NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Sampling Branch

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

AT-SEA MONITORING PROGRAM
NEFOP TO ASM CROSS TRAINING WELCOME PACKET

Congratulations on being selected to be a part of the Northeast Fisheries At-sea Monitoring (ASM) Program. Enclosed in this Welcome Packet you will find 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 To Training & Pre-Training Checklist
II. At-sea Monitoring Job Responsibilities
III. What to Expect During Training with sample agenda
IV. Selected readings pertinent to your job duties
V. Readings and Questions Homework
VI. Dispute Resolution Style Assignment
VII. Species Identification Review Document
VIII. Regulatory Compliance Folder, NMFS Gear Request Forms, and Tablet Passcode Form

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I. WELCOME & PRE-TRAINING CHECKLIST

An essential part of being an ASM observer is being prepared and well organized. You will find a Pre-Training Checklist of all of the items and tasks that you are required to complete **prior to training**.

II. AT-SEA MONITORING JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

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

III. WHAT TO EXPECT DURING TRAINING

The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) to At-sea Monitoring (ASM) Cross Training Program is a five (5) day training course that will prepare you for your new career as an ASM observer. Included you will find a sample agenda.

IV. 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.

V. READINGS AND QUESTIONS HOMEWORK

Understanding the mechanisms in place that drives management and the oversight of the Groundfish Fishery allows the ASM observer to be a part of the system working concurrently with both the fishing and scientific community. The ASM observer is able to relay their finding within a succinct format within this homework assignment.

VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION STLYE

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.

VII. SPECIES IDENTIFICATION REVIEW DOCUMENT

This species identification document lists the major fish, marine mammals, sea birds, and sea turtles. Reviewing this document prior to training will give you a review of the commonly encountered species in the Northwest Atlantic. Please bring all species guides with you on the first day of training.

VIII. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE FOLDER REQUEST FORM

This is your opportunity to restock appropriate documents and outreach materials held in your Regulatory Compliance Folders. Please turn in this request form by 8 am on the morning of training.

FSB GEAR REQUEST FORM

This is your opportunity to restock FSB NMFS issued equipment by completing and turning in this request form by 8 am on the morning of training.

TABLET PASSCODE FORM

Completing this form allows IT staff to quickly update your Tablet and return to you in a timely manner for use during the training.

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

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

ITEM/TASK	COMPLETED? ✓
At-sea Monitor Job Responsibility Document	
What to Expect During Training with sample agenda	
Selected Readings	
Readings and Questions Homework	
Dispute Resolution Style Form	
Review Species Identifications : Fish, Marine Mammal, Sea Bird, Sea Turtle species	
• Regulatory Compliance Folder Request Form • NMFS issued Gear Request Form • Tablet Password Form & Reminders	

WHAT TO BRING TO TRAINING: DAY 1 AT 8AM

Manuals and Reference Materials:

- Observer Program Manual
- Biological Sampling Manual
- Regulatory Compliance Folder
- On-deck Reference Guides
- All Marine Mammal, Fish, Sea Bird, Sea Shore, and Sea Turtle ID Guides
- Calculator
- Pen and Pencil

Gear Certification Program:

FSB recommends that all observers bring all gear every time they come to Tech Park. The only exception is when gear has been checked within the previous 2 weeks, in which case the observer is not required to bring it again. Observers are responsible to bring these items in on the morning of Day 1 of training.

Observers are required to bring all of the following items to be TURNED IN:

Electronic Gear: Night/Weekend Electronic Support: 508-367-8256. *All trips must be uploaded prior to training.*

- Charged Tablet and accessories: **Must** have the latest version installed (Chrome)
- Charged Digital Camera and accessories
- Marel Scales (if issued) and accessories

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	▪ 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	Allow access to all safety items Posses a current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal Assist when necessary (Observers may not remove/manipulate EPIRB casings)

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
DURING FISHING ACTIVITIES		
	▪ Explain sampling duties. Offer ASM Duty Sheet	
		Allow access to:
	▪ Collect data on a haul-by-haul basis: o Times & Positions of set/haul back	Positional instruments and access to the wheelhouse
	o Wave height	
	o All kept and discard information (fish, sharks, invertebrates, and debris)	Adequate space for a sampling station
	o Kept and discard weight and disposition reason	Access to kept and discarded catch
	o Obtain actual weights (whenever possible) or obtain a subsample to estimate large catches	
	o Record lethal/non-lethal interactions with protected species (incidental takes); Including photographing incidentally taken species	Access to any protected species incidentally taken in fishing gear
	o Obtain minimal gear information (i.e.. mesh sizes, net height)	Access to gear
	o Obtain economic trip information (i.e. cost of fuel; trip supplies)	Provide accurate trip information when requested
	NOTE: Mandatory sampling protocols involve photographing, lengthing, tagging, or retaining fish species for scientific purposes	

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
WHILE A OBSERVER IS DEPLOYED ON A FISHING VESSEL		
	▪ Adhere to all vessel rules and safety precautions as are required of a crew member	Provide the observer with living quarters, meals, and amenities equal to that of a crew member
	▪ Observe a minimum of 75% of hauls, striving for 100%	Notify the observer when fishing operations are to begin and end
	▪ Take fish lengths of kept and discard species at least every other haul	Allow the observer access to kept and discarded species
	▪ Supply the following: 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)	Allow appropriate area to store gear
UPON COMPLETEION OF THE FISHING TRIP		
	▪ Offer a Fisherman's Comment Card	Voluntarily submitted
	▪ Offer a Data Release Form	Complete, sign, and submit form to the Fisheries Sampling Branch
	▪ Offer Fishermen's Comment Log	Voluntarily submitted
	▪ Meal reimbursements will not be issued by NMFS. This is the responsibility of the service provider	Contact At-sea Monitoring Service Provider

ACTIVITY	OBSERVER RESPONSIBILITIES	VESSEL RESPONSIBILITIES
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES		
	▪ 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	Assault, harass or sexually harass, intimidate or attempt to influence observers Ask observers to stand watch or help with fishing operations Interfere with or impede observer duties Fish without an observer on board the vessel after the owner or agent of the vessel has been selected to carry an observer

HOW ARE AT-SEA MONIOTRING DATA BEING USED?

OBSERVER	COLLECTED DATA	PURPOSE OF DATA
At-Sea Monitor	**Trip Data** 1. Sail/Land Date and Time 2. Port Sail/Land 3. Target Species 4. Gear Type 5. Vessel Information ▪ Vessel Name ▪ USCG DOC ▪ VTR # 6. Sector Enrollment 7. Program Code 8. Dealer	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
	Catch Data 1. Record all catch (fish, invertebrates, ghost gear, etc) ▪ 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)	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
	Gear Data 1. Trawl: ▪ Codend mesh sizes (10) ▪ Net Type/Net Name 2. Gillnet: ▪ # of nets ▪ Net Height & Length ▪ Tie downs ▪ # of pingers (if present) 3. Longline/Handline ▪ # of hooks ▪ Hook type (pattern & size) ▪ Mainline length	1. Trawl: ▪ Collected for scientific purposes; helps identify efficiency of mesh; catch-ability ▪ Aids in determining discard rate 2. Gillnet: ▪ Amount of gear being fished ▪ Type of gillnet being used ▪ Observers gear used in gear restricted areas ▪ Protected species information; affect on bycatch 3. Longline/Handline: ▪ Amount of gear being fished ▪ Efficiency of gear; affect on targeted species and bycatch
	Protected Species Data 1. Marine Mammals ▪ Photograph & ID ▪ Attach carcass tag (if dead) 2. Sea Turtles ▪ Photograph & ID ▪ Resuscitate (if comatose) 3. Sea Birds ▪ Photograph & ID ▪ Record band information (if present)	1. Bycatch information for Protected Species Branch ▪ 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 ▪ Allows for positive identification and animal condition 3. Bycatch information for Protected Species Branch ▪ Allows for positive identification and animal condition ▪ Helps track activity

OBSERVER	COLLECTED DATA	PURPOSE OF DATA
	Economic Data (per trip) 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	Provided cost information to analyze the impact of Sector Management on fishing communities before and after the implementation of Amendment 16, May 1, 2010.

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 monitor observers 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 Cross Training Program.

TRAINING TOPIC	OVERVIEW	TIMEFRAME
Species Identification	Training will review fish and other species common to the N. Atlantic. This will include: • Fish ID Exam (minimum 85%) • Marine mammal, sea bird, and sea turtle ID Exam (minimum 85%) • Species ID homework and workshops	6 hours
Targeted Fishery Training	Training will cover the following fisheries, which will include how to collect gear, haul, and economic information: • Trawl Fishery • Gillnet Fishery • Longline Fishery • Handline Fishery	6.25 hours
Catch Estimation	Training will cover in detail how ASM observers will collect catch information. This includes a combination of: • Review Lecture • Student Presentations	2.25 hours
Conflict Resolution	Training is designed to review common problems related to ASM observers and to provide them with a variety of tools to effectively deal with situations associated with a sea going occupation. This includes: • Identifying problems • Role Play/Round Robin Discussions	1.75 hours
Training Workshops	Trainees will learn hands on how to: • Identify & record gear characteristics • Use & maintain sampling gear • Use & maintain electronic reporting units • Record haul data	~8 hours

TRAINING TOPIC	OVERVIEW	TIMEFRAME
Miscellaneous Items	• Sector Program Introduction • Tablet & Digital Camera Updates • Data Quality • Falsification of Data & Decertification • Safety Updates • Mentoring Sessions • Lessons Learned • Regulatory Compliance Program Updates • Gear Certification Program Gear Review	~12 hours
NMFS Certification	Upon satisfactory completion of program • Overall 85% minimum score	**Total Training: 5 days**

* Observers must have completed the initial 15 day NEFOP certification training, a minimum of 20 sea days and have consistently high data quality before being approved to attend ASM Specialized NEFOP to ASM Cross Training. Training certifications can be found: http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/training/Observer_Training_Certifications.pdf

Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)
At-sea Monitoring Program

ASM Specialized: NEFOP to ASM Cross Training August 17-21, 2015 *(rev. 07/28/15)*

To properly prepare for this training, observers should review all issued materials, complete all assignments, and ensure all gear is available and in usable condition.
Note: The FSB Training Standards, *Participation Grade*, will be affected for observers who are not properly prepared!

WELCOME PACKET
WHAT TO HAVE COMPLETED PRIOR TO TRAINING
Section IV: Selected Readings
Section V: Readings and Questions Homework
Section VI: Fish Disposition Code Exercise
Section VII: Dispute Resolution Style Form (Email to Kit Van Meter *kitvanm@post.harvard.edu*)
Section VIII: Regulatory Compliance Folder Request Form, NMFS issued Gear Request Form and Tablet Password Form
MANUALS & GEAR LIST
WHAT TO BRING TO TRAINING: DAY 1 AT 8AM
Manuals and Reference Materials: • Observer Program Manual • Biological Sampling Manual • Regulatory Compliance Folder • On-deck Reference Guides • All Marine Mammal, Fish, Sea Bird, Sea Shore, and Sea Turtle ID Guides • Calculator • Pen and Pencil
Gear Certification Program: FSB recommends that all observers bring all gear every time they come to Tech Park. The only exception is when gear has been checked within the previous 2 weeks, in which case the observer is not required to bring it again.
Observers are required to bring all of the following items to be TURNED IN: **Electronic Gear:** Night/Weekend Electronic Support: 508-367-8256. *All trips must be uploaded prior to training.* • Charged Tablet and accessories: **Must** have the latest version installed (Chrome) • Charged Digital Camera and accessories • Marel Scales (if issued) and accessories

Training Location:
Fisheries Sampling Branch
Technology Park
25 Bernard Saint Jean Drive Falmouth MA, 02536

Training Contact:
Diana Cowan
(508)495-2283

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Sampling Branch

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
Monday: August 17, 2015	Tuesday: August 18, 2015	Wednesday: August 19, 2015	Thursday: August 20, 2015	Friday: August 21, 2015
0800 **Welcome to Training** Manual Check-In **Gear Certification Program:** Gear Drop Off	**0800** **Optional Study Time**	**0800** **Incidental Take Student Exercise in Protocols & Log/Tab** **Incidental Take Workshop**	**0800** ***INCIDENTAL TAKE EXAM***	**0800** ***ASM FINAL EXAM***
0830 **Housekeeping, Training Standards & Objectives**	**0830** ***FISH ID EXAM***			
0930 **ASM Training Tips** **ASM Job Tasks**	**0915** **Overview of ASM Paper Logs**			
0945 **Regulatory Compliance Review**	**0920** **Gillnet Fishery** **Gear and Haul Logs/Tabs** **Groundfish Sampling Workshop**: Gillnet Fishery		**0930** **Conflict Resolution**	**1100** **Mentoring**
1015 **Incident Report & Drug Awareness Review**				
1045 **Training Trip Policy**		**1100** **Individual Animal Log/Tab** **IAL Workshop**		
1100 **Data Quality**				
LUNCH (1200)	**LUNCH (1200)**	**LUNCH (1200)**	**LUNCH (1130)**	
1300 Student Evaluations				**LUNCH (1215)**
1300 **Groundfish Gear Review:** Gillnet & Trawl	**1300** **Trawl Fishery** **Gear and Haul Logs/Tabs** **Groundfish Sampling Workshop**: Trawl Fishery	**1300** **Length Frequency Log/Tab**	**1230** **Final Exam Preparation**	**1310** **Electronic Devices: Field Ready**
1345 **Fish Disposition Review**			**1300** **Inc Take Exam Review**	**1315** **GMRI EM Study**
		1330 **Sector Groundfish Upload**		
1415 **Fish ID Review** SVP Review	**1430** **Vessel & Trip Log/Tab**	**1335** **Tablet Apps & Electronic Devices Gear Cert. Review**	**1315** **Homework Reviews**	**1330** **Certified Gear Review**
1545 **Overview of the Sector Groundfish Program**	**1435** **Longline & Handline Gear Workshop** **Gear & Haul Logs/Tabs** **Multi-gear Groundfish Sampling Workshop**: Longline Fishery	**1400** **Safety Updates & Gear Review**	**1330** **Catch Estimation Group Homework Presentations** **Catch Estimation II**	**1400** **Exam & Upload Review**
1615 **Informal Q & A Session**		**1430** **Catch Estimation Group Assignments**		
	1645 **Fish Pot Gear**	**1530** **Incidental Take Review**	**1530** **Sub-Sampling Justification**	**1530** **ASM Program Conclusion**

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

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

For more information on the NE Multispecies Sector Program:

http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.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.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
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Multispecies Fishery Bulletin

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION

Vol 3: February, 2010 Issue

Introducing 'Fish-on-Line'

Anyone holding a federal fishing permit will soon be able to access vessel data via the NOAA Fisheries Service's Northeast Regional Office's web portal, 'Fish-on-Line.'

With 'Fish-on-Line' it will be possible to track landings information such as information reported to NOAA by seafood dealers, and quickly address any missing information or inaccuracies in the data submitted.

Even though data will be more accessible, data confidentially is maintained. The Personal Identification Number (PIN) protected access means that only permit holders or their representatives will be able to access vessel landings information.

Once you receive a personal "PIN" in the mail, it will be easy to access your vessel landings data. Just follow these three simple steps:

1. From your internet browser go to the 'Fish-On-Line' website: https://www.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin/.
2. Type in your Permit Number.
3. Type in your assigned PIN. If you loose or forget your PIN, you may contact our offices and your PIN will be resent to you via mail.

Questions? Contact NOAA at 978-281-9133.

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. For more information on sector management go to

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

Proposed Framework Adjustment 44 Measures

On February 1, NOAA Fisheries Service proposed regulations to implement measures in Framework Adjustment 44 (FW 44) to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and define catch levels for fishing years 2010–2012.

FW 44 measures and specifications, if approved, are expected to be implemented in conjunction with approved measures in Amendment 16 to the FMP, as well as with approved sector operations plans authorized under the FMP.

FW 44 would also modify the Gulf of Maine cod and pollock trip limits approved in Amendment 16; provide the Regional Administrator authority to implement inseason trip limit adjustments and/or differential days-at-sea (DAS) counting for any groundfish stock in order to prevent catch from exceeding the annual catch limit.

NOAA also is proposing to allocate zero trips to the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder Special Access Program (SAP) for fishing year 2010; limit the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP to the use of Category A DAS for common pool vessels; delay opening of the Eastern U.S./Canada Management Area for trawl vessels; and implement a Georges Bank yellowtail flounder trip limit of 2,500 pounds.

To view the Framework 44 Proposed Rule go to:
http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/frdoc/10/10MultiFW44PR.pdf
E-Mail comments may be submitted, identified by RIN 0648-AY29,
via the Federal eRulemaking Portal
http://www.regulations.gov
Comments must be received by March 1, 2010

Sector Enrollment for Fishing Year 2010

On December 23, 2009, NOAA Fisheries Service announced an additional opportunity for eligible Northeast multispecies permit holders to join a sector, as well as an opportunity for permit holders that had already signed a sector contract to change their sector affiliation, and set a January 22, 2010, deadline for doing so for Fishing Year (FY) 2010 (May 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011).

As a result of this additional opportunity, a total of 812 multispecies permit holders, representing 98% of the historic catch of groundfish, have enrolled in sectors for FY 2010, with 665 permit holders remaining in the common pool.

Although no additional vessels may join a sector in FY 2010, the total number of vessels currently enrolled in a sector could be reduced since these vessels still

(cont'd on page 2)

Seafood Dealer Telephone Townhall Highlights

Thirty-two people participated in the Northeast Regional Office's first telephone townhall meeting. The meeting was held on January 12 to discuss how Amendment 16 will impact seafood dealers.

Key topics of discussion included 1) the importance of on-time reporting; 2) the importance of including critical information in dealer reports (i.e., vessel trip report (VTR) serial number); 3) dockside monitoring for sectors; and 4) procedures for handling reporting discrepancies between dealer and dockside monitor data.

Why is Timely Information so important?

Each sector manager is required to complete a weekly catch report and to track how much of the sector's catch allocation has been used (i.e., Annual Catch Entitlement or ACE).

To complete these reports, sectors are dependent on timely and accurate information from dealers. NOAA also relies on dealer electronic reports to reconcile our available data with data generated by the sectors.

In order for this entire process to work efficiently, dealer reports need to be submitted on time, each Tuesday, to NOAA.

The Role of the VTR

Another key piece of information in the reporting process is the VTR. It is critical that dealer reports include an accurate VTR serial number because this number links the dealer data to the vessel that has sold the catch.

With this information NOAA can identify where fish are caught, so we can effectively monitor overall catch by management area.

Dockside Monitoring

Amendment 16 requires that sectors hire approved monitoring companies and monitoring staff to validate catch offloaded from fishing vessels.

Seafood dealers have a role in this process. They need to 1) allow monitors safe access to observe offloading, 2) provide a copy of the weighout slip/tally sheet to the monitor, and 3) allow the monitor to sign the weighout slip/tally sheet or sign the monitor's report.

Reporting Requirements at Remote Offloading Locations

Offloading could be monitored directly from the boat to a truck. In this situation, the weighout and grading procedure would be monitored and the dockside monitor would make a copy of the tally or weighout of the fish. He/she would make sure that all fish are off the vessel. The dockside monitor would also confirm that all the fish (totes) are tagged if they are going to be weighed later at a different location.

Someone essentially needs to "follow the fish" to observe both sides of the operation, whether it is the same individual or not depends on the situation.

Addressing Discrepancies in Dockside Monitor and Dealer Data

Dockside monitoring data are primarily for use by sectors and will not be used by NOAA to track catch rates. Although this information will be used by OLE to ensure accurate reporting.

While the agency, on occasion, may request these data from sectors, the onus remains on sector managers to reconcile these data for their own use.

Sector Enrollment cont'd from page 1

have the option, unless otherwise specified in a sector's operations plan, to drop out of a sector by April 30, 2010, and fish in the common pool for FY 2010.

Number of Permits Enrolled in FY 2010 Sectors

Sector Name	No. of Permits
Fixed Gear Sector	95
Northeast Coastal Communities Sector	19
Northeast Fisheries Sector 2	81
Northeast Fisheries Sector 3	81
Northeast Fisheries Sector 4	48
Northeast Fisheries Sector 5	41
Northeast Fisheries Sector 6	18
Northeast Fisheries Sector 7	27
Northeast Fisheries Sector 8	22
Northeast Fisheries Sector 9	51
Northeast Fisheries Sector 10	44
Northeast Fisheries Sector 11	48
Northeast Fisheries Sector 12	8
Northeast Fisheries Sector 13	35
Port Clyde Community Groundfish Sector	43
Sustainable Harvest Sector	129
Tri-State Sector	22
Total	812

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Sampling Branch

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

NOAA Knows...

Catch Share Programs

Rebuilding our fisheries is essential to preserving the livelihoods of fishermen, the vibrancy of our coastal communities, a sustainable supply of healthy seafood, and restoring ocean ecosystems to a healthy state. Catch share programs give fishermen a stake in the benefits of a well-managed fishery and, therefore, greater incentive to ensure effective management.

Dr Jane Lubchenco
Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

An Effective Fisheries Management Tool

Catch share programs set a biologically-based annual catch limit for each fish stock and allocate a specific portion of that catch limit to entities, such as fishermen, cooperatives, or communities.

Knowing their share is secure, fishermen can be more selective about when and how they catch their allotment. They can plan their fishing schedules in response to weather, market, and individual business conditions.

When designed correctly, catch share programs help eliminate the race to fish, reduce overcapacity and bycatch, and improve economic efficiency. They also help ensure fishermen adhere to annual catch limits because the value of their share is directly linked to the overall health of the fish stock and its habitat.

Protecting Fish Stocks

The Race to Fish — What is commonly referred to as the 'race to fish' results from management systems that simply set a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for a fishery so that all fishermen are fishing against a single quota.

Fishermen then race each other to catch as many fish as they can before the overall TAC is reached. This leads to too much equipment, unsafe fishing practices, high levels of bycatch, periodic floods of the market with fish, and more fish being sold frozen than fresh.

Increasing Share Value — The value of the fisherman's share is directly proportional to the overall health of the fish stock. A catch share fishermen has incentives to support resource conservation to maintain or increase the value of his or her share in future years.

Sustainable catch shares fisheries are a win-win situation for the fish, the ecosystem and fishermen.

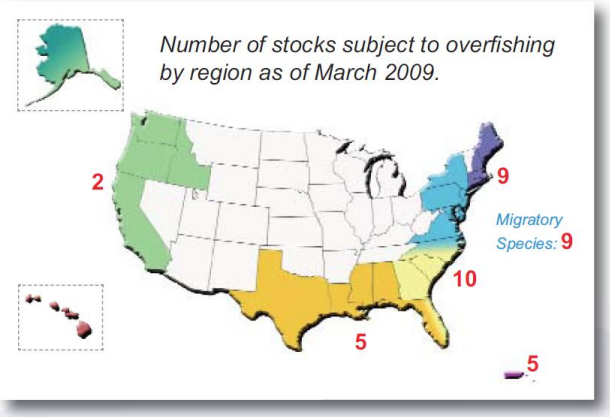
Recreational Fishing — Current catch share programs focus on commercial fishing groups. However, there has been recent interest in exploring their use for managing recreational fishing, which would involve assigning catch share privileges to individual anglers or sectors.

All fishermen benefit from the increasing fish stock and reduction in time and effort restrictions.

(continued on back)

Reducing Overfishing

There is increasing scientific evidence that catch shares are an effective method of fisheries management that produce better results than many current management systems.



State of the Fisheries — Under current management, 23% of U.S. fish stocks are overfished, meaning those stocks are depleted. In the Northeast specifically, more than 75% of groundfish stocks are overfished (NEFSC, 2008). Sixteen percent of all U.S. stocks are being fished too aggressively to be able to produce their maximum sustainable yield (Status of U.S. Fisheries, 2008).

Comparison — In a comparison of 11,135 global fisheries, implementing catch shares was found to reverse the trend toward fisheries collapse more effectively than efforts in non-catch share fisheries (Costello et al., 2008).

Design — Well-designed catch share programs will reduce overfishing, decrease bycatch and promote environmental stewardship among fisherman. Program elements include setting a sustainable annual catch limit, determining how shares are distributed, and establishing effective monitoring and enforcement systems.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and Catch Shares

- There are 12 catch share fisheries in the United States NOAA is committed to considering and implementing catch shares programs where appropriate, and is currently working to increase the number of catch share programs in the country to 16 by 2011.
- In June 2009, Under Secretary Dr. Jane Lubchenco formed a Catch Share Task Force to provide information to NOAA as it develops a strategy to encourage the consideration and implementation of catch share programs in U.S. fisheries where appropriate.
- NOAA has requested $7 million for Limited Access Privilege Programs, a type of catch share and $18.6 million to help transition the New England groundfish fishery to a sector-based catch share system.

To learn more about Catch Shares, visit http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/domes_fish/catchshare/index.htm.

To learn more about NOAA, visit http://www.noaa.gov.

Current Catch Share Programs

Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog
Wreckfish
Halibut & Sablefish
Western Alaska Community Development Quota
Bering Sea AFA Pollock Cooperatives
Pacific Sablefish Permit Stacking
Georges Bank Cod Hook Gear Sector
Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector
Bering Sea King & Tanner Crab
Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota
Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Pilot
Bering Sea Groundfish (Non-Pollock) Cooperatives

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE FACT SHEET

Proposed Rule for Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

The following is a summary of NOAA Fisheries Service's proposed rule, which would implement measures for the Northeast (NE) multispecies (groundfish) fishery proposed in Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP), developed by the New England Fishery Management Council. This rule also proposes revisions to regulations that are not specifically identified in Amendment 16, but that are necessary to effectively implement the provisions in Amendment 16, or to correct errors in, or clarify, existing provisions. The proposed measures would take effect on May 1, 2010. Of note are measures to address new requirements under the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, expansion of the use of fishing sectors and for those not in fishing sectors modifications to the Days-at-Sea (DAS) program. A brief description of the proposed management measures follows.

Amendment 16 includes measures to adjust the level of fishing mortality to avoid overfishing and continue to rebuild overfished stocks. New rebuilding programs are proposed for witch flounder, Georges Bank (GB) winter flounder, northern windowpane flounder and pollock, which are now considered overfished.

Incorporation of Atlantic Wolffish

Atlantic wolffish also was recently determined to be overfished. Amendment 16 would add this species to the groundfish FMP, including management measures for rebuilding the stock.

Sector Requirements

Amendment 16 proposes to establish 17 new sectors and to modify two existing sectors. A sector is a group of vessel permit holders who voluntarily agree to fishing restrictions and procedures in exchange for a share of the total catch allocated to the industry.

- ❑ A sector would be required to be composed of at least 3 persons, none of whom have an ownership interest in the other 2 persons' businesses in the sector.
- ❑ Sectors would receive allocations for most groundfish stocks based on participating vessel landing histories (1996-2006). For vessels that previously signed up to participate in either of the existing 2 sectors, their contributions towards a sector's allocation of GB cod would be based on their historic landings (1996-2001).
- ❑ Sectors would have the ability to trade stock allocations with other sectors.
- ❑ All would be exempt from existing regulations:
  - » Trip limits;
  - » Groundfish DAS restrictions;
  - » GB Seasonal Closure Area;
  - » Portions of Gulf of Maine (GOM) Rolling Closure Areas; and
  - » Some mesh requirements when using selective gear on GB.
- ❑ Sectors may request exemptions from other restrictions on a case-by-case basis.

Non-Sector Vessel Requirements (Common Pool Vessels)

Many of the measures that were in effect in 2009 will continue, along with a proposed suite of new measures, including:

- ❑ A 32% reduction in DAS from the interim action 2009 allocations and the counting of all days fished in 24-hour increments;
- ❑ Restricted gear areas where fishing is only allowed using specific gear to minimize catch of overfished stocks, particularly flatfish species; and
- ❑ Increased trip limits for GOM and GB cod, and Cape Cod (CC)/GOM, GB and Southern New England (SNE)/Mid-Atlantic (MA) yellowtail flounder stocks.

NOTE: a subsequent action by the Council, Framework 44, proposes to maintain the existing GOM cod trip limits at the current levels rather than increase them.

Requirements for All Groundfish Vessels

- ❑ A prohibition on landing of ocean pout, windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolfish, and SNE/MA winter flounder
- ❑ Only 1 Atlantic halibut would be allowed to be treatined per fishing trip (status quo)
- ❑ Extensive monitoring requirements, including
  - » At-sea monitoring (optional in 2010 and 2011, but required in 2012) for sector vessels and continuation of observer program for common pool; and
  - » Dockside monitoring of 50% of the sector fishing trips that occur in fishing year 2010, 20% in 2011, and 20% for both sectors and the common pool thereafter.

Mitigation Measures

In order to provide further fishing opportunities to target healthy groundfish stocks the following measures are also proposed:

- ❑ Expanded Closed Area (CA) I Hook Gear Haddock Special Access Area (SAP), in both season and area;
- ❑ Modified CA II Yellowtail SAP, so haddock can be targeted;
- ❑ Renewal of the Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP; and
- ❑ Reduced minimum size for haddock from 19 to 18 inches for both commercial and recreational fisheries.

Proposed Recreational Measures

If Amendment 16 is approved, the recreational sector would receive an allocation of GOM cod and haddock. The allocation is based on the recreational catch between fishing years 2001-2006. The April closed season for the recreational fishery also would be extended by 2 weeks to reduce fishing mortality on GOM cod.

Annual Catch Limits (ACLs)

The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act (2006) requires fishery management councils to establish a mechanism for specifying ACLs for each managed fishery, to prevent overfishing. Along with allocating an annual catch to the NE multispecies directed groundfish and recreational fisheries, Amendment 16 would distribute ACLs for each groundfish stock among other fisheries that catch groundfish as bycatch, including the Atlantic sea scallop fishery, the Atlantic herring fishery and state-waters fisheries.

Accountability Measures (AMs)

In compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act, this rule would establish AMs for commercial and recreational fisheries to prevent ACLs from being exceeded and to address ACL overages should they occur as follows:

Commercial Vessels in a Sector

- ❑ Any overages at the end of the fishing year would be deducted from the sector's allocation during the subsequent fishing year.
  - » During the fishing year, If the sector doesn't have sufficient allocation to cover an overage, the sector would be prohibited from fishing in the stock area associated with the overage until it could acquire sufficient allocation from other sectors to cover the overage. These allocations are referred to as annual catch entitlement, or ACE.
  - » If the sector disbands at the end of the fishing year, individual participating vessels would have their contribution toward another sector decreased in the subsequent year, if they enter another sector, or have their DAS reduced, proportionate to their share of the overage, if they fish in the common pool.

Common Pool Vessels

- ❑ In 2010 and 2011, differential DAS counting would be implemented during the year following an ACL overage; and
- ❑ In 2012 and beyond, trimester quotas for each stock, inseason trip limit adjustments, triggered closed areas, and quota deductions following an ACL overage would be implemented.

Recreational Fishery

- ❑ Adjustments to season, minimum size, and/or bag limits would be developed by NOAA Fisheries Service in consultation with the Council during the year following an ACL overage.

Dual Ownership of Limited Access (LA) NE Multispecies and Atlantic Sea Scallop Permits

The proposed measure would allow LA scallop permit holders to hold a LA NE multispecies permit simultaneously, and vice versa.

GOM Haddock Gillnet Pilot Program

Amendment 16 proposes a pilot program to allow non-sector vessels to fish with 6-inch mesh stand-up sink gillnets in the GOM from January 1 through April 30 of each year, provided Day Gillnet vessels do not deploy more than 30 nets per trip and the vessel carries on board a letter of authorization issued by the Regional Administrator, among other provisions.

DAS Leasing and Transfer Program Modifications

Several revisions to the DAS Leasing and Transfer Programs are proposed in Amendment 16, which are intended to eliminate unnecessary administrative procedures that would impede participation in these programs. These revisions include eliminating the DAS leasing cap in the DAS Leasing Program, and the DAS conservation tax in the DAS Transfer Program and allowing permits currently held in confirmation of permit history (CPH) to participate in both programs.

Minimum Fish Size Adjustment for Atlantic Halibut

Amendment 16 proposes to increase the minimum fish size for Atlantic halibut from 36 to 41 inches for both commercial and recreational fisheries.

Suspended Winter Flounder SAP

Amendment 16 proposes to suspend the SNE/MA SAP until the winter flounder stock condition improves. The SAP currently allows LA groundfish vessels fishing for summer flounder to possess and land up to 200 pounds of winter flounder without using a NE multispecies DAS.

To Submit Comments

You may submit comments, identified by 0648-AW72, by any of the following methods:

Electronic submissions: Submit all electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal:
http://www.regulations.gov

Fax: (978) 281-9135

Mail: Paper, disk, or CD-ROM comments should be sent to
Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Please mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on the Proposed Rule for NE Multispecies Amendment 16."

Questions from the Readings

NOAA Fisheries Service Fact Sheet. *Commercial Fisheries News.*

1. What species did the Groundfish Assessment Review Meetings find to be overfished?

2. If overages in the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) occur what happens to with respect to vessels in a sector?

3. What factors were used in determining allocations of George's Bank Cod to sector vessels?

Multispecies Fishery Bulletin. Vol 3. Feb. 2010.

4. Why is it important for your collected data to be turned in quickly to sector managers?

Seafood Dealer's Guide to Multispecies Sector Management. NOAA Fisheries Service.

5. What is the definition of a sector?

Catch Shares: A Fisheries Management Tool

6. What does the "Race to Fish" result from and what does it lead too?

7. Name 5 of the current catch share programs operating currently in the United States.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Sampling Branch

AT SEA MONITOR RECERTIFICATION DISPUTE RESOLUTION 2015 FORM (rev. 02/13/15)

In preparation for training, please share your experiences and concern related to the past year. Your responses will be compiled without names and will also be used for updating. Please e-mail to kitvanm@post.harvard.edu in advance or submit the first morning of training.

1. What factors contribute to your work being accurate, safe and dispute free?

2. How does your being an observer onboard benefit the fishermen?

3. How does having an observer onboard make fishing and being a fisherman more difficult?

4. What have been your most serious dispute situations over the past year?

5. What dispute situations or concerns would you like discussed today?

6. What do you wish had been discussed in the initial dispute resolution class that was not?

Number of years as a monitor/observer _____ date _____

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Sampling Branch

SPECIES LIST FOR TRAINING

Cetaceans

Northern Right Whale
Humpback Whale
Minke Whale
Pilot Whales
Risso's Dolphin
Bottlenose Dolphin
Common Dolphin
Atlantic White-sided Dolphin
Harbor Porpoise
Fin Whale*
Sei Whale*
Sperm Whale*
Blue Whale*

*NEFOP/IFS Only

Pinnepeds

Harbor Seal
Grey Seal
Harp Seal
Hooded Seal

Sea Turtles

Leatherback
Loggerhead
Green
Kemp's Ridley

Sea Birds

Common Loon
Red-Throated Loon
Greater Shearwater
Sooty Shearwater
Northern Fulmar
Northern Gannet
Great Black-backed Gull
Herring Gull
Thin Billed Murre

Fish and Invertebrate Species

Gadids

Atlantic Cod
Cusk
Haddock
Longfin Hake
Offshore Hake
Pollock
Red Hake
Silver Hake
Spotted Hake
White Hake

Flounders

American Plaice Flounder
Atlantic Halibut
Fourspot Flounder
Greenland Halibut
Summer Flounder
Windowpane Flounder
Winter Flounder
Witch Flounder
Yellowtail Flounder

Herrings and Mackerels

Alewife
American Shad
Atlantic Herring
Atlantic Mackerel
Atlantic Menhaden
Blueback Herring
Hickory Shad

Other Species

Armored Sea Robin
Atlantic Hagfish
Atlantic Sturgeon
Atlantic Wolffish
Beardfish
Black Sea Bass
Blackbelly Rosefish
Bluefish
Buckler Dory
Butterfish
Chain Dogfish
Conger Eel
Cunner
Fawn Cusk-Eel
Longhorn Sculpin
Lumpfish
Monkfish
Northern Sea Robin
Ocean Pout
Redfish (Sebastes sp.)
Scup
Sea Raven
Short-Nose Sturgeon
Smooth Dogfish
Spiny Dogfish
Striped Bass
Striped Sea Robin
Tautog
Wrymouth

Skates

Barndoor Skate
Clearnose Skate
Little Skate
Rosette Skate
Smooth Skate
Thorny Skate
Winter Skate

Crustaceans

Blue Crab
Jonah Crab
Lady Crab
Red Deepsea Crab
Rock Crab
Spider Crab (group)

Squids

Atlantic Long-fin Squid
Short-fin Squid

Recommended Resource Sites:
nmfs marine mammals: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/
nmfs turtles: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/turtles/
audubon birds: http://birds.audubon.org/birdid
http://www.fishbase.org/