed Sectors.

Primary hailing ports anticipated: Aunt Lydia's Cove, Chatham, MA; Provincetown, MA; Newport, RI; Portland, ME; (Additional hailing ports may be specified in the Operations Plan.)

Primary unloading ports anticipated: Aunt Lydia's Cove, Chatham, MA; Provincetown, MA; Newport, RI; Portland, ME; (Additional unloading ports may be specified in the Operations Plan.)

Primary gear: otter trawl, sink gillnet,

Potential secondary gear: bottom longline,

Primary fishing areas: Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine,

Potential other fishing areas: Southern New England

Estimated sector ACE share: 0-20% (but may exceed 20% subject to elimination of the 20% cap)

Stocks: All regulated groundfish stocks as proposed by Amendment 16

Estimated Number of Participating Permits (Active): ~20 (~15)

<p>Preliminary List of Exemptions To Be Requested</p> <p>To Be Revised As Permitted By The Final Amendment 16 Document</p> <p>(Analysis Necessary)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All universal exemptions• Trip limits any stock that the Sector receives an allocation;• Limits on the number of hooks that may be fished;• All non-spawning closures;• DAS and DAS-related regulations;• Gillnet mortality blocks;• Annual gillnet fishing category declaration;• 72 hour observer call-in requirement for the Eastern US/Canada Area
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Given the information provided in the A16 document for the Sustainable Harvest Sector and the 13 Northeast Seafood Coalition Sectors, I request the following language modifications to the descriptions of the GB Cod Hook and Fixed Gear Sectors, and the Tri-State Sector, based on the information provided above, and the discussions I've had with you and NMFS:

4.4.6.2. Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector

Working with the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association and upon their 5 years of existence, this Sector will be formed of vessels that fish hook and line gear only and primarily on Georges Bank.

4.4.6.3 Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector

Working with the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association and upon their 3 years of existence, this Sector will be formed of vessels that fish hook and line gear and sink gillnet gear primarily on Georges Bank.

4.4.6.18 Tri-State Sector

Working with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association, this Sector will be formed of vessels that primarily fish trawl gear on Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine.

These are obviously simplistic summaries, but are consistent with the summaries available in the A16 document. Furthermore, based on the above information and conversations with NMFS, the modifications to the existing Sectors and the development of the Tri-State Sector are consistent with A16 and the development of a vast majority of all new Sectors (specifically, the Sustainable Harvest Sector and the 13 NSC Sectors). It's clear that next week's Council vote may require these Sectors to revise their strategic plan, which will be addressed as necessary as a result of said vote.

Please call me today if you have further questions - I'm available after 11:30 am. We look forward to next week's Council vote, which will provide us the clarity we need to finalize our Harvesting Rules and the first three chapters of the EA (as requested by NMFS by June 30) in a timely manner. The final September 1 deadline looms on the horizon, and we look forward to meeting it.

Thanks,
Eric

(Also, please consider this email in its entirety to be intended only for those copied here; please lift and insert into another document any helpful information that you may consider providing to the Council or public. Thanks.)

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