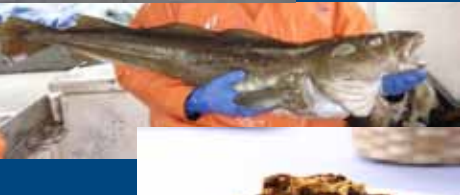


Seafood Dealers' Guide to Multispecies Sector Management



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION



Under Amendment 16 to the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, the New England Fishery Management Council is proposing to implement new and revised groundfish sectors. A total of 17 fishing sectors have submitted operations plans to fish under this management approach in 2010. This document is meant to provide multispecies seafood dealers with advance notice of proposed measures, which will be included in a proposed rule to be published in January. It includes a summary of those proposed measures but it is not a substitute for the actual regulatory measures which will be forthcoming.

What is a Sector?

A sector is a group of commercial fishermen with qualifying permits who are allocated quotas of fish, agree under contract to cooperate with one another and to follow certain rules in order to harvest their collective share of a fish stock.

Will there be new regulatory requirements for dealers when the new sectors begin operating?

Amendment 16 to the Multispecies Fishery Management Plan proposes to require that some sector vessel landings be observed by a third-party, called a dockside monitor. When a trip is required to be observed the dockside monitor would meet the vessel at the dock to observe the offloading and weigh-out, and would collect information that would be submitted to the vessel's sector manager. Amendment 16 requires that 50% of sector trips are monitored in the first year and 20% thereafter. Dealers would need to provide dockside monitors with access to 1) observe offloading; and 2) gather information about the amount and species landed by selected sector vessels in 2010.

What specifically will dealers have to do to aid dockside monitors?

- ✓ Allow safe access, as necessary, for the monitors to observe the offloading and weighout
- ✓ Provide a copy of the weighout slip to the dockside monitor and allow the dockside monitor to sign the official weighout document or dealer receipt retained by the dealer

OR

Sign the dockside monitoring report provided & completed by the dockside monitor, verifying the amount of each species offloaded



- ✓ Retain for 3 years any dealer records pertaining to dockside monitoring along with other documents already required to be retained
- ✓ Provide an estimated weight of ice and the box to the monitor if the ice and box weights are not tared by the dealer before catch is added
- ✓ If your truck is picking up from a remote location, the driver must either
 - Ensure that all fish totes or boxes have tags on them that include vessel trip ID number (VTR serial number), monitor's name, tote number and species

OR

Allow monitors to affix their own descriptive tags to the totes/boxes

Is there anything else I should do to aid in this data collection effort?

Yes, to help us further improve the quality of the data being collected, dealers should continue to adhere to current regulatory requirements (see blue box to the left). While not required, it would also be appreciated if dealers could:

- ✓ Ensure that certification decals on scales are current and visible
- ✓ When dealing with multiple monitored vessels, sequence offloading to help ensure that a single monitor can observe offloading and weighout of all the selected vessels efficiently

For more information on sectors please visit our website:

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

Current Regulatory Requirements

Dealers must continue to comply with reporting requirements that have been in place since May 2005:

- ✓ Report all transactions by species and market category (some shellfish are excluded)
- ✓ Record in the weekly dealer report the correct vessel trip ID number (VTR serial number) from the trip report for every vessel landing
- ✓ Submit reports electronically by midnight Tuesday for transactions in the previous week

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