



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

May 4, 2009

F/V

Dear Limited Access Northeast (NE) Multispecies Permit Holder:

The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is considering the creation of new sectors, and the modification of the two existing sectors, under Amendment 16 to the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). In preparation for this possibility, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) sent out permit holder letters dated February 17, 2009, and March 25, 2009, notifying you of the release of summary landings data. The February 17 letter explains NMFS's process of selecting data sources and determining vessels' potential sector contributions (PSC) for fishing year (FY) 2010. In addition, that letter promised each multispecies permit holder a data report for nine regulated species, comprising 15 stocks, proposed for allocation in Amendment 16. The March 25 letter notified you that certain confidentiality requirements are being waived so that you may review your data to make an informed decision about whether or not to join a sector for FY 2010.

Included with this letter are two attachments containing historic landings data over the two time periods being considered by the Council for sector allocations under Amendment 16 (i.e., 1996-2006 and 2003-2007). Your landings data in Attachment A are for the FY 2010 sector allocation process and were based on dealer data, vessel trip report (VTR) data, and ownership data contained in the NMFS databases at the Northeast Regional Office. Vessel permit and ownership data that were in our databases on May 1, 2008, were used as the basis for this compilation. As you review your data, please keep in mind the following:

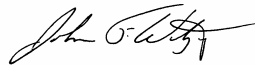
- Species (e.g., cod) landings are attributed to specific stocks (e.g., Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod) by taking your annual species landings reported by dealers and distributing the reported species landings into landings by stocks based on the statistical area reported on your VTRs. The process is done for every year, and for each of the nine species. If your VTR statistical area data were not available,



- statistical area data from trips taken by other vessels in the similar port area were used. As a result, you may find that you have some landings for a stock in an area that you never fished because the VTR data used may contain locations that you did not fish during the two time periods.
- The percentage (%) of your landings of a stock (e.g., your GOM cod landings) relative to the total landings of that stock (e.g., total GOM cod landing) for the entire fleet was then computed.
- Attachment B contains total landings of stocks that sectors will be allocated, as proposed in Amendment 16. The total stock landings are used as the denominators for generating your percentage of the total landings for each stock in each time period.

Upon receipt of this data report, you are advised to compare the report against your own records. If you have concerns about the accuracy of the data NMFS has provided, you should verify that data with NMFS. The process for data verification is also enclosed in this mailing.

Sincerely,



John F. Witzig, Ph.D.
Director
Fisheries Statistics Office

Attachment A: Landing (live pound) and Potential Share Contribution (percent)

Vessel Name, Permit and Moratorium Right Id:
 , , and

Stock Area	FY1996-2006		FY2003-2007	
	live pounds	percent*	live pounds	percent*
Atlantic Cod				
GOM				
GB				
Haddock				
GOM				
GB				
Pollock				
White Hake				
Redfish				
American Plaice				
Winter Flounder				
GOM				
GB				
SNE/MA				
Witch Flounder				
Yellowtail Flounder				
CC/GOM				
GB				
SNE/MA				

* Stock area total as the denominator to produce the percentage is presented in Attachment B.

Attachment B: Denominators as Stock Area Totals

Stock Area	FY1996-2006 (Live Pounds)	FY2003-2007 (Live Pounds)
Atlantic Cod		
GOM	84,778,910	36,908,551
GB	151,953,182	37,908,334
Haddock		
GOM	18,893,553	8,391,818
GB	93,459,612	52,750,589
Pollock		
	111,509,135	68,896,704
White Hake		
	66,583,442	27,388,630
Redfish		
	8,967,853	6,414,505
American Plaice		
	68,611,005	15,647,740
Winter Flounder		
GOM	11,133,048	3,832,441
GB	42,108,334	20,431,529
SNE/MA	57,784,199	15,321,592
Witch Flounder		
	56,359,830	24,026,785
Yellowtail Flounder		
CC/GOM	30,613,663	7,758,509
GB	63,755,960	30,504,710
SNE/MA	13,475,692	1,860,261
Total	879,987,419	358,042,697



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-2276

May 1, 2009

Process for Requesting Review and Corrections to Landings Data

Dear Limited Access Multispecies Permit Holder:

This letter outlines the procedures for requesting corrections to your vessel(s) landings history and dealer reported purchases. While the data provided to you with the companion permit holder letter containing your potential share contribution may assist you in making decisions about participation in a sector management program, it is our goal that vessel and landings statistics maintained by NOAA Fisheries are of the highest quality, regardless of their application.

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist vessel owners with the process of submitting requests for review and correction of vessel trip report (VTR) or dealer purchase report data. For those considering participation in the Northeast Multispecies Sector Program, it is important to understand that our first priority is to investigate and consider corrections to records for the nine groundfish species to be included in sector proposals (cod, haddock, pollock, redfish, white hake, American plaice, witch flounder, yellowtail flounder, and winter flounder), as originally submitted to NMFS. For all correspondence regarding any of the procedures contained herein, sector participants must communicate through their sector manager.

A. To Request a Review and Corrections to Vessel/Dealer Records:

After you have received your catch/landings data you are encouraged to review the records to determine whether they are accurate. If you believe the records are not accurate, you are encouraged to collect and secure any documentation in your possession such as copies of VTRs or dealer weighout slips to support a request for a correction. In certain circumstances, you may need to provide copies of these documents to support your request for a correction to the electronic databases. All requests for corrections to the electronic databases must be made in writing. If you wish to request a correction to your catch/landings records, you may use one of the contact methods below:

Mail a written request to: NOAA Fisheries Service
FSO Data Correction Requests
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-2276; or

Email your request to: FSO.DATA.CORRECTIONS@NOAA.GOV Please enter "FSO Data Correction Requests" in the subject line of your email.

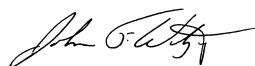
1. For corrections to existing records : The following information is required to be provided by vessel owners requesting a correction in order to locate the VTR(s), dealer purchase record(s), and identify the disputed data.
 - a. For Vessel Trip Reports:
 - i. Vessel trip report serial number;
 - ii. Vessel name;
 - iii. Vessel permit number;
 - iv. Vessel reported dates of sail and landing;
 - v. Written summary of disputed data and requested correction, by species.
 - b. For Dealer Purchase Reports:
 - i. Dealer permit number;
 - ii. Dealer business name;
 - iii. Dealer purchase report number;
 - iv. Year, port, and month landed;
 - v. Dealer date of purchase;
 - vi. Written summary of disputed data and requested correction, by species.
2. For records that appear to be missing or mis-attributed: The following information is required to locate missing or mis-attributed record(s), and identify and document the disputed data. Both the VTR and dealer purchase report information is required for each occurrence of a missing record or report.
 - a. For Vessel Trip Reports:
 - i. Vessel trip report serial number;
 - ii. Vessel name;
 - iii. Vessel permit number;
 - iv. Vessel reported date landed;
 - v. Vessel reported date sold;
 - vi. VTR reported area fished;
 - vii. VTR reported pounds kept, by species;
 - viii. Dealer permit number;
 - ix. Dealer business name;
 - x. Dealer date of purchase;
 - xi. Written summary of disputed data and requested correction by species;
 - xii. Original, or copies of original fishing vessel trip reports, as submitted pursuant to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements for vessel owners or operators found at 50 CFR 648.7, but received no later than 60 days after the end of the fishing year in which the trip occurred.
 - b. For Dealer Purchase Reports:

- i. Dealer permit number;
- ii. Dealer business name;
- iii. Year, port, and month landed;
- iv. Dealer date of purchase;
- v. Dealer live pounds reported, by species;
- vi. Vessel trip report serial number;
- vii. Vessel name;
- viii. Vessel permit number;
- ix. Written summary of disputed data and requested correction, by species;
- x. Original, or copies of original dealer purchase reports, as submitted pursuant to the recordkeeping and reporting requirements for dealers found at 50 CFR 648.7, but received no later than 60 days after the end of the fishing year in which the corresponding fishing trip occurred.

- B. Documentation submitted to substantiate a correction request must be original, legible dealer or vessel transaction documents, or legible copies thereof. These documents must have been created at the time of the trip for which the data correction is requested. No other documentation, testimonials, or statements of any type will be accepted as justification for a correction request.
- C. All requests must include a written statement as to the type of data (i.e., vessel or dealer) that are in question and the correction(s) that are being requested. Supporting documentation must be provided in all cases to substantiate the claim(s) forming the basis for the correction.
- D. Any request that does not meet the criteria established in paragraphs A through D above will be returned to you without action.

Should you have questions regarding these guidelines or the data correction process, please contact Mr. Victor Vecchio of my staff at (631) 324-3569.

Sincerely,



John F. Witzig, Ph.D.
Director
Fisheries Statistics Office

