



AT-SEA MONITORING PROGRAM WELCOME PACKET

Congratulations on being selected to be a part of the Northeast Fisheries At-sea Monitoring Program (ASM). Enclosed within this Welcome Packet are detailed instructions on the various items and tasks that must be accomplished prior to the first day of training. It is your responsibility to have all of these items properly completed in the outlined time frames. Within this packet you will find the following:

- I. Welcome and Pre-Training Checklist
- II. Background Security Packet and Instructions
- III. ASM Pre-Training Assessment
- IV. ASM Observer Job Responsibilities
- V. What to Expect During Training with sample agenda
- VI. Selected readings pertinent to your job duties
- VII. Dispute Resolution Style
- VIII. Species Identification Review Guide

I. WELCOME AND PRE-TRAINING CHECKLIST

An essential part of being an at-sea monitor observer is being prepared and well organized. You will find a Pre-Training Checklist of all of the items and tasks you are required to complete **prior to training**. Failure to complete these items or tasks may result in non-admittance to training.

II. BACKGROUND SECURITY

In order to become a Contracted Employee for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), a mandatory background check will be conducted. All items **MUST** be completed *prior* to the first day of training. Failure to complete pre-training requirements may result in non-admittance to the At-sea Monitor Training Program. Please see attached Background Security documents. For more information or more detailed instructions please visit our website:

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/>

III. ASM PRE-TRAINING ASSESSMENT

Included in this packet you will find the ASM Pre-Training Assessment. This assessment allows our staff to gain a more dynamic understanding of the upcoming training class. This will not be graded and serves only to establish a base knowledge of ASM observer candidates. Please complete this independently and to the best of your ability. This assessment will be handed in on the first day of training.

IV. ASM OBSERVER JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

ASM observers collect real time catch information onboard commercial fishing vessels in the Northeast Groundfish Fishery. ASM observer data are primarily used to quantify discard weights for the Northeast groundfish species. Please see the attached document for more detailed information on ASM observer job responsibilities.

V. WHAT TO EXPECT DURING TRAINING

The At-sea Monitoring Training Program is an eleven (11) day training course that will prepare you for your new career as an ASM observer. Included you will find a document that breaks down the various portions of the Training Program and the expected amount of time spent on each session. See also the enclosed sample agenda.

VI. SELECTED READINGS

Included in this packet you will find readings from various sources that will help you get a better understanding of what the At-sea Monitoring Program does and how you fit within the Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management. Please read all enclosed documents prior to the start of training.

VII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION STYLE

Part of the job of an ASM observer is being able to communicate with a variety of different people in a clear and professional manner. During the At-sea Monitoring Training Program you will have a Conflict Resolution session that will help prepare trainees for situations that ASM observers commonly encounter. Understanding your individual style will help prepare you when dealing with various types of personalities encountered in the commercial fishing industry. It will also allow our conflict resolution specialist to tailor her training specifically to the trainees. Please fill out the enclosed Dispute Resolution document prior to training. This will be handed in on the first day of training.

VIII. SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REVIEW GUIDE

Included in this packet you will find the following Fish Identification guides:

- ‘Guide to Some Trawl-Caught Marine Fishes From Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina’
By Donald D. Flescher

These fish guides are issued to all ASM observers and are used during training and while in the field. Reviewing these guides prior to training will give you a preview of the commonly encountered fish species in the North Atlantic. Please bring these guides with you on the first day of training.

If you have any questions or difficulties with any part of this Welcome Packet, please contact:

Diana Cowan
Training Coordinator
(508) 495-2283
Diana.Cowan@noaa.gov

ITEM/TASK	COMPLETED? ✓
SECURITY PACKAGE	
US Citizen	
1. Submission Request Form	
2. e-QIP (online form)	During Training
3. Optional Form 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment)	
4. Security Coversheet	
5. Two (2) Forms of Approved Identification	
6. Fingerprints	During Training
7. Common Access Card (CAC)	After Training
Foreign Nationals ONLY	
1. Notification of Foreign National (30 days prior to first day of training)	
2. Identifying Information	
3. Complete the SF85 form	
4. Security Coversheet	
5. Certification of Conditions and Responsibilities for a Foreign National Guest	
6. Two (2) Forms of Approved Identification	
8. Fingerprinting	During Training
9. Common Access Card (CAC)	After Training
OTHER ITEMS	
CPR Certification (American Red Cross or American Heart Association)	
First Aid Certification (American Red Cross or American Heart Association)	
Current Passport	
Physician Note	

ITEM/TASK	COMPLETED? ✓
Pre-Training Assessment	
At-sea Monitoring Job Tasks	
Selected Readings	
Dispute Resolution Style	
Review Species Identification Guides	
WHAT TO BRING TO TRAINING	
<p>Appropriate Clothing:</p> <p>MUST HAVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed toed shoes • Long pants • Long sleeved shirt • Sweatshirt, jacket/coat • Swim clothes (bathing suit, white t-shirt, and pants with no holes, to wear in the pool) • Towel • Sunscreen • Waterproof, durable, mid-calf, rubber boots to wear on fishing vessels (<i>See Commercial Fishing Boot Info for details</i>) 	
<p>NICE TO HAVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunglasses • Hat, bandana, etc. • GPS 	

Contact Person: Katherine McArdle (508) 495-2377

Please read and follow all instructions carefully.

ITEM/TASK	SOURCE OF INFORMATION/ CONTACT INFORMATION	COMPLETION DATE
Security Clearance Paperwork		
1. Submission Request Form	Included in package or available online	Completed and ready to turn in on <i>first day of training</i>
2. e-QIP (online form) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 year history Residence, employment, and schooling history 	e-QIP email address www.opm.gov/e-QIP	Will complete after the conclusion of training. Copy of form and 2 original signature pages due after training.
3. Optional Form 306-Declaration for Federal Employment	Included in package or available online	Completed and ready to turn in on <i>first day of training</i>
4. Security Coversheet	Included in package or available online	Completed and ready to turn in on <i>first day of training</i>
5. Fingerprints	Conducted at Fisheries Sampling Branch Training Center (Falmouth, MA)	Fingerprints will be taken during training.
Procedure for Foreign Nationals		
1. Notification of Foreign National	Inform service provider Service provider to inform NMFS	<i>MUST</i> be reported no later than 30 days prior to training start date. No exceptions!!!
2. Identifying Information	Contact Katherine McArdle (508) 495-2377 Have the following information available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Name • Gender • Country of Permanent Residence • Country of Birth • Date of Birth • Country of Citizenship • Passport Number • Country of Passport 	Prior to training start date
3. Complete the SF85 form	Included in package or available online	Completed and ready to turn in on <i>first day of</i>

Contact Person: Katherine McArdle (508) 495-2377

ITEM/TASK	SOURCE OF INFORMATION/ CONTACT INFORMATION	COMPLETION DATE
		<i>training</i>
4. Security Coversheet	Included in package or available online	Completed and ready to turn in on <i>first day of training</i>
5. Certification of Conditions and Responsibilities for a Foreign National Guest	Included in package or available online	Completed and ready to turn in on <i>first day of training</i>
6. Fingerprinting	Conducted at Fisheries Sampling Branch Training Center (Falmouth, MA) Contact Katherine McArdle (508) 495-2377	Fingerprints will be taken during training.
7. Common Access Card (CAC)	Katherine McArdle	Issued after training.

Security Clearance Paperwork Procedure

1. **DAY 1 OF TRAINING** - the following forms/information should be brought to the Observer Training Facility at Falmouth Technology Park the first day of training.
 - a. OF306 (Declaration of Federal Employment) form fully filled in
 - b. Security Coversheet – fully filled in
 - c. 2 forms of identification – for fingerprints which will be completed day 1 of training. Examples of acceptable IDs are provided in the welcome packet.
 - d. EQIP Submission Request Form – fully filled in

All of the above forms are provided in the observer’s security packet that is sent out prior to the start of training. They can also be found on our website: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/security/>.

If training candidates prefer, they can fax the information ahead of time to Katherine McArdle at (508) 495-2123, however, that is not required.

A time slot as been reserved on the first day of training for the Trusted Agent, Katherine McArdle, to collect the forms from all individuals. If there are questions prior to the first day of training, please contact Katherine directly at (508) 495-2377. Fingerprints will be collected and copies of each candidate’s identification will be made for each observer’s security file.

Once completed and received, this information will be used to create a user account to EQIP (Electronic Questionnaire for Investigations Processing), which is an online form used to check the observer’s history. This will occur after training concludes. You will be receiving an email from our NOAA Security Officer, with additional instructions once he/she creates the account for you. Please note that once the user account is created, you will only have 7 days to complete before it is locked out for security purposes. If you need your account unlocked please contact Katherine McArdle at (508) 495-2377.

Contact Person: Katherine McArdle (508) 495-2377

2. **COMPLETE ONLINE EQIP RECORD** – This portion will be completed after the observer successfully completes the initial training session.

Once an e-mail is received from the NOAA Security Officer, the applicant only has 7 days to complete the EQIP application online. This will occur either during training or after training ends. It is helpful to have necessary records available when completing this as it requires a history of employment, residency, and schooling for the past five years. In the observers welcome packet a step-by-step guide will be provided to aid the observer in filling out the application. Additionally, the questions that will be asked are in the guide.

It is very important to read and follow the instructions provided exactly.

All the forms will be reviewed, and if needed, you will be contacted to make the necessary corrections.

Please note that the completion of this application should be treated as a priority and if necessary the observer may be withheld from deploying on any trips. Missing information on the forms will deem the package incomplete.

The most common mistakes are:

- a. Missing information such as zip codes, phone numbers, and full name of supervisors (i.e., not just "TONY"...but need Tony Smith).
- b. Missing periods of time in employment and/or residence history (entire 5 year period must be reported with no breaks in time. Unemployment is reported)
- c. Street address not complete (i.e., "Main Street"...should have a house #..."100 Main Street)
- d. Selective Service registration information missing - this may be found online at www.sss.gov with just the SSN and birth date.
- e. For schools/colleges...when asked for a street address, please use the Administration Building's address.
- f. Blank answers. Do not leave any answer blank, rather state "N/A" or "None".
- g. The OF306 will require you to report your history for sensitive information (i.e., arrest record, parole, convictions). It is important to disclose this information. If in doubt, it is better to report the incident.
- h. **Do not select "I do not know" on the EQIP record.** You MUST answer every question or provide a VERY STRONG explanation as to why the information cannot be provided. With the internet, and a few phone calls, very little cannot be found out without a little bit of time.

Upon completion of your online EQIP (SF85 - Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions) please PRINT the entire questionnaire, along with the two signature pages and fax (508) 495-2123 or mail to, 25

Contact Person: Katherine McArdle (508) 495-2377

Bernard Saint Jean Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536 . After a copy of the EQIP application is made and the signature pages are printed, signed and sent the observer may then release (i.e., submit) the online EQIP application. ***NOTE THAT THE SIGNATURE PAGES MUST BE PRINTED BEFORE THE EQIP APPLICATION IS RELEASED OR ELSE YOU CANNOT PRINT THE SIGNATURE PAGES.*** If corrections are needed, you will need to go back into EQIP and enter the corrections in your record.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to strict security procedures, these materials **MUST** be sent via fax or mail. Electronic forms **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!** To protect sensitive personal information, please do not email any of these forms or any information that is required in these forms.

Fax to: (508) 495-2123
Attn: Katherine McArdle

OR

Mailing Address: 25 Bernard Saint Jean Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536
Attn: Katherine McArdle

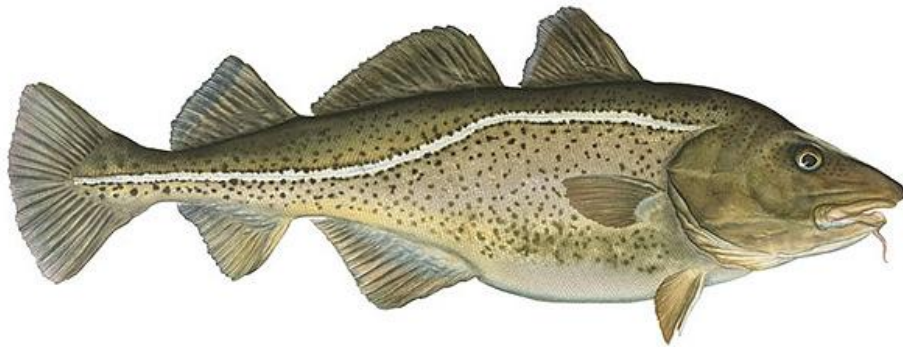
It is recommended that observers make copies of your security documents for their own records. The copy machines at the Training Center may be used for this purpose or copies can be mailed back to the observer as long as the Trusted Agent is notified.

Once the EQIP record is released, the Trusted Agent, Katherine will either receive an e-mail stating that the observers fingerprints have been cleared of the NOAA Security Officer will be in touch with the observer stating additional information is needed. If the fingerprints have been cleared, the Trusted Agent will create a record in a database called TASS. A username/password will be generated and the Trusted Agent will securely e-mail the observer with instructions to log onto TASS with the assigned username and password and confirm the information entered in the record is correct. Once that is completed the observer will be approved (via e-mail) to proceed to the nearest RAPIDS station to obtain their Common Access Card. This entire process can take several weeks depending on when the fingerprint results come in. Until an observer receives their CAC card, they should always have on them a personal identifier such as their license and their Letter of Introduction signed by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Director.

4) Identify these fish by common name. List two (2) characteristics used to identify each fish. You may use the provided fish ID guides provided in the Welcome Packet.

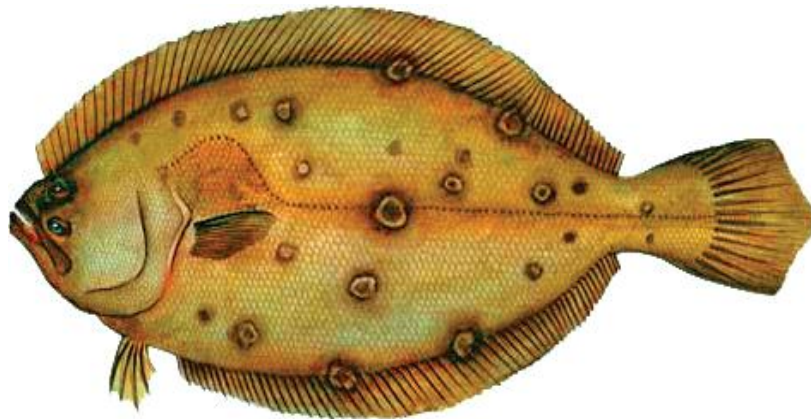
a. Common Name: _____

Two (2) characteristics: _____



b. Common Name: _____

Two (2) characteristics: _____



c. Common Name: _____

Two (2) characteristics: _____



5) Find the Area of the following shapes. Please show all calculations:

Equations for questions 5a.-5.c:

Area Equations:

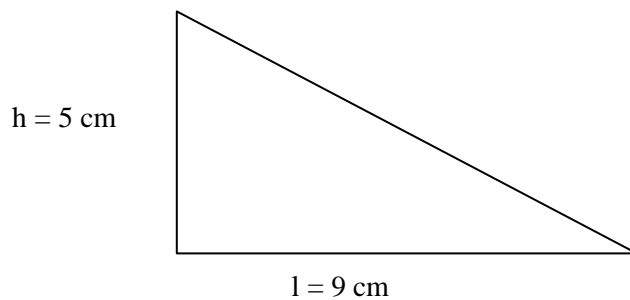
Square: $\text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$

Triangle: $\text{Area} = [\text{Length} \times \text{Width}] / 2$

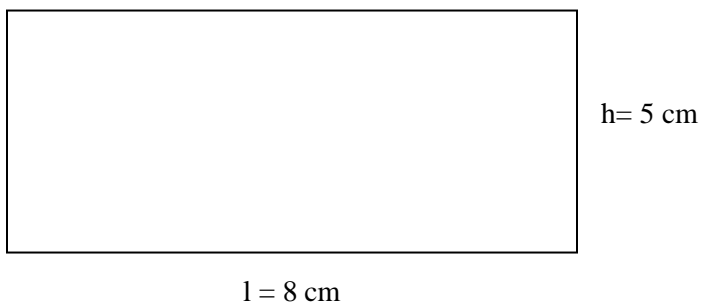
Volume Equation

Square: $\text{Volume} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Depth}$

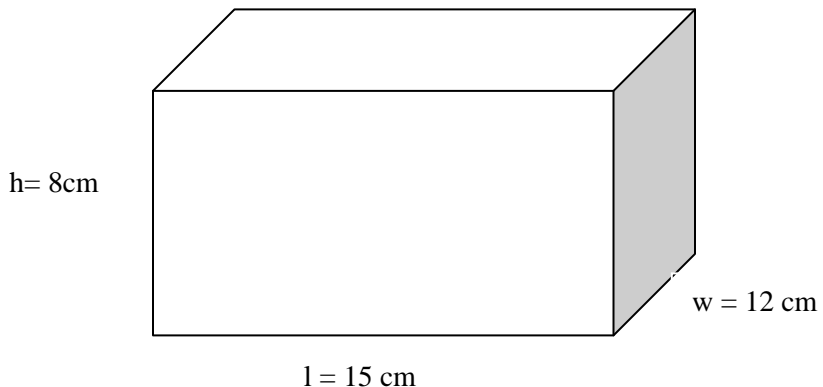
a. _____



b. _____



6) Find the Volume of the following shape. Please show all calculations.



7) Label the following boat locations on the diagram using the following terms.

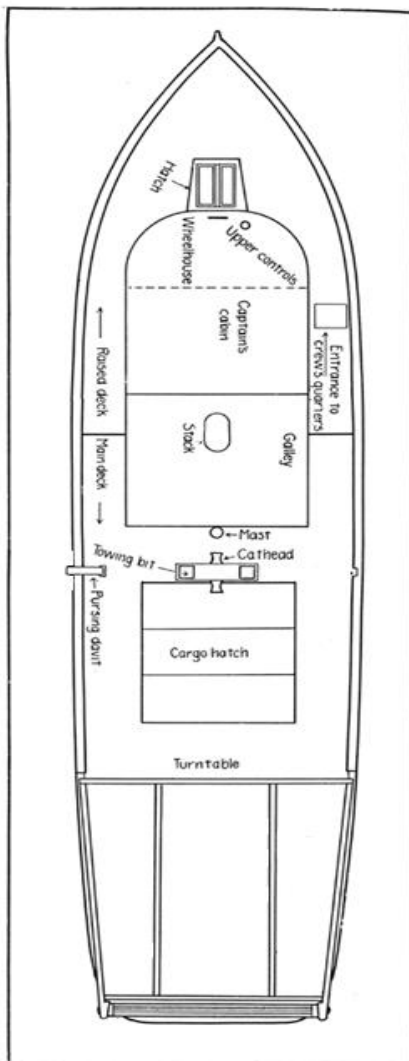
Stern

Bow

Starboard

Port

Aft



8) Define the following vessel terms to the best of your knowledge:

a. Galley:

b. Bunk/Rack:

c. Head:

d. Bulkhead:

e. Gunwale:

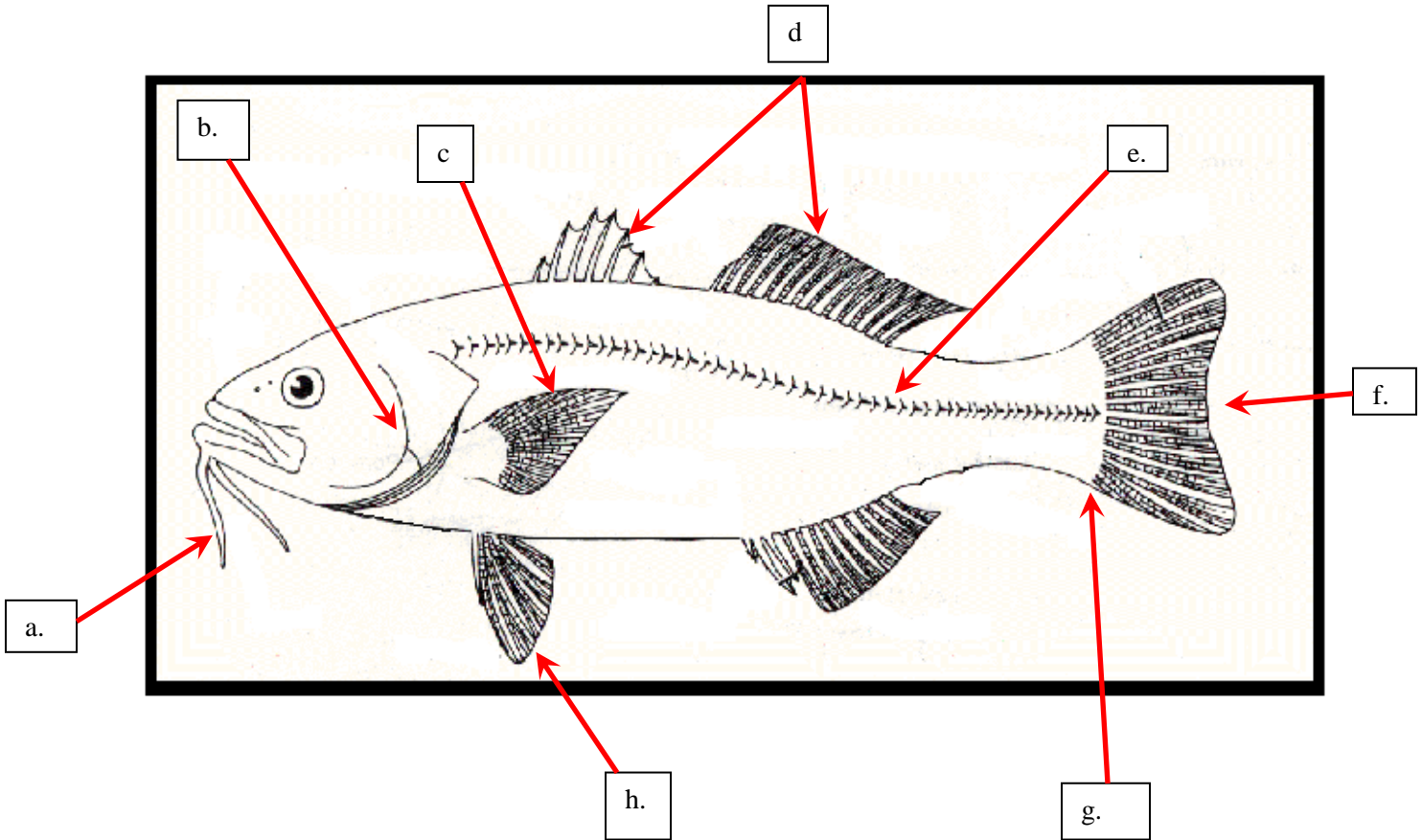
f. Wheelhouse:

g. Scupper:

h. Line:

i. Hatch:

9) Label the fish body features on the diagram:



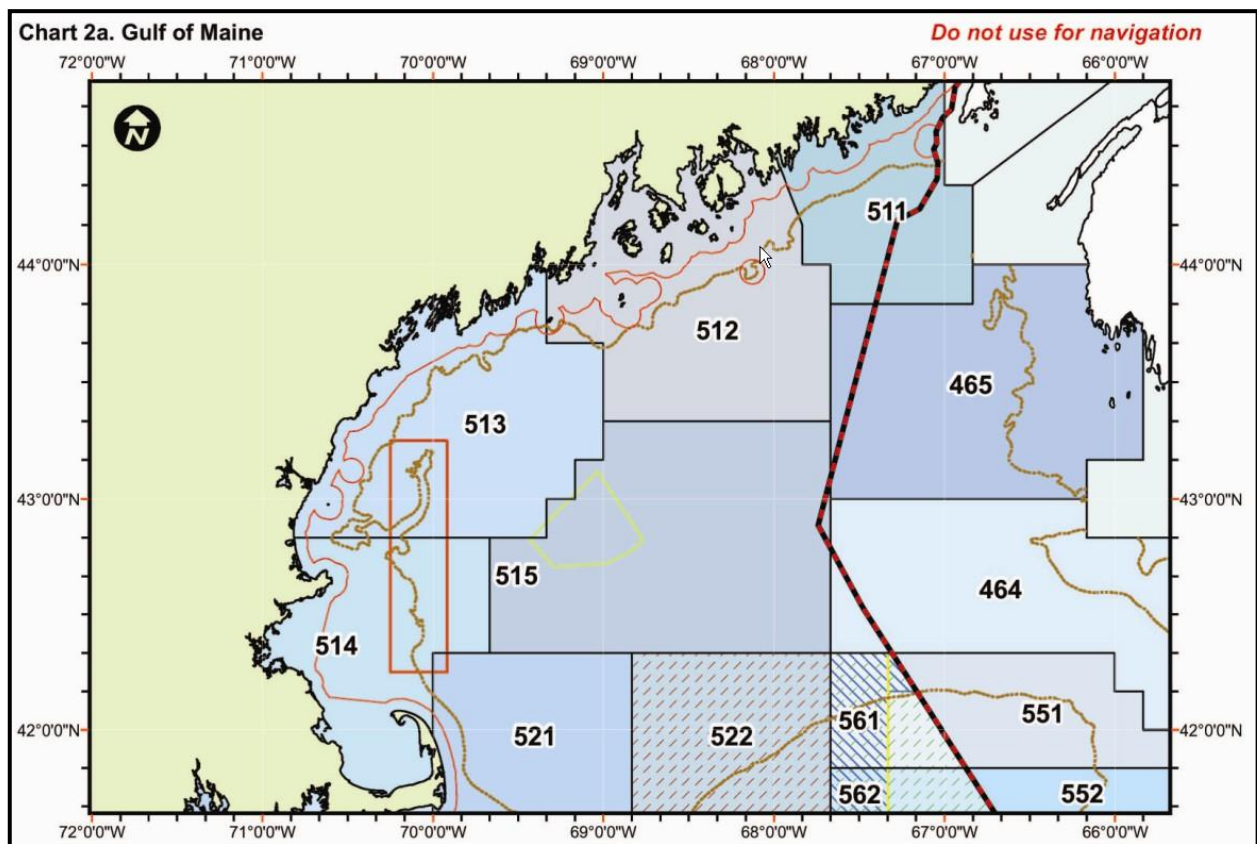
a.	b.	c.	d.
e.	f.	g.	h.

10) Convert these times into 24 hour format (i.e.. military time):

- a.** 5:45 AM _____
- b.** 9:20 PM _____
- c.** Midnight _____
- d.** 1:49 PM _____
- e.** 7:09 AM _____

11) Place an X on the chart for the approximate coordinate location

43°30'N, 68°30'W



12) If you have a total of 23 equally filled baskets of discarded skates and you find the weight of 5 individual baskets to be 46 lbs, 52 lbs, 47 lbs, 53 lbs, and 49 lbs. What is your total estimated weight for all skates? Please show all calculations.

13) What place value does the 4 hold in 294,088?

- a. ones
- b. tens
- c. hundreds
- d. thousands

14) What place value does the 0 hold in 49,678,203?

- a. ones
- b. tens
- c. hundreds
- d. thousands

15) What place value does the 5 hold in 0.045?

- a. ones
- b. tens
- c. hundredths
- d. thousandths

16) Solve for 'X' in the following equation.

$$2(14 - 9) - (17 - 14) = x$$

- a. 9
- b. 2
- c. 7
- d. 14

17) How is 75% expressed in decimal form? Record to the hundredths place.

18) Convert 0.825 into a percent. Record to the tenths place.

19) Find the average of the following numbers. Round your answer to the tenths place.

12, 18, 16, 15, 14, 35, 54

20) Find the average of the following numbers. Express your answer to the hundredths place.

289.03, 56.94, 221.00, 332.75, 50.28

21) Using the provided information, convert the following:

Conversion Key: 1 m = 100 cm 1 cm = 10mm 2.54 cm = 1 in.

22 **in.** fish = _____ **cm** (round to the hundredth)

1.34 **m** post = _____ **in.** (round to the hundredth)

30.48 **cm** paper = _____ **in** (round to the nearest whole number)

4 **mm** = _____ **cm** (round to the tenth)

22) How would you express the written values:

Five thousandths

- a. 5000
- b. 5.050
- c. 0.500
- d. 0.005

Fifteen and seven tenths

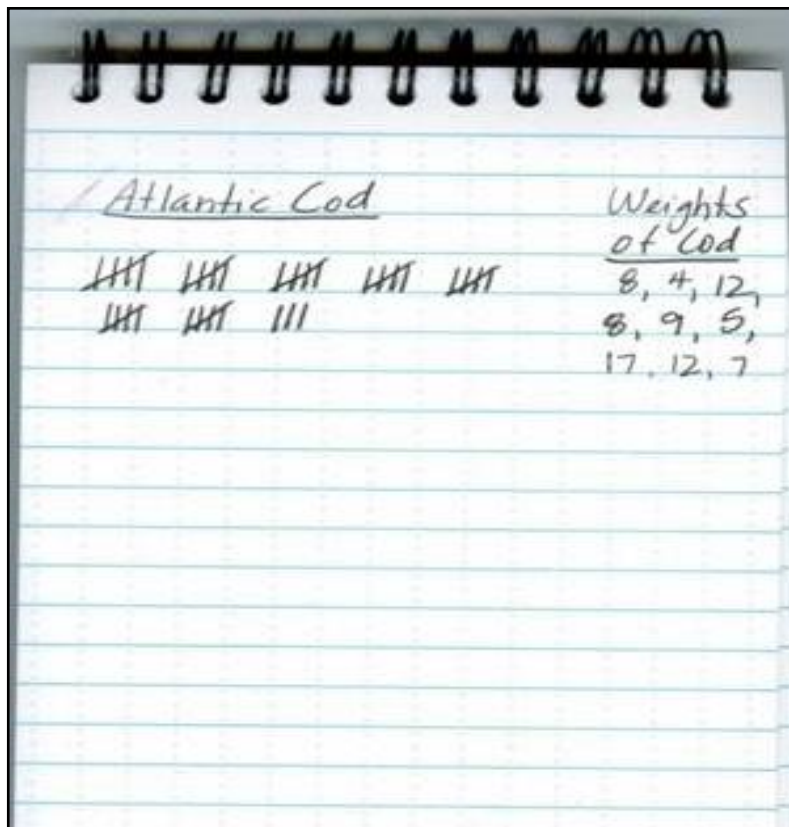
- a. 0.157
- b. 1.57
- c. 15.7
- d. 157

Using the provided data and diagrams, provide the following:

23) Record the total number of stroke tallied Atlantic Cod : _____

Record the average weight of a **single** Atlantic Cod (round to the nearest tenth): _____

Total weight of all stroke tallied Atlantic Cod (rounded to the nearest whole number): _____



24) This is the face of a 112 lb/50 kg scale. You have just weighed a fish at 22 lbs. Mark a line on the scale at the 22 lb weight.



25) This is a metric ruler. The numbers represent centimeters. Mark a line on the ruler for the following:

8 cm 14 cm 44 mm 156 mm 16.5 cm



26) This is a portion of a measuring board used for fish lengths. The numbered units are centimeters. Mark a line on the board for the following and label the fish name at each appropriate mark:

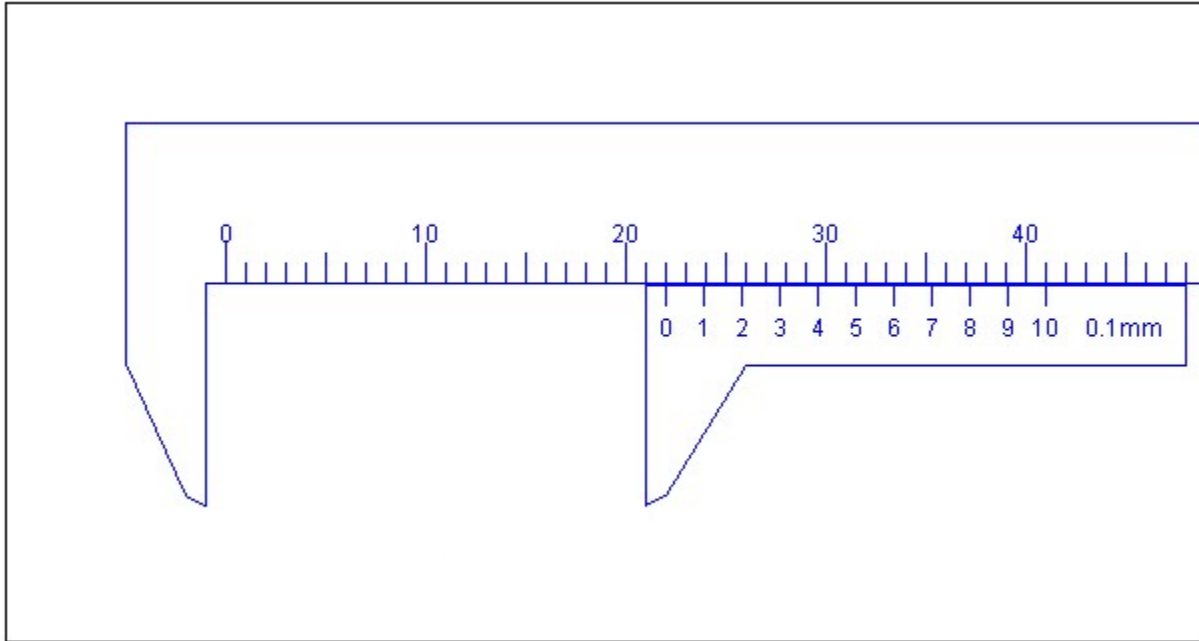
31 cm Atlantic Cod 7 cm Flounder 17 cm Redfish



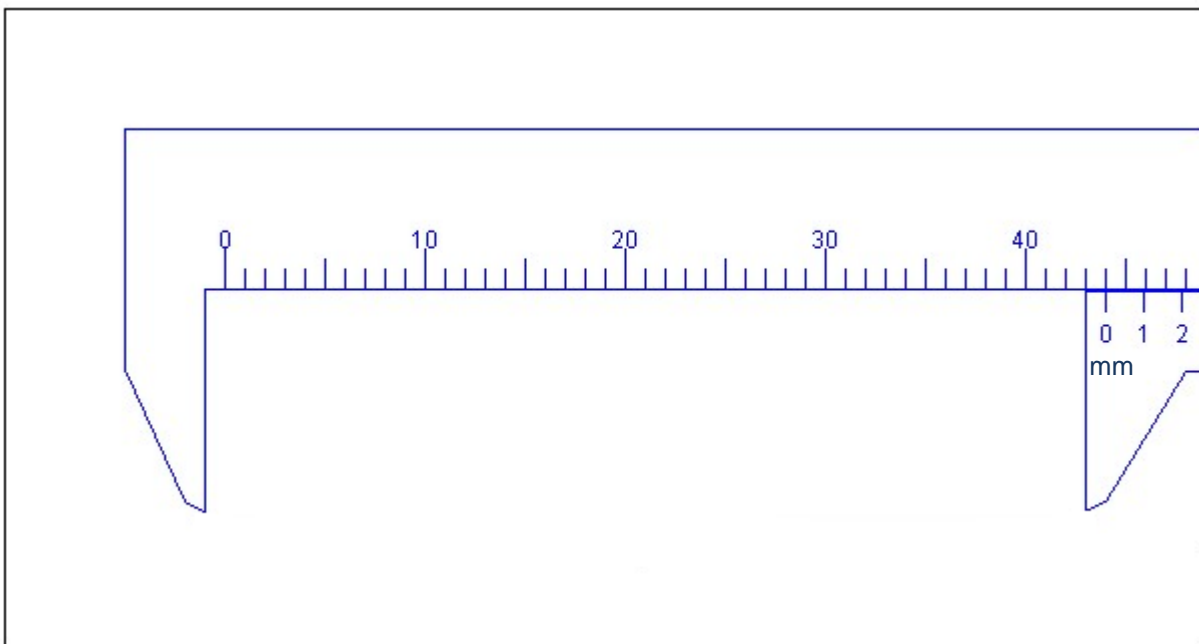
27) How long is this fish? The units are in centimeters. Please round to the nearest centimeter.



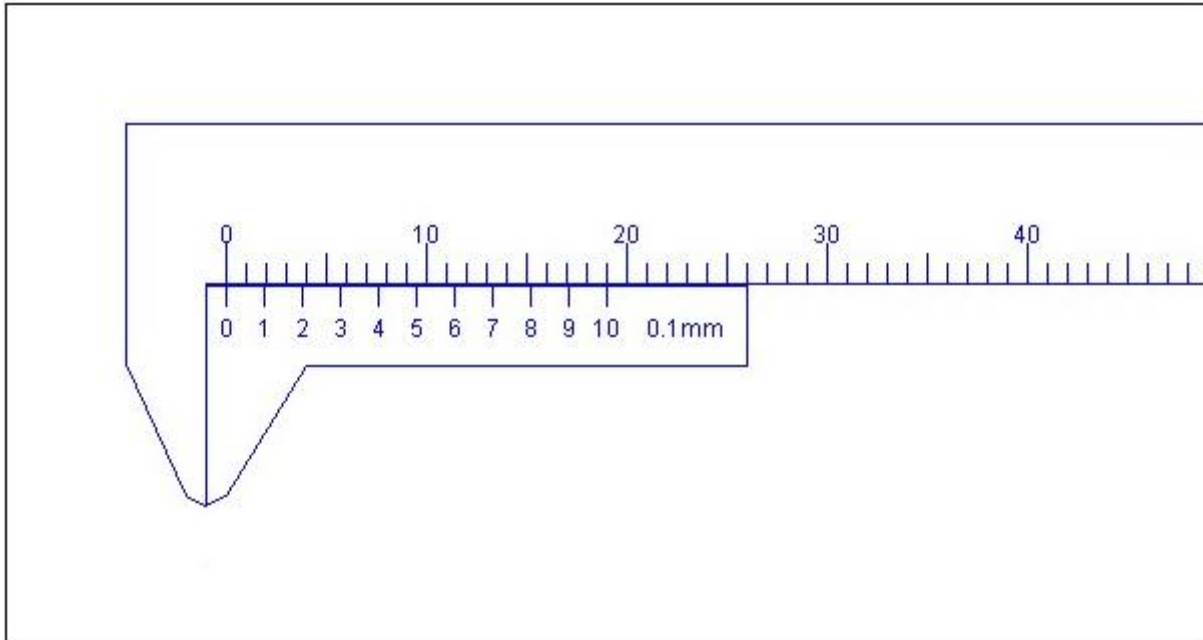
28) Using the diagrams, record the following Vernier caliper measurements. All diagram units are millimeters.



a. _____



b. _____



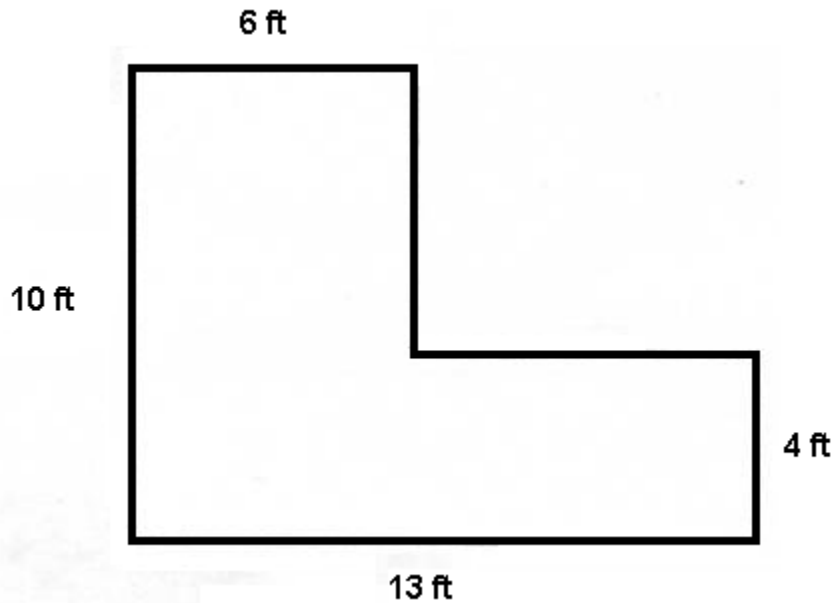
c. _____

BONUS:

A. How many triangles can you find?



B. Charlie is building a raised vegetable garden. He's laid out the dimensions as such:



The sides of his raised garden box are all 18" high. What is the total volume of his raised garden? He would like to fill his garden with 7" of soil. How much soil will he need in order to fill his garden box? Round final values to the nearest whole number. Show your work in the space provided.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A MONITORED TRIP

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
PRIOR TO VESSEL'S DEPARTURE		
Pre-Trip Notification System	Arrive to F/V 1 hour prior to departure	Notify the Pre-Trip Notification System 48 hours prior to departure
Pre-Trip Safety Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vessel Walk Through ▪ Safety Decal Check Safety Decal Number Expiration Date ▪ EPIRB Expiration Dates: Battery Hydrostatic Release NOAA SARSAT Decal Check ▪ Life Raft Expiration Dates: Hydrostatic Release Raft Service Capacity ▪ Immersion Suits ▪ Life Ring(s) ▪ Fire Extinguishers ▪ Flares & Expiration Date ▪ Radio ▪ First Aid Materials ▪ Stability Concerns/Issues 	<p>Allow access to all safety items</p> <p>Posses a current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal</p> <p>Assist when necessary (Observers may not remove/manipulate EPIRB casings)</p>

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
DURING FISHING ACTIVITIES		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explain sampling duties. Offer ASM Duty Sheet ▪ Collect data on a haul-by-haul basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Times & Positions of set/haul back ○ Wave height ○ All kept and discard information (fish, sharks, invertebrates, and debris) ○ Kept and discard weight and disposition reason ○ Obtain actual weights (whenever possible) or obtain a subsample to estimate large catches ○ Record lethal/non-lethal interactions with protected species (incidental takes); Including photographing incidentally taken species ○ Obtain minimal gear information (i.e.. mesh sizes, net height) ○ Obtain economic trip information (i.e. cost of fuel; trip supplies) NOTE: Mandatory sampling protocols involve photographing, lengthing, tagging, or retaining fish species for scientific purposes 	<p>Allow access to:</p> <p>Positional instruments and access to the wheelhouse</p> <p>Adequate space for a sampling station</p> <p>Access to kept and discarded catch</p> <p>Access to any protected species incidentally taken in fishing gear</p> <p>Access to gear</p> <p>Provide accurate trip information when requested</p>

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
WHILE A OBSERVER IS DEPLOYED ON A FISHING VESSEL		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adhere to all vessel rules and safety precautions as are required of a crew member ▪ Monitor a minimum of 75% of hauls, striving for 100% ▪ Take fish lengths of kept and discard species at least every other haul ▪ Supply the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immersion suit Personal Floatation Device CPR & First Aid certifications Passport CAC Badge Foul weather gear Sampling equipment Digital camera Field guides & manuals Logs (paper and/or electronic) 	<p>Provide the observer with living quarters, meals, and amenities equal to that of a crew member</p> <p>Notify the observer when fishing operations are to begin and end</p> <p>Allow the observer access to kept and discarded species</p> <p>Allow appropriate area to store gear</p>
UPON COMPLETION OF THE FISHING TRIP		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer a Fisherman's Comment Card ▪ Offer a Data Release Form 	<p>Voluntarily submitted</p> <p>Complete, sign, and submit form to the</p>

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer Fishermen’s Comment Log ▪ Meal reimbursements will not be issued by NMFS. This is the responsibility of the service provider 	<p>Fisheries Sampling Branch</p> <p>Voluntarily submitted</p> <p>Contact At-sea Monitoring Service Provider</p>
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide regulatory advice ▪ Accept any gift or direct payment from the captain, crew, or vessel owner ▪ Engage in any commercial fishing activities (i.e. dressing fish, standing wheel watches) ▪ Slow fishing operations beyond unreasonable levels ▪ Use any recording device for personal use ▪ Use vessel communication equipment for personal use ▪ Disclose any trip information with anyone other than program staff Complete an Incident Report according to protocol (see attached Incident Report Form) 	<p>Assault, harass or sexually harass, intimidate or attempt to influence observers</p> <p>Ask monitors to stand watch or help with fishing operations</p> <p>Interfere with or impede observer duties</p> <p>Fish without an observer on board the vessel after the owner or agent of the vessel has been selected to carry an observer</p>

HOW ARE AT-SEA MONITORING DATA BEING USED?

OBSERVER	COLLECTED DATA	PURPOSE OF DATA
At-Sea Monitor	<p>Trip Data</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sail/Land Date and Time 2. Port Sail/Land 3. Target Species 4. Gear Type 5. Vessel Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vessel Name ▪ USCG DOC ▪ VTR # 6. Sector Enrollment 7. Program Code 8. Dealer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helps match an individual trip 2. Tracks fishing activity and port effort 3. A necessary criteria identifying a groundfish trip 4. Identifies appropriate discard rates for gear type by sector 5. Identifies individual vessel fishing effort; matches trip data 6. Sector participation; ACE monitoring by sector 7. Identifies Special Management Programs 8. Identifies where catch is being sold
	<p>Catch Data</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Record all catch (fish, invertebrates, ghost gear, etc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Species Information: Discard & Kept (haul by haul) 2. Fish Disposition 3. Weights by Disposition 4. Length Frequency of priority species (Kept and Discard) 5. Positional Information (haul by haul) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directly documents catch data per sector; quota management and discard rates 2. Reason fish is kept or discarded 3. Actual weights are a top priority 4. Aids in stock assessments 5. Identifies individual and broad stock areas; Special Management Programs

OBSERVER	COLLECTED DATA	PURPOSE OF DATA
	<p>Gear Data</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trawl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Codend mesh sizes (10) ▪ Net Type/Net Name 2. Gillnet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # of nets ▪ Net Height & Length ▪ Tie downs ▪ # of pingers (if present) 3. Longline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ # of hooks ▪ Hook type (pattern & size) ▪ Mainline length 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trawl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collected for scientific purposes; helps identify efficiency of mesh; catchability ▪ Aids in determining discard rate 2. Gillnet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amount of gear being fished ▪ Type of gillnet being used ▪ Monitors gear used in gear restricted areas ▪ Protected species information; affect on bycatch 3. Longline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amount of gear being fished ▪ Efficiency of gear; affect on targeted species and bycatch
	<p>Protected Species Data</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marine Mammals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photograph & ID ▪ Attach carcass tag (if dead) 2. Sea Turtles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photograph & ID ▪ Resuscitate (if comatose) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bycatch information for Protected Species Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for positive identification and animal condition ▪ Prevents and animal from being counted twice if incidentally taken again 2. Bycatch information for Protected Species Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for positive identification and animal

OBSERVER	COLLECTED DATA	PURPOSE OF DATA
	<p>3. Sea Birds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photograph & ID ▪ Record band information (if present) <p>NOTE: Protected species will not be retained by at-sea monitors</p>	<p>condition</p> <p>3. Bycatch information for Protected Species Branch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows for positive identification and animal condition ▪ Helps track activity
	<p>Economic Data (per trip)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ice used; Ice/ton 2. Fuel used; fuel/gallon 3. Damage 4. Supplies 5. Food 6. Water (not including drinking water) 7. Oil 8. Bait 	<p>Provided cost information to analyze the impact of Sector Management on fishing communities before and after the implementation of Amendment 16, May 1, 2010.</p>

PRIMARY GOALS OF AT-SEA MONITOR TRAINING

1. Instruct, motivate, and inspire trainees so that they can work in a self supervised mode.
2. Instruct trainees to collect accurate, representative, and unbiased data according to Fisheries Sampling Branch data collection protocols.
3. Provide trainees with adequate knowledge of the risks associated with performing their duties in an effort to educate and prepare at-sea monitors for dangerous or potentially life-threatening situations.

The following table outlines the training topics and a brief overview of each covered in the At-sea Monitoring Training Program.

TRAINING TOPIC	OVERVIEW	TIMEFRAME
Offshore Safety Training	Training is designed specifically for sea going persons. In this course trainees will learn skills including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying risks • How to properly use all issued safety equipment • Survival techniques • Fire fighting basics • Marine radios & Mayday calls • Abandon ship • Man overboard • De-watering pump • Overview of vessels Safety Exam (minimum 85%) & Practical (Pass/Fail)	16 hours (2 days)
Species Identification	Training will cover fish and other species common to the N. Atlantic. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish ID Exam (minimum 85%) • Marine mammal, sea bird, and sea turtle ID Exam (minimum 85%) • Species ID homework and workshops 	~14 hours
Targeted Fishery Training	Training will cover the following fisheries, which will include how to collect gear, haul, and economic information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trawl Fishery • Gillnet Fishery • Bottom Longline Fishery • Handline Fishery 	16 hours
Catch Estimation	Training will cover in detail how At-sea monitors will collect catch information. This includes a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Active workshops • Scenarios 	8 hours
Conflict Resolution	Training is designed to introduce trainees to common problems related to at-sea monitoring and to provide them with a variety of tools to effectively deal with situations associated with a sea going occupation. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying problems • Common courtesies 	2 hours

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Northeast Fisheries Science Center
 Fisheries Sampling Branch

TRAINING TOPIC	OVERVIEW	TIMEFRAME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role Play 	
Vessel Training Trip	Trainees will go on an actual commercial fishing trip. Trainees will learn how follow program protocols under the supervision of Training Staff.	~ 8 hours
Training Workshops	Trainees will learn hands on how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify & record gear characteristics • Use & maintain sampling gear • Use & maintain electronic reporting units • Record haul data 	~16 hours
Miscellaneous Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector Introduction • Security • Tablet & Digital Camera Training • Data Quality • Falsification of Data & Decertification • Outreach • Fishermen Liaison • Meet Your Editor • Mentoring Sessions • Introduction to Staff 	~6 hours
NMFS Certification	Upon satisfactory completion of program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall 85% minimum score 	Total Training 11 days

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WEEK 1			
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
Tuesday: September 8, 2015	Wednesday: September 9, 2015	Thursday: September 10, 2015	Friday: September 11, 2015
0800 Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping, Training Objectives & Standards	0800 Training Video Video Review	0800 Introduction to Safety Program At-sea Monitor Specific Safety Overview	0800 Safety Checklist
	0845 Introduction to At-sea Monitoring & Manuals		
0900 Program Introduction	0900 Data Collection Overview	0830 Safety Training Program	0930 USCG F/V Safety
1015 Security Overview	0915 Intro to Catch Estimation Program		1030 Safety Training Program
1045 Introduction to Tablets PDF Tutorial	0945 Geographic & Statistical Areas		
1130 Gear Issue to Students	1030 Groundfish Gear Workshop Gillnet, Longline & Handline		
LUNCH (1200) Mentor Session 1	LUNCH (1200)	LUNCH (1200)	LUNCH (1200)
1300 Fish ID Primer	1300 Groundfish Gear Workshop Continued Trawl	1300 Safety Training Program	Leave for Water Session
1310 Introduction to the Species Verification Program			1300 Safety Training Program Water Session
Session Times: 1315-1500; 1515-1700	1545 Special Management Programs	1600 Homework Review	1600 Safety Exam & Practical Review
Session 1: Fish ID Lab Session 2: Station 1: Security Paperwork Station 2: Fingerprinting Station 3: Digital ID Pictures Station 4: Photocopy 2 forms of ID	1615 Fish ID		

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WEEK 2				
DAY 5	DAY 6	DAY 7	DAY 8	DAY 9
Monday: September 14, 2015	Tuesday: September 15, 2015	Wednesday: September 16, 2015	Thursday: September 17, 2015	Friday: September 18, 2015
Session Times: 0800-0900 ; 0900-1000	0800\ Safety Written Exam Safety Practical Stations	0800 Scale Presentation Catch Estimation Program & Workshop	0800 Incidental Take Protocols and Log & Tab	0800 <u>INCIDENTAL TAKE EXAM</u>
1000 Meet Your Editor	1000 Vessel & Trip Log/Tab		0930 Incidental Take Cooler Session	1015 Certification Trip Policy & Port Tour Information
1030 ASM Job Tasks Meet the Fisherman Liaison		1045 Coral ID		1030 Data Quality
1130 Fishermen Comment Log		1100 Incidental Take ID Session		1115 Outreach Session
LUNCH (1145) Mentoring	LUNCH (1200)			1130 Exam Review Training Trip Overview
		LUNCH (1230)	LUNCH (1230)	LUNCH (1145) 45 min
1245 Review of Observer Manuals	1300 Gear Logs & Gear Tabs	1330 Review Safety Practical & Exam Survival Suit Attachments PLB Instruction	1330 Office of Law Enforcement	1230 Catch Estimation Program: Specialized
1250 Introduction to Paper Logs		1400 Individual Animal Log/Tab Shark ID	1445 Incident Report	1400
1320 Fish Disposition Codes		1500 Length Frequency Log/Tab & Workshop	1515 Drug Awareness Training	Data Collection Workshop
1430 Marel Scales	1430 Groundfish Haul & Data Reporting	1545 Regulatory Compliance Folder	1545	
1545 Electronic Devices: Tablet & Digital Camera	1645 Fish Pot Trip	1615 Sector Groundfish Upload Protocols	1615 Incidental Take Review Session	

WEEK 3	
DAY 10	DAY 11
Monday: September 21, 2015	Tuesday: September 22, 2015
<p><u>Training Trip</u></p> <p>Session Times: Be at Tech Park 0615; 0945</p> <p>Session 1: Team 1 & Team 3 Session 2: Team 2 & Team 4</p> <p>Training Trip Sandwich Harbor</p> <p>FV Charger FV Michelle Jean II</p>	0800
	<u>ASM FINAL EXAM</u>
	Mentoring #2
	LUNCH (1200)
	1300
	Part 1: Conflict Resolution
	1430
	Part 2: Conflict Resolution Group Sessions (Closed) & Wrap Up
1500	
Gear Certification Program Incidental Take Exam Review Training Trip SVP Review Issue Final Gear Editor Review Exam Review	
1645	
What to Bring on Trips Gear Maintenance	
1700	
Class Photo Program Conclusion	

Training Contact:
 Diana Cowan
Training Coordinator
 (508) 495-2283

INTRODUCTION TO AT-SEA MONITORING AND SECTOR MANAGEMENT

The At-sea Monitoring Program was implemented May 1, 2010 as a vital component of a new management program for the New England multispecies fishery. This new management program involves the formation of voluntary sectors, in which vessels holding Northeast (NE) multispecies permits work together collectively to manage a pre-determined Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE). These new management measures are made possible by Amendment 16 to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which imposes legal requirements for the management of every fishery in the United States.

Amendment 16 to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) authorized two existing sectors and 17 new sectors, and revised regulations governing all 19 sectors in the NE multispecies fishery, beginning in Fishing Year 2010 (May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011). Vessels participating in a sector are provided an ACE of allocated NE multispecies stocks each Fishing Year. Sectors are exempt from certain NE multispecies regulations, including trip limits on allocated stocks and the requirement to use a NE multispecies Days-At-Sea (DAS) to land groundfish. In order to meet these requirements, certain measures must be adopted including annual catch limits and accountability measures (New England Fishery Management Council, 2009).

In addition, several groundfish stocks have not been meeting rebuilding targets adopted by earlier amendments. Reductions in mortality on those stocks continue to be necessary, as are mitigating measures for the adverse economic impacts of such reductions. In addition to revised effort control measures, Amendment 16 proposes expanding the system of sector management, whereby part of the fishery would be subject to a hard Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Sectors are voluntary and self-selecting, and fishery participants who do not wish to seek sector membership can continue fishing under the “common pool” system. Thus, both DAS and hard TAC management systems are represented in Amendment 16. In October 2008 the Council stated its intention to move groundfish management to an output-based system beginning with Amendment 16. Many view the adoption of additional sectors as a transition step toward the use of output controls for the entire NE multispecies fishery. Finally, Amendment 16 includes various other measures related to fishing regulations and administration, which are detailed in the full document located online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sectordocs/090511A16PHDFinal.pdf>

At-sea monitoring is an integral part of sector management. At-sea monitor observers collect data on vessel operations and discards. For Fishing Year 2010 through 2014 all sector monitoring programs will be designed and funded by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In the absence of at-sea monitoring, an assumed discard rate will be assigned to the sector. For vessels with an at-sea monitoring program in place, discard rates would be determined based on at-sea monitoring data. If a trip is covered by a NEFOP observer or ASM observer, the actual observed discards from that trip will be used. For sector vessels without an ASM observer onboard, a discard rate will be applied. Discard rates are based on a sector-specific assumed discard rate, by species, by gear type, and by stock that is calculated by NOAA Fisheries Service.

For more information regarding Sectors and At-sea Monitoring please visit

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

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/>

Catch Share Spotlight No. 16

Northeast Multispecies Sectors



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 SERVICE**



For more information on the
 NE Multispecies Sector
 Program:

http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfd_multisector.html

Vital Stats

First year (for expanded sector management program): 2010

Type of Catch Share Program: Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) to each sector

Management units: Twenty stocks of groundfish; fourteen stocks are allocated to sectors with approved operations plans.

Vessels / Gear types: Seventeen sectors have submitted operations plans for 2010, representing 762 of the 1477 eligible permit holders and >98% of the commercial NE multispecies annual catch limits (ACLs) for 2010. Non-sector vessels (referred to as common-pool vessels) will continue to fish under the days-at-sea effort control program. Sector vessels fish primarily with sink gillnets, bottom longline (tub trawls), otter trawls, jigs and handlines.

Available Trend Data

Ex-vessel value: Before Program--- (2008) ~ \$85M entire groundfish fishery.

Stock status: Before Program--- (2009) Twelve stocks are considered to be undergoing overfishing, and ten of these are also overfished. Three additional stocks are overfished.

Stock	Overfishing	Overfished
GB Cod	Yes	Yes
GOM Cod	Yes	No
Yellowtail Flounder (GB; SNE/MA; CC/GOM)	Yes	Yes
Witch Flounder	Yes	Yes
GB Winter Flounder	Yes	Yes
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	Yes	Yes
GB/GOM White Hake	Yes	Yes
GB/GOM Pollock	Yes	Yes
GB/GOM Windowpane Flounder	Yes	Yes
SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder	Yes	No
Ocean Pout	No	Yes
Atlantic Halibut	No	Yes
Atlantic Wolffish	Unknown	Yes
Haddock & American Plaice (GB, GOM); Redfish	No	No
GOM Winter Flounder	Unknown	Unknown

GB= Georges Bank; GOM=Gulf of Maine; SNE= Southern New England; MA= MidAtlantic; CC= Cape Cod

Nature of Harvest Privilege

Eligibility: A sector is a voluntarily-formed group of at least three distinct owners that submit an operations plan for authorization to fish and to receive an allocation of the ACL for each stock, called the ACE. To qualify for membership in the Sector, each member must possess a limited access Northeast multispecies permit. Members sign a legally binding contract that commits their vessels and permits to the Sector Agreement for the time specified in the contract (one or two years).

Transferability: A sector can transfer ACE to or from another sector without restriction on an annual basis, but a permanent transfer between sectors may not occur while participating in a sector, given that permits could move from one sector to another during the fishing year.

Accumulation: There is no cap on sector allocations under Amendment 16.

Initial Allocation: Sector allocation set annually, based on members' Potential Sector Contribution (PSC), and available stock ACLs



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

Provisions for Overages: If a sector exceeds its ACE in any given year, its allocation in the subsequent year is reduced to account for the overage. To avoid this, all or a portion of a sector's ACE of any stock can be transferred to another sector at any time during the fishing year and up to two weeks into the following fishing year. Allowing transfer of ACE provides flexibility for sectors to adjust their allocations to account for unusual circumstances or to take advantage of other opportunities. Allowing the exchanges to continue for a period after the end of the fishing year provides a limited opportunity for a sector to quota balance if an ACE was exceeded. Conversely, a sector can carry up to 10% of unused ACE forward to the next fishing year. If a sector exceeds an ACE allocated to it during the previous fishing year, but disbands in the year following the overage, or otherwise does not have sufficient ACE to address the overage during the fishing year following the overage, then individual permit holders that participated in the sector during the fishing year in which the overage occurred will have their Days-at-Sea or PSC reduced to account for that overage in the subsequent fishing year.

Management

Identified Costs: To assist with the change to a new management system, NMFS will provide \$28.6M for FY2010. Funding will be used to assist with sector start-up costs; development of permit banks; cooperative research; data management; enforcement; and other aspects of the program. Additionally, NMFS is funding at-sea monitoring for 2010, supplementing coverage with the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Sectors also charge membership fees to cover the sector's operational costs.

Monitoring: Amendment 16 includes increased monitoring requirements for all Northeast multispecies vessels (sector and common pool), both at-sea and dockside. Vessels also must submit vessel monitoring system (VMS) trip declarations and weekly vessel trip reports (VTRs). A VMS catch report is required on every trip if fishing in multiple stock areas. Sectors submit weekly and yearly catch reports that include detailed landings and discards of all stocks.

Summary

Requirements of the reauthorized MSA for rebuilding stocks present a challenge for multispecies fisheries, such as the Northeast groundfish fishery. For some stocks, the most recent scientific advice recommended mortality targets that are substantially reduced from recent levels, but for other stocks it was possible for mortality targets to remain the same or even increase. The problem with mixed catch composition in a days-at-sea system is when the vessel reaches the catch limit for the stock with the lowest limit, fishing for that day is finished. In an identical situation, a fisherman with quota in a sector has opportunity to continue fishing by trading or leasing additional allocation. The key is to balance catch with quota, which is the basis of the design for this catch shares system.

In the Northeast groundfish fishery, a sector is allocated ACE for each stock. Each ACE is allocated to the sector as a whole and not to individual vessels within the sector, allowing the sector to develop its own set of rules to distribute the sector's allocation among its membership. Sectors also provide a mechanism for pooling and managing risk, fishing capacity and developing new business/fishing strategies. Vessels within the sector are allowed to pool harvesting resources and consolidate operations in fewer vessels if they desire. One of the major benefits of self-selecting sectors is that they provide incentives to self-govern, therefore, reducing the need for Council-mandated measures.



Multispecies Fishery Bulletin

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION

Vol 7 July/Aug 2010 Issue

At-Sea Monitoring FAQs

Q: Why is my vessel getting selected for observer coverage at rates greater than 38% (sector) or 30% (common pool)?

A: The at-sea monitor selection process works on a stratum level, not a vessel level. A stratum is the combination of the sector, the stock area, and the gear used (and, if the gear used is gillnet, the mesh size). Therefore, the coverage rate is randomly applied to all vessels fishing within each stratum, which could result in some vessels being selected more often than others. As the fishing year progresses, the random effects will diminish and coverage will become more even.

Q: How should observers be estimating the catch weights of discarded species?

A: At-sea monitors use handheld scales on as many tows as possible to weigh fish. While actual weights are preferred, for large volumes of catch, observers subsample a random 20% of the catch and weigh each species. This information is used to help estimate weights by species for the rest of the catch. Discards of non-groundfish species are not used in the calculation of groundfish discards.

Q: What is the Pre-Trip Vessel Safety Checklist (PTVSC)?

A: Monitors and observers are required to complete this checklist prior to the start of an observed fishing trip. Typically it involves a vessel walk through to ensure that all required safety equipment is onboard and functioning. In total, the PTVSC should take about 15 minutes to complete

and is required on every trip that carries an observer.

Q: Can information from the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Inspection be used to complete the PTVSC?

A: Yes. For instance, if the expiration date of the Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) is included in the Coast Guard report, this can be shared with the monitor/observer to complete the PTVSC.

Q: Should monitors/observers be handling EPIRBs to complete their PTVSC?

A: No. If the EPIRB expiration date cannot be derived from the CG inspection paperwork, then an inspection of the EPIRB is necessary. However, only the captain can handle the EPIRB. The observer/monitor then issues an EPIRB Visual Inspection card, which is valid for three months.

Q: What happens if an observer arrives late for a fishing trip?

A: If the observer fails to arrive at the scheduled sail time and/or place, the vessel captain should call the appropriate program manager (listed in the box on this page) to ensure that they have received the proper trip information. If the observer cannot be reached, the captain can call the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) Coordinator. During business hours, the number is 508-495-2309, and the after hours cell phone is 508-681-9104.

Q: Do fishermen have access to at-sea monitor data?

A: Electronic data can be accessed at Fish-On-Line at www.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin. For a hard copy of the monitor data, captains should fill out a Data Release Form provided and submitted by the at-sea monitor. These data will be sent out within a week upon receipt of the release form.

Q: How can fishermen provide feedback?

A: Captains can also submit feedback on monitors via Fishermen's Comment Cards, which they can obtain from the monitor.

Observer Service Provider Companies:

AIS (ASM) – 508-742-5510

AIS (NEFOP) – 774-200-1504

EWTS (ASM) – 860-223-5165

MRAG Americas (ASM) – 877-768-7121

For more information on at-sea monitoring, go to:
<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fishsamp/fsb/>

At-sea Monitoring Pre-trip Notification System Updates

On August 16, several new updates to the at-sea monitoring Pre-trip Notification System (PTNS) were implemented. An autofill feature will now make it easier and faster to complete on-line forms by automatically filling in some of the required information.

Also, trips on which gillnet gear is only being set out and not hauled can now be declared through the PTNS and will automatically receive a waiver for observer coverage.

Occasionally, captains will cancel a trip that was selected to be monitored. Another change to the PTNS enables these vessels to remain selected for monitoring until they carry an observer.

New web links were also added to the PTNS to provide additional information on how to use the system. The PTNS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet and User's Manual are both available on the PTNS homepage. In addition, there is a link on the New Trip page to a map that defines the PTNS fishing areas to assist users who may be unsure as to which region to declare into.

For more information on the PTNS, go to:
<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fishsamp/fsb/>

State of Maine Permit Bank

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is currently seeking bids for the sale of federal northeast multispecies permits. The fishing rights associated with these permits will be distributed to eligible Maine fishermen to help restore and preserve access in small rural ports.

DMR recently released a revised Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Maine Groundfish Permit Banking Program to enable a wider range of benefits to be distributed to eligible Maine fishermen.

If you would like more information on the program, please contact Togue Brawn at (207) 624-6558, or togue.brawn@maine.gov

Sector Vessel Groundfish Discard Requirements

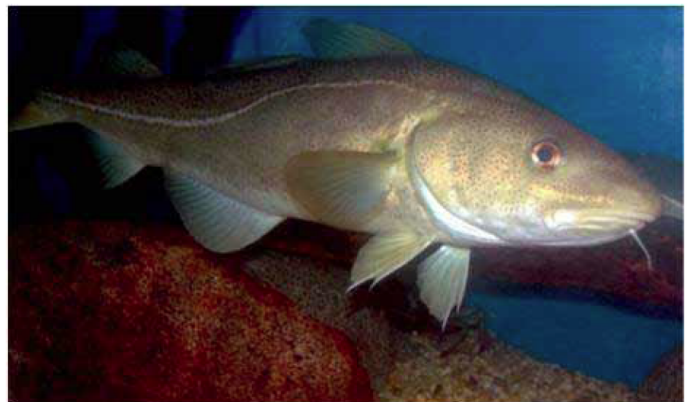
In order to reduce discarding of fish, sector vessels are required to retain all legal-sized fish of the groundfish stocks they are allowed to harvest. In addition, they are prohibited from keeping certain stocks such as ocean pout, windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolffish, or Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic winter flounder. There is a one-fish per trip limit on Atlantic halibut as well.

On board, sector vessel captains are responsible for determining legal fish sizes. NOAA Fisheries observers are responsible for recording information about the catch, including the disposition (reason for retention or discarding) of the fish as determined by the captains.

For more information about these requirements, contact NOAA Fisheries Service staff at (978) 281-9135 or your sector manager.

Current Federal Minimum Fish Sizes for Commercial Vessels

Cod	22 in	55.9 cm	Amer. plaice	14 in	35.6 cm
Haddock	18 in	45.7 cm	Atl. halibut	41 in	04.1 cm
Pollock	19 in	48.3 cm	Redfish	9 in	22.9 cm
Witch flndr	14 in	35.6 cm	Winter flndr	12 in	30.5 cm
Yt flndr	13 in	33.0 cm		(blackback)	
White hake	No min. size				



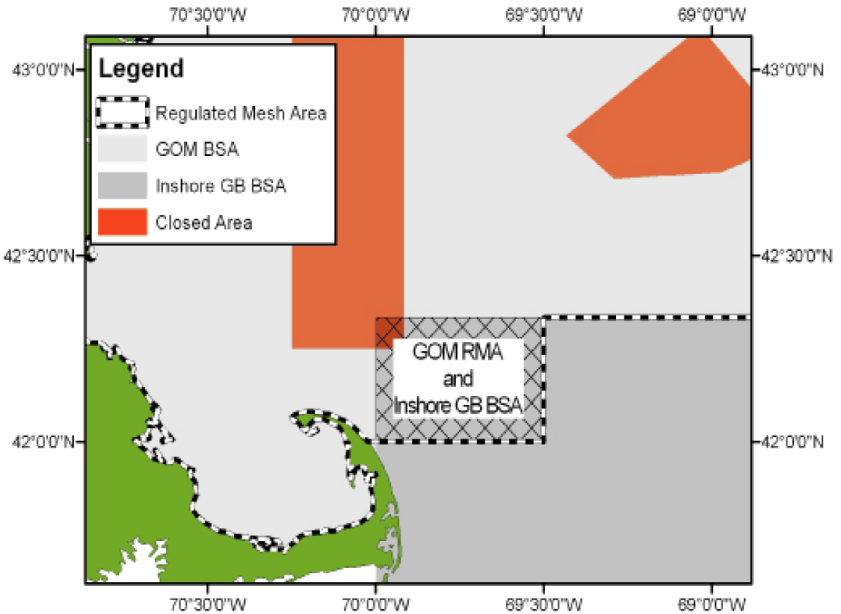
DMR RFP Submission Schedule

	Due Date
Written questions	September 14
Response to written questions	September 21
Proposal	September 28



Overlap of GOM Regulated Mesh Area and GB Broad Stock Area

The Gulf of Maine (GOM) Regulated Mesh Area (RMA) and the Georges Bank (GB) RMA are separated by the black and white dashed line. Sector vessels are eligible to use 6 inch cod ends in the GB RMA only with a haddock separator trawl or Ruhle trawl, but must use 6.5 inch cod ends in the GOM RMA. Common pool vessels must use a 6.5 inch cod end in all areas, unless fishing in the Regular B Days-at-Sea Program in the GB RMA. With the implementation of Amendment 16, four broad stock areas (BSA) were created to help NOAA Fisheries Service attribute catch to stocks prior to receipt of VTRs: GOM BSA, Inshore GB BSA, Off-shore GB BSA, and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic BSA. In the chart, the area indicated by cross-hatching shows the overlap between the GOM RMA and the Inshore GB BSA. Given that this area is part of the GOM RMA, vessels fishing in this area must comply with applicable GOM RMA gear restrictions; however, because this area is also part of the Inshore GB BSA, fish caught here will be attributed to the Inshore GB BSA.



Schedule for FY 2011 Sector Submissions

NOAA Fisheries is preparing to receive sector operation plan submissions for fishing year (FY) 2011. Due to a delay in distributing updated potential sector contribution letters to permit holders, NOAA Fisheries is extending the September 1 deadline to September 10 for sectors to submit certain portions of their FY 2011 operating plans. These include rosters and roster-dependent portions of the operations plan (permit information, rule of three, etc.), contracts (signatures, etc.) and EAs. This extension is intended to provide permit holders with additional time to make a decision of whether to join a sector for FY 2011 or to fish in the common pool.

Submission	Due Date
FY 2011 operations plan, exemption justifications	9/1/2010
FY 2011 final roster and EA plan	9/10/2010

Multispecies Fishery Bulletin (formerly Sector News) is a monthly publication providing updates on groundfish management in the Northeast. Suggestions for how we can make it better? Contact: Olivia.Rugo@noaa.gov or call 978-675-2167.



Multispecies Fishery Bulletin

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION

Vol 4: March, 2010 Issue

What Sectors Are and What they Aren't

Amendment 16 will make it possible for vessels to fish under days-at-sea (DAS) and trip limits as part of the common pool, or hard quotas under sectors.

In expanding the use of sectors, the New England Fishery Management Council intended to provide fishermen with more flexibility to decide where and how they wanted to fish to more effectively target healthy stocks and avoid stocks that were in the worst condition. Thirteen groundfish stocks are currently considered overfished.

A sector is a group of vessel permit holders who voluntarily agree to fishing measures and procedures in exchange for a share of the total catch allocated to the industry.

NOAA Fisheries Service does not consider groundfish sectors to be Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) because

- ❑ Sector vessels are not issued a federal permit nor a permanent allocation.
- ❑ A vessel owner can choose to join a sector or not, and can change his/her decision from one year to the next, and fish in another sector or in the common pool, based on what he/she considers the best opportunity at that point in time.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management

Act (MSA) requires a 2/3 majority vote in referendum before an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program can be established in New England. However, sectors are not IFQs and are explicitly exempted from the referendum requirement by the MSA. Because sectors are not considered an IFQ they are also exempt from the cost recovery requirement, which obligates the fishing industry to cover some of the administrative expenses of implementing management regulations.

Nineteen sectors have been authorized to fish in the commercial groundfish fishery, of which 17 have submitted operations plans to do so for 2010. More than half the groundfish permit holders, representing 98 percent of the historic catch, have signed up for a sector in 2010.

Fishing Opportunity Despite Low Allocations

Due to the poor condition of some groundfish stocks, allocations for these stocks are low. Sectors do not necessarily have to stop fishing once their allocation is exhausted. They have the ability to trade or transfer catch allocation to augment their initial allocations. Fishing vessels also have the ability to fish in modified Special Access Programs (SAPs), using specialized gear and/or baits to target healthy stocks and avoid stocks in the worst condition.

Will Sectors Cause Further Industry Consolidation?

Consolidation in this fishery has been occurring for many years. If there is further consolidation, it will likely be due to stock condition rather than sectors. Because the majority of groundfish stocks are considered overfished, they require further reductions in fishing mortality to ensure continued rebuilding. Yearly quotas may not be adequate to enable all current vessels to fish at historic levels.

However, as fish stocks continue to rebuild, quota levels will increase and there will be expanded opportunity for the fishing industry in the future.

Preserving Small Boat Integrity of the Fishery

NOAA Fisheries Service has allocated \$5 million to set up permit banks to help maintain the historic character and infrastructure of local fishing ports.

Permit Banks can provide an affordable means for small fishing vessels from small coastal communities operating in sectors or the common pool to secure additional catch and enhance their profitability. The agency will also collaborate with the Council

(cont'd on next page)



and the industry to identify further opportunities for preserving the traditional make up of our coastal fishing communities (e.g., ownership caps).

Sector Growing Pains

The widespread use of fishing sectors in the groundfish industry constitutes a new way of doing business for many vessel owners as well as for NOAA Fisheries Service.

Understandably in this first year of implementation, there will be some challenges. Not everything will go smoothly, but we are committed to working closely with the industry and the Council to track the social and economic implications of sectors and make adjustments as we can throughout the fishing year.

More on Monitoring Requirements for Commercial Fishery

NOAA Fisheries Service is funding at-sea monitoring in 2010, supplementing the coverage obtained with the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program.

At-sea monitors collect similar data to that of observers, with an emphasis on quantifying catch with less biological sampling. Once a vessel trip is selected, it is a mandatory requirement to accommodate the at-sea monitor.

The same vessel safety requirements apply, including US Coast Guard commercial fishing vessel safety examination decal, valid and operable Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), life raft and sufficient immersion and personal floatation devices for crew onboard.

REMINDER

Effective **May 1**, with the implementation of new groundfish regulations

Vessel Trip Reports (VTR) will be due **weekly** rather than monthly!

**** Vessel Operators Note: Pre-trip Notification: entered via web-based system 48-hrs before each trip**

Multispecies Fishery Bulletin (formerly Sector News) is a monthly publication providing updates on groundfish management in the Northeast. Suggestions for how we can make it better? Contact: Marjorie.Mooney-Seus@noaa.gov or call 978-281-9175.

To learn more about sectors, please visit our website <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>

Scheduled NOAA Fisheries Service Industry Meetings to Explain 2010 Groundfish Fishing Requirements

Tuesday, March 23 – New Bedford, MA
Days Inn Conference Center, 500 Hathaway Road, New Bedford, MA

Thursday, March 25 – Gloucester, MA
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA

Monday, March 29 – Portland, ME
Gulf of Maine Research Institute, 350 Commercial Street, Portland, ME

Thursday, April 1 – Narragansett, RI
Corless Auditorium, Watkins Building, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Narragansett Bay Campus, South Ferry Road and Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI

Thursday, April 8 – Portsmouth, NH
Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside, 250 Market Street, Portsmouth, NH

**** All meetings are from 5-7 pm, Free and Open to the Public**

YOUR DISPUTE RESOLUTION STYLE: ONBOARD

The following is a form to use concerning Personal Dispute Resolution Style. The purpose is to:

1. Have participants think about their own dispute resolution style prior to Dispute Resolution class.
2. Allow the instructor to use compiled information in class for discussion about style and situations.

Each person has a general dispute resolution style influenced by culture, family, training, age, gender, motivation, and situations (to name a few). It is important to recognize your own style and adjust as necessary to be successful in the work situation.

Please respond to the following questions.



DATE _____

YEARS OF PRIOR OBSERVER OR MONITOR EXPERIENCE? _____

- A. From the following list, check the one, two or three methods you are most apt to use in a conflict situation.

	A	Avoid the situation by leaving or pretending not to hear or other means.
	B	Change the topic or use humor.
	C	Go along with what the other person wants and suppress your own desires.
	D	Wait and allow a cool down period and then try and solve the problem.
	E	Look for alternative solutions and share these.
	F	Negotiate or bargain.
	G	Go to someone in authority to help.
	H	Be agreeable, but state what is non-negotiable such as for legal or policy reasons.
	I	Continue the communication—a good conflict can clear the air.
	J	Try to win and get your own way.
	OTHER	

B. Looking at the previous list (A-J) put the letter in the first column for the style you might use for each situation. Or, write- in something else you might do.

	1	The captain does not want to take you onboard and asks you to leave.
	2	The captain says he/she does not have time to do the safety inspection prior to departure, but can do so during steam-out.
	3	The captain says he/she does not have time to answer your trip questions prior to departure, but can do so during steam-out
	4	Two crew members are in a fight on the dock prior to departure.
	5	Two crew members are in a fight using knives on the deck at sea.
	6	The captain yells at you and says you and the government are responsible for all the problems in the fishing industry.
	7	A crew member asks you to stand someplace else.
	8	Everyone smokes cigarettes onboard except you and the smoke is making you feel not well.
	9	You ask the captain to take down the net so you can measure and he/she says it is not necessary because he/she can give you the measurements.
	10	The captain says you cannot take any photographs.

C. If you have experience prior observer or monitor experience, what methods have worked the best for you onboard. How have you adjusted your style for working onboard?

SPECIES LIST FOR TRAINING

<p>Cetaceans</p> <p>Northern Right Whale Fin Whale*</p> <p>Humpback Whale Sei Whale*</p> <p>Minke Whale Sperm Whale*</p> <p>Pilot Whales Blue Whale*</p> <p>Risso's Dolphin</p> <p>Bottlenose Dolphin</p> <p>Common Dolphin</p> <p>Atlantic White-sided Dolphin</p> <p>Harbor Porpoise</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*NEFOP/IFS Only</p>	<p>Pinnepeds</p> <p>Harbor Seal</p> <p>Grey Seal</p> <p>Harp Seal</p> <p>Hooded Seal</p> <hr/> <p>Sea Turtles</p> <p>Leatherback</p> <p>Loggerhead</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Kemp's Ridley</p>	<p>Sea Birds</p> <p>Common Loon</p> <p>Red-Throated Loon</p> <p>Greater Shearwater</p> <p>Sooty Shearwater</p> <p>Northern Fulmar</p> <p>Northern Gannet</p> <p>Great Black-backed Gull</p> <p>Herring Gull</p> <p>Thin Billed Murre</p>	
<p>Fish and Invertebrate Species</p>			
<p>Gadids</p> <p>Atlantic Cod</p> <p>Cusk</p> <p>Haddock</p> <p>Longfin Hake</p> <p>Offshore Hake</p> <p>Pollock</p> <p>Red Hake</p> <p>Silver Hake</p> <p>Spotted Hake</p> <p>White Hake</p> <p>Skates</p> <p>Barndoor Skate</p> <p>Clearnose Skate</p> <p>Little Skate</p> <p>Rosette Skate</p> <p>Smooth Skate</p> <p>Thorny Skate</p> <p>Winter Skate</p>	<p>Flounders</p> <p>American Plaice Flounder</p> <p>Atlantic Halibut</p> <p>Fourspot Flounder</p> <p>Greenland Halibut</p> <p>Summer Flounder</p> <p>Windowpane Flounder</p> <p>Winter Flounder</p> <p>Witch Flounder</p> <p>Yellowtail Flounder</p> <p>Crustaceans</p> <p>Blue Crab</p> <p>Jonah Crab</p> <p>Lady Crab</p> <p>Red Deepsea Crab</p> <p>Rock Crab</p> <p>Spider Crab (group)</p>	<p>Herrings and Mackerels</p> <p>Alewife</p> <p>American Shad</p> <p>Atlantic Herring</p> <p>Atlantic Mackerel</p> <p>Atlantic Menhaden</p> <p>Blueback Herring</p> <p>Hickory Shad</p> <p>Squids</p> <p>Atlantic Long-fin Squid</p> <p>Short-fin Squid</p>	<p>Other Species</p> <p>Armored Sea Robin</p> <p>Atlantic Hagfish</p> <p>Atlantic Sturgeon</p> <p>Atlantic Wolffish</p> <p>Beardfish</p> <p>Black Sea Bass</p> <p>Blackbelly Rosefish</p> <p>Bluefish</p> <p>Buckler Dory</p> <p>Butterfish</p> <p>Chain Dogfish</p> <p>Conger Eel</p> <p>Cunner</p> <p>Fawn Cusk-Eel</p> <p>Longhorn Sculpin</p> <p>Lumpfish</p> <p>Monkfish</p> <p>Northern Sea Robin</p> <p>Ocean Pout</p> <p>Redfish (Sebastes sp.)</p> <p>Scup</p> <p>Sea Raven</p> <p>Short-Nose Sturgeon</p> <p>Smooth Dogfish</p> <p>Spiny Dogfish</p> <p>Striped Bass</p> <p>Striped Sea Robin</p> <p>Tautog</p> <p>Wrymouth</p>
<p>Recommended Resource Sites:</p> <p>nmfs marine mammals: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/</p> <p>nmfs turtles: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/</p> <p>audubon birds: http://birds.audubon.org/birdid</p> <p>http://www.fishbase.org/</p>			