



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



For more information on the  
Georges Bank Cod Fixed  
Gear Sector:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfd/multisector.html>

# Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector

## Vital Stats

First year: 2006

Type of Catch Share Program: Sector Allocation

Management units: The Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector, with operations within the Hook Sector Area as defined under 50 CFR 648.87.

Vessels / Gear types: 28 participating fishermen in 2008. Vessels use sink gillnets, bottom longline (tub trawls), and rod and reel.

## Available Trend Data

Season length:

*Before Program:* Variable

*After Program:* Year-long. One twelfth of the Sector's annual Georges Bank (GB) cod quota is allocated to each month of the fishing year, by the Sector. Quota that is not landed during a month is rolled over into the next month.

Ex-vessel value:

*Before Program (2003):* ~ \$110M entire groundfish fishery

*After Program (2007):* ~ \$900,000 (entire groundfish fishery; worth \$798,000 in 2003 value). Sector allocation was 10.7% of the GB cod TAC.

Consolidation:

1 vessel in 2006, 16 in 2007, 28 in 2008 (13 used as active fishing vessels).

Stock status:

*Before Program (2003):* Overfishing: YES; Overfished: YES

*After Program (2008):* Overfishing: YES; Overfished: YES.

However, in 2008 the Fixed Gear Sector only caught 41% of its quota, so the sector is not engaged in overfishing.

## Nature of Harvest Privilege

Eligibility: To qualify for membership in the Sector, each member must possess a limited access Northeast (NE) multispecies permit with Days at Sea (DAS), and must qualify through historical landings of GB cod. Members sign a legally binding contract that commits their vessels and permits to the Sector Agreement for duration of the fishing year.

Duration: Open-ended. Annual Operations Plan must be approved by NMFS after consultation with New England Council. Council can take action to end the program through the Council process. NMFS can withdraw approval of a Sector after consultation with the Council. Membership can change annually.

Transferability: Participating vessels and/or permits may transfer or lease DAS to other participating vessels and/or permits, provided that the Sector Manager has given prior written consent to such transfer or lease.

Accumulation: A vessel may not lease in more DAS than its 2001 DAS allocation. There will be no cap to sector allocations under Amendment 16, starting 5/2010.

Initial Allocation: Sector allocation set annually, based on catch histories of its members, and available stock allocations.

## Management

**Identified Costs:** NMFS has estimated annual implementation and monitoring to be \$13,000. Members pay an entrance fee, followed by annual 5% fees of gross landings after fuel and ice expenses to cover the Sector's operational costs.

**Monitoring:** Participating vessels are required to land fish only in designated landing ports and required to provide the Sector Manager with a copy of the vessel trip report (VTR) within 48 hr of offloading. Dealers purchasing fish from participating vessels are required to provide the Sector Manager with a copy of the dealer report on a weekly basis. On a monthly basis, the Sector Manager transmits to NMFS aggregate catch data from dealer slips, and aggregate discard data from the VTRs. The Sector deployed at-sea monitors and pilot electronic logbook and on-board video cameras in 2007 and 2008.



For additional Catch Share Spotlights in this series go to:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares>

Questions, comments or need more information? Contact us via email at:

[catchshares@noaa.gov](mailto:catchshares@noaa.gov)

## Summary

The 2004 formation and success of the GB Cod Hook Sector demonstrated that sector designations could provide a viable alternative to effort controls for small fishing businesses. Allocated a portion of the annual total allowable catch of GB cod, sector members could conduct highly adaptive self-management, organize their political voice, maximize consistent revenue streams throughout the year, and fish with less bycatch and economic waste. Following the Hook Sector's model, a group of gillnetters applied for a sector allocation of GB cod in 2005. The GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector was authorized in May 2006.

The GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector is a small boat fleet, with voluntary annual participation. Based partially on the success of these sector management strategies, fishermen throughout New England have recently submitted 17 additional sector applications for approval, representing about one half of the permits, and a great majority of the landings history of the overall fleet.