

# Summary of Amendment 18 Public Comments

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June 21, 2012

# Objectives for Amendment 18

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- ▶ 1. To consider the establishment of accumulation caps for the groundfish fishery; and
- ▶ 2. To consider issues associated with fleet diversity in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery



# Control Date

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- ▶ April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- ▶ Alerted the fishing industry and the public that any present or future accumulation of fishing privileges may be limited or may not be allowed after or prior to the control date



# Potential Management Measures

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- ▶ No action; no additional measures would be adopted;
- ▶ Establishing individual accumulation caps, or sector accumulation caps, on a stock-specific or fishery-wide level;
- ▶ Establishing usage caps for vessels fishing on a multispecies permit;
- ▶ Other measures to promote diversity within the fleet;
- ▶ Establishing performance indicators relating to the two objectives identified for the amendment (in addition to or instead of caps); and
- ▶ Establishing fleet diversity and accumulation limit measures fleet-wide or separately for inshore and offshore fleets.



# Public Hearings

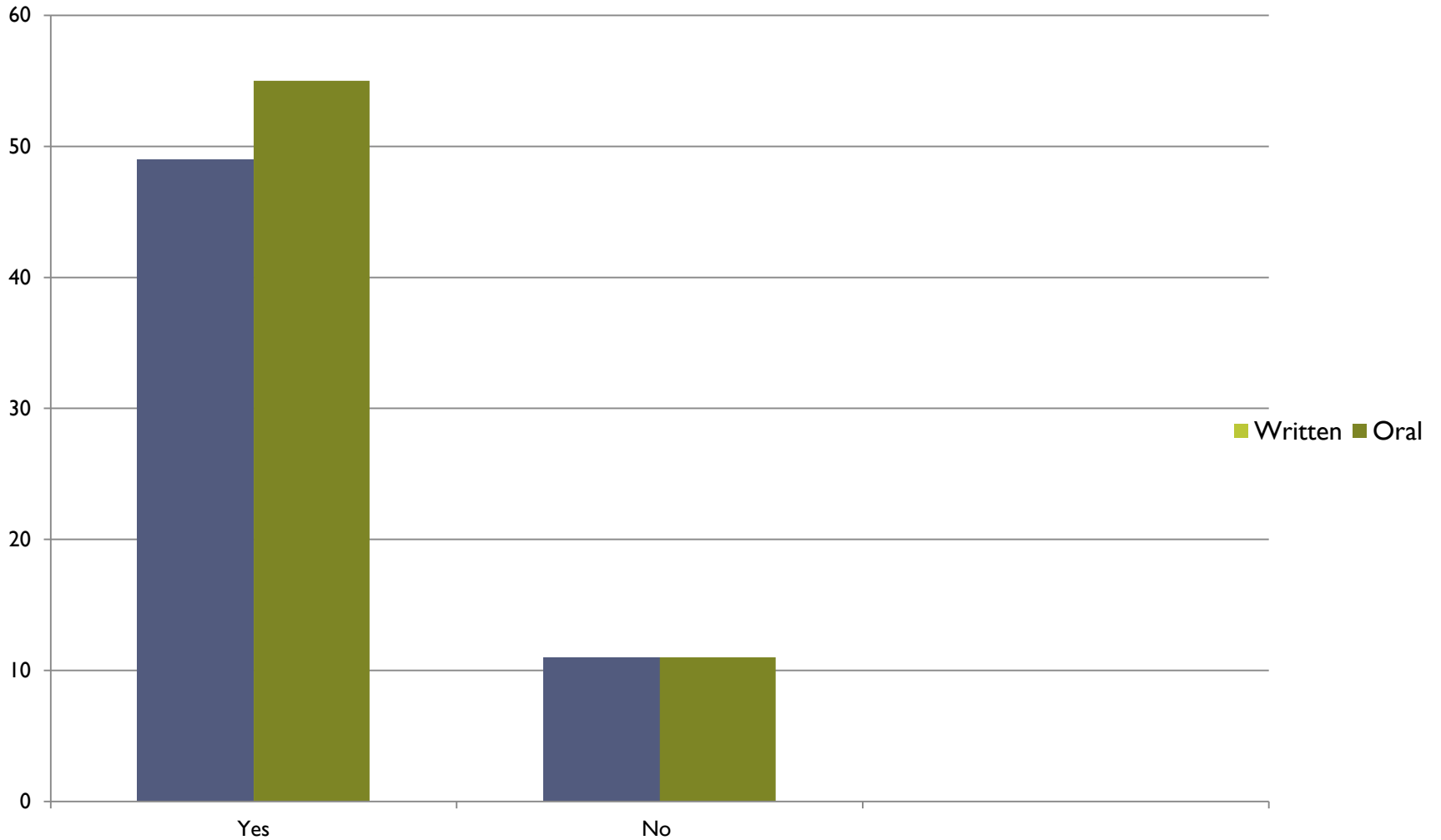
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- ▶ Ellsworth, ME: 11 comments
- ▶ Portland, ME: 10 comments
- ▶ Fairhaven, MA: 6 comments
- ▶ So. Kingstown, RI: 4 comments
- ▶ Riverhead, NY: 2 comments
- ▶ Manahawkin, NJ: 2 comments
- ▶ Hyannis, MA: 16 comments
- ▶ Plymouth, MA: 14 comments
- ▶ Gloucester, MA: 10 comments
- ▶ Portsmouth, NH: 7 comments



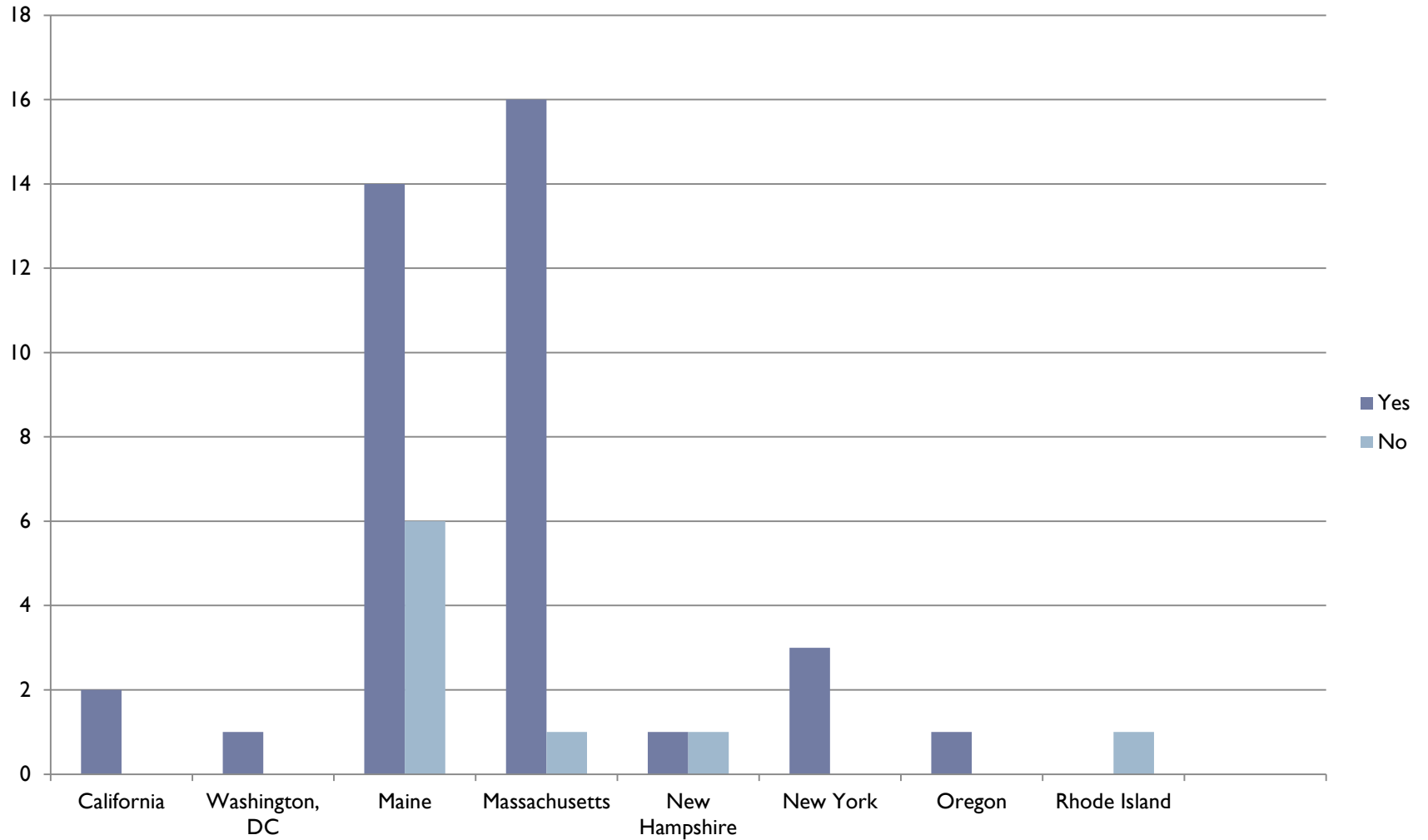
# Majority: Amendment 18 Important

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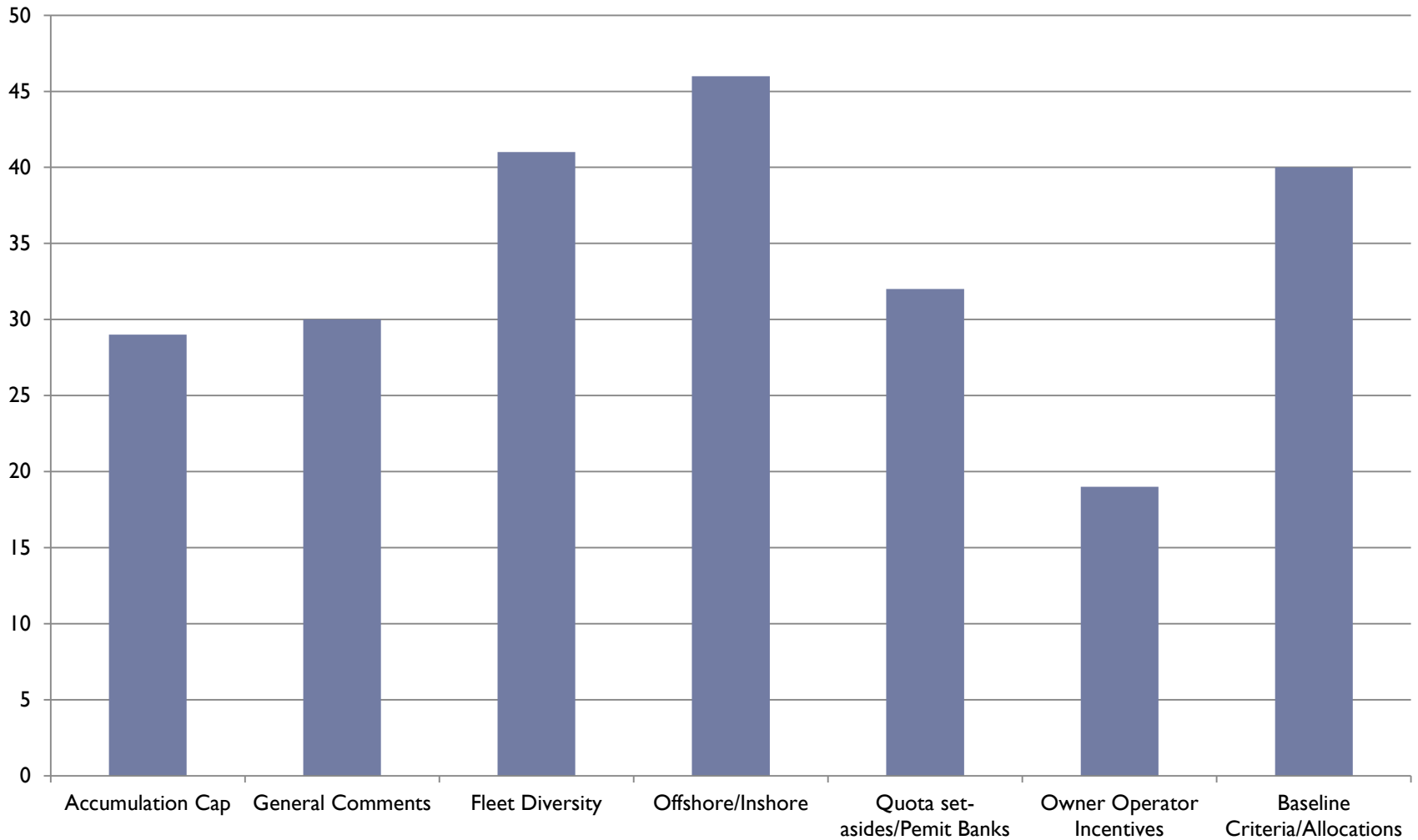
# Geographic Distribution

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# Distribution of Favorable Comments

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# Fleet Diversity

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- ▶ Received a lot of support
- ▶ Definition
- ▶ Impacts at the community level
- ▶ Change in rate of concentration of revenue
- ▶ Hook association proposal
- ▶ National Standard 4



# Inshore/Offshore Areas

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- ▶ Most commented on issue
- ▶ Offshore boats moving inshore
- ▶ GOM Cod stock was a huge concern
- ▶ Reductions in cod may be contributing to consolidation
- ▶ Frustration with localized depletion inshore
- ▶ Boundaries between inshore/offshore fisheries
- ▶ Sanctuary for small boat fishermen



# Quota Set-Aside

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- ▶ Community Resource
- ▶ Taken off the top
- ▶ Potential recipients
  - ▶ New Entrants
  - ▶ Local fishermen
  - ▶ Community permit banks
  - ▶ To reward sectors
- ▶ Potential negative impacts for non-qualifying fishermen



# Owner-Operator Incentives

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- ▶ Designed to prevent 100% leasing
- ▶ Afraid of consolidation of the entire quota into large corporations
- ▶ Large corporations less concerned with environmental impacts



# Baseline Criteria for Leasing/Allocation

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- ▶ Allocation formulas were flawed
- ▶ Restrict swapping GB cod for GOM cod
- ▶ Retain a percentage of permit's allocation in home state
- ▶ Fixing the price of leased allocations
- ▶ Revisiting the commercial/recreational fishery split
- ▶ Prevent fishing on one species in multiple stock areas
- ▶ Equitable distribution of allocations geographically
- ▶ Limit corporate boats to specific areas
- ▶ Restrict the flow of leases



# Accumulation caps

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- ▶ Necessary to dis-incentivize large operations
- ▶ Potential for few individuals to “control” majority of stock allocation
  - ▶ E.g. Georges Bank winter flounder
- ▶ Multiple suggested types
  - ▶ Individual
  - ▶ Sector
  - ▶ Permit number
  - ▶ Quota control



# General Comments in favor of Amd 18

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- ▶ Reduced profitability under catch shares
- ▶ Sever impacts on crew
- ▶ Closed areas should not be opened
- ▶ No sport fishing in closed areas



# Opposition to Amendment 18

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- ▶ Fleet diversity could be achieved at sector level
- ▶ Consolidation in line with Amendment 16
- ▶ Sectors are not a LAPP system
  - ▶ Backfill into a LAPP system
- ▶ Reduced flexibility
- ▶ Reduced profitability
- ▶ Open closed areas and increase allocations
- ▶ Grandfathering of groups already holding quota
- ▶ New system – let it adapt itself





# Opposition

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- ▶ No caps on number of permits
- ▶ No allocation cap
- ▶ No ACE set-aside
- ▶ No incentives
- ▶ No owner requirements
- ▶ No trade for fish only
- ▶ No price controls
- ▶ No 30 days area sign in
- ▶ No division of the fishery



# General comments

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- ▶ **Monitoring costs**
  - ▶ Tiered monitoring standards
  - ▶ Alternative funding sources
  
- ▶ **Concerned that what happened to cod might happen in other fisheries like monkfish**

