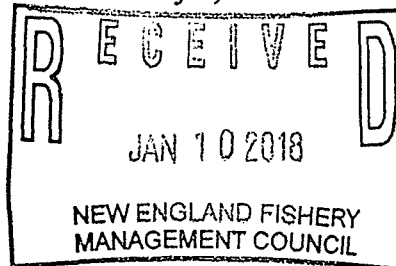


# CORRESPONDENCE

Kevin M. Scola  
P.O. Box 1392  
Marshfield, MA 02050

Attn... Dr. John Quinn & Tom Nies  
New England fisheries management Council  
50 Water St.  
Newburyport, MA 01950

January 3, 2018



Re. Comment & suggested proposal on recreational measures for Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock.

Dear Tom and John

I would like to take this moment to express my concern & opinion about the upcoming (2018) recreational Cod & Haddock season in the Gulf of Maine .

The Gulf of Maine recreational cod fishery was put at 0 catch because of suspicion by N.M.F.S. of high mortality rate ( 80 – 90% ) within the industry and low stock assessment. I know this to be true, because Pat Kurkel told it directly to me at a meeting years ago. I almost fell off my chair when she said that & told her that it was not more than 10 - 15%. She said that was “anecdotal “evidence “ and couldn't be considered!

Well you now have scientific evidence by the division of Marine fisheries & N.M.F.S. surveys that is not the case. The scientific evidence and best available science shows that it is between 10 and 15% .

Knowing this I would like to see a daily bag limit of 5 codfish per-person per day with no closed season. Given that the recreational allocation is at 154 metric tons and that the effort has decreased dramatically, would also support this suggestion.

Considering further that the haddock population is healthy and fully recovered I would suggest that the haddock daily bag limit be set at 15 per person as well with no closed season.

1.

jc 1/10/18

I have heard that according to your survey and data that there is an increase in effort. Well, gentlemen, this is absolutely not true. I spent quite a few days on the water & honestly never see a boat most days. I know you view this as anecdotal evidence but it's true.

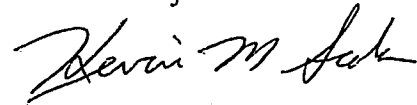
How we ever got to here from there is beyond me.! There is such a flip-flop, and mismanagement going on, that it leads to strong suspicion to coercion & unethical practices, not to mention conflict of interest.

As evidence to this. Considered that in the Gulf of Maine recreational fishery involving charter boats and head boats we have 1. Seasonal closed areas, 2. Year-round closed areas, 3. Closed seasons & 4. Last but not least a year round zero bag limit on codfish!! All this while the Georges Banks, recreational fishery involving charter boats and head boats has 1. NO closed areas 2. NO year-round closed areas, 3. NO closed seasons & last but not least an unlimited codfish catch !!

When you consider that the Georges Banks stock is in far worse shape than the Gulf of Maine stock it almost sounds so ridiculous that it can't be true. But as we all know it is ! This is not good conservation or management when you also consider that evidence proves these two stocks to intermix. You are adversely burdening & affecting one area, while rewarding another area with the codfish population paying a heavy price, At the very least both areas should be under the same conservation effort!

Don't you think that it is about time that we change this mismanagement in a positive way? It is long overdue.

Sincerely



Kevin M. Scola  
F / V Survival  
F / V Ashley month

C.C Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281-9315

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>  
Date Issued: 12/22/2017

## Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass 2018 Commercial Quotas and Recreational Harvest Limits

*Effective Date: January 1, 2018*



We have published a final rule that implements the following measures:

1. Revised 2018 scup (porgy) commercial and recreational catch limits;
2. A commercial summer flounder (fluke) accountability measure that adjusts the 2018 annual catch target and quota because of a prior year overage;
3. Revised 2018 summer flounder state quotas to account for the adjusted quota; and
4. A continuation of the commercial summer flounder closure in Delaware in 2018.

The 2018 black sea bass catch limits are unchanged from those implemented last year but are repeated here for ease of reference.

### Revised Scup Specifications

#### **2018-2019 Scup Specifications, in millions of pounds.**

	2018	2019*
Commercial Annual Catch Limit	30.53	28.42
Commercial Annual Catch Target	28.42	28.42
Commercial Quota	23.98	23.98
Recreational Annual Catch Limit	8.61	8.01
Recreational Annual Catch Target	8.01	8.01
Recreational Harvest Limit	7.37	7.37

\* Preliminary, final 2019 specifications incorporating any overages will be announced in late 2018.

#### **Scup initial commercial quota allocations for 2018 and Initial Trip Limits, in pounds.**

Season	Percent Share	Quota <sup>1</sup>	Possession Limits (per trip) <sup>2</sup>
Winter I	45.11	10,820,000	50,000
Summer	38.95	9,340,986	--
Winter II	15.94	3,822,816	12,000
Total	100.0	23,983,802	

<sup>1</sup>There were no applicable overages through 10/31/17.

<sup>2</sup>The Winter I possession limit will drop to 1,000 lb upon attainment of 80 percent of that period's allocation. The Winter II possession limit may be adjusted (in association with a transfer of unused Winter I quota to the Winter II period) via notification in the *Federal Register*.

## Summer Flounder Specifications

### **Commercial Summer Flounder Quota Adjustment**

In 2016, estimated discards were higher than expected, resulting in the annual catch limit being exceeded. The commercial summer flounder accountability measure requires that the amount of the total commercial overage (i.e., discards and landings) be deducted from a subsequent year's catch target. As such, the 2018 annual catch target is reduced by **191,218 lb.** Using the projected discards for 2018, the final 2018 commercial summer flounder quota is **6,436,120 lb.** The revised 2018 quota is still 13.7 percent higher than that in place for 2017.

### **Commercial Summer Flounder State Quotas**

To account for this adjusted 2018 quota, as well as any other overages incurred by individual states, we've outlined updated 2018 flounder state quotas in the table below.

#### **2018 State-By-State Commercial Summer Flounder Quotas, in pounds**

	FMP Percent Share	2018 Initial Quota	2018 Adjusted Quota (2016 ACL overage deducted)	2017 Preliminary Overages <sup>1</sup>	Adjusted 2018 Quota, Less Overages <sup>2</sup>
Maine	0.04756	3,152	3,061	0	3,061
New Hampshire	0.00046	30	30	0	30
Massachusetts	6.82046	451,998	438,973	37,816	401,157
Rhode Island	15.68298	1,039,326	1,009,375	13,002	996,373
Connecticut	2.25708	149,579	145,268	0	145,268
New York	7.64699	506,773	492,169	0	492,169
New Jersey	16.72499	1,108,381	1,076,440	0	1,076,440
Delaware	0.01779	1,179	1,145	49,638	-48,493
Maryland	2.0391	135,133	131,239	0	131,239
Virginia	21.31676	1,412,682	1,371,972	0	1,371,972
North Carolina	27.44584	1,818,862	1,766,447	0	1,766,447
Total	100	6,627,096	6,436,120	0	6,384,158

<sup>1</sup>2017 quota overage is determined through comparison of landings for January through October 2017 plus any landings in 2016 in excess of the 2016 quota that were not previously addressed in the 2017 quota specifications.

<sup>2</sup>Total quota is the sum of all states having allocation. A state with a negative number has an allocation of zero (0).

### **Delaware Commercial Summer Flounder Closure**

The amount of overharvest from previous years is again greater than the amount of commercial quota allocated to Delaware for 2018. As a result, there is no quota available for 2018 in Delaware and the commercial fishery is closed. Effective January 1, 2018, landings of summer flounder in Delaware by vessels holding commercial Federal summer flounder permits are prohibited for the 2018 calendar year. If a quota transfer occurs and the commercial fishery in Delaware is opened, we will announce the changes in the *Federal Register* and notify you in another fishery bulletin.

### **Black Sea Bass Specifications**

The current 2018 black sea bass specifications have not changed since they were approved as projected last May 2017.

#### **2018 Black Sea Bass Specifications, in millions of pounds.**

	2018
Commercial Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target	4.35
Commercial Quota	3.52
Recreational Annual Catch Limit and Annual Catch Target	4.59
Recreational Harvest Limit	3.66

### **Recreational Fishing Measures**

The management measures for the recreational summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries will be finalized through a separate rulemaking in the spring of 2018. We will notify you with another bulletin when they are complete.



**MID-ATLANTIC** FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL

**Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council**

800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901  
Phone: 302-674-2331 | FAX: 302-674-5399 | www.mafmc.org  
Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman  
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

December 15, 2017

Tom Nies  
Executive Director  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street, Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950



Dear Mr. Nies, *Tom* :

The modifications to the southern windowpane flounder accountability measures (AMs) recently approved by the New England Council should reduce the economic impacts of these AMs on fisheries managed by the Mid-Atlantic Council. However, even with these modification, the AMs may still be problematic for fisheries managed by both of our Councils.

As you are aware, southern windowpane flounder are not overfished, overfishing is not occurring, and survey indices suggest that stock size has been increasing since the mid-1990s. Overfishing has not occurred since 2006 despite recent ABC and ACL overages. In addition, possession of windowpane flounder is prohibited. There is no economic value to this stock and it is not targeted.

My understanding is that GARFO staff, working in collaboration with the groundfish PDT, have completed much of the analysis needed to support managing southern windowpane flounder as an ecosystem component. Managing southern windowpane flounder in this way would remove the need for AMs and may not have negative impacts for the stock. I am aware the that the New England Council narrowly decided against including an amendment to manage southern windowpane flounder as an ecosystem component among their 2018 priorities, despite the fact that much of the necessary analysis is already complete. If the New England Council were to reconsider this decision, I am willing to offer the support of my staff in development of the amendment.

Sincerely,

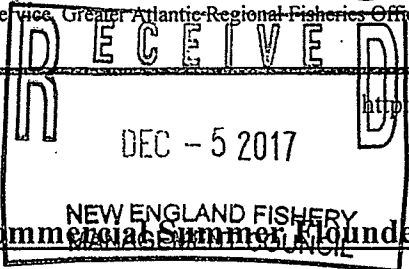
Christopher M. Moore, PhD.  
Executive Director, MAFMC

Cc: Luisi, Elliot, Nies, Beaty



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930



For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281-9315

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

Date Issued: 11/30/2017

## New Jersey Commercial Summer Flounder Fishery Closure

*Effective Date: November 30, 2017*

The 2017 commercial summer flounder quota allocated to New Jersey has been harvested. Effective November 30, 2017, fishing vessels issued a Federal moratorium permit for the summer flounder fishery may no longer land summer flounder in New Jersey for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year. This closure follows the State of New Jersey's closure of its commercial summer flounder fishery to state permitted vessels and dealers, effective on November 25, 2017.

Dealers issued Federal dealer permits for summer flounder may not purchase summer flounder from vessels that land in New Jersey for the remainder of the calendar year. Vessel owners issued Federal permits must continue to complete and submit vessel logbooks for all other species landed. Federally permitted dealers must also continue to report all fish purchases from any vessel.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*





# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

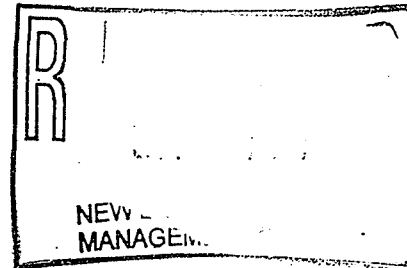
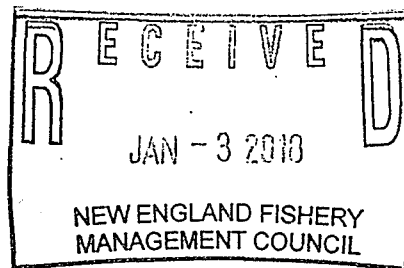
NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281 – 9315

[www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov)  
Date Issued: 12/28/2017

## Northeast Multispecies Common Pool Vessels Possession Prohibition for Georges Bank Cod *Reminder*

Effective 0001 hours, January 1, 2018, statistical areas 521, 522, 525, and 561 will reopen to common pool vessels. However, common pool vessels are still prohibited from possessing Georges Bank cod for the remainder of the fishing year, through April 30, 2018. This includes cod caught inshore and offshore Georges Bank as well as Southern New England. We are prohibiting cod possession to prevent an overage of the annual catch limit.



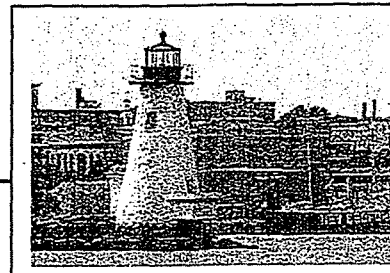
*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*

**IX NORTHEAST FISHERY SECTOR, INC.**

**NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740**

**Office: (508) 990.2800**

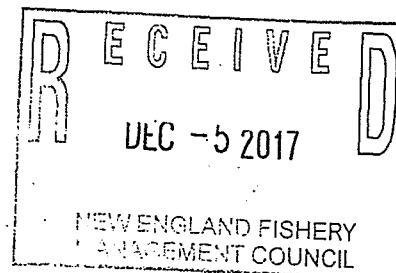
**Fax: (508) 990.2899**



December 2, 2017

Via Regular Mail and email [john.bullard@noaa.gov](mailto:john.bullard@noaa.gov)

Mr. John K. Bullard  
Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276



RE: Sector IX Operation Plan – Approval Withdrawal

Dear Mr. Bullard,

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 20, 2017 through which advises that you have made a determination that Northeast Fishery Sector IX ("Sector IX") and its members are not in compliance with the Sector IX Management Plan. You further state that the continuation of the operations plan will undermine the fishing mortality objectives of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Based upon these findings, you have decided to withdraw your past approval of the 2017-2018 Sector IX Management Plan. Sector IX is disappointed in this determination since it forces a complete shutdown of the sector for an undetermined period of time leading to severe collateral consequences - disrupting the lives of crew members and numerous shore based support businesses. Sector IX strongly believes that your initial determination was based upon incomplete information and respectfully asks that you reconsider your position.

cc 12/8/17

As an initial matter, Sector IX agrees with your policy statement that accurate reporting, internal accountability and organizational integrity are core principals of the sector management system. The sector also agrees that the past actions of Mr. Carlos Rafael violated these core principals. Please know that this letter is sent on behalf of the Sector as a whole. It should not be interpreted as condoning or sanctioning the past criminal actions by Mr. Rafael.

Sector IX is not in agreement with your determination that currently Sector IX and its members are not in compliance with the Sector IX Management Plan or these principals. By this letter we will reply<sup>1</sup> to the specific areas of concern set forth in your letter to the Sector dated November 20, 2017 and the Interim Final Rule as published in the Federal Register on November 22, 2017.

The Interim Final Rule dated November 17, 2017 (document NOAA-MNFS-2017-0016) indicates that the Sector has not provided sufficient background information about the new Board members that would help NOAA assess the independence and ability to govern the Sector in a manner that ensures compliance. We highlight that the identity of the new Board was previously disclosed to your office and we believed that same Board Members were previously found to be appropriate candidates when the Sector IX Plan was amended sometime back in June 2017. Additionally, during the October 26, 2017 meeting, the Board introduced themselves to your staff. At that meeting, the Board never had any indication that NOAA had questions or concerns about their qualifications or commitment to the Sector. Had such concerns been voiced, they could have been immediately addressed.

In response to the concerns raised in the November Interim Final Rule, Sector IX informs your office that it has undergone substantial changes over the past six months appointing new officers, a new Board of Directors and establishing an Enforcement Committee. For your quick reference and in response to your concern regarding the Board's background, qualifications and commitment to effect change, attached please find short biographies of the current Board Members. As you know, the new Board is almost completely different from the previous Board. None of the Board members are affiliated with any Sector member. They all have extensive experience and diverse working knowledge of the commercial fishing industry and New Bedford's Working Waterfront. The Board members come from the fields of academia, accounting, fuel suppliers, gear suppliers and the fish auction. The new Board is confident in its ability to be independent when governing the Sector. The Board recognizes and appreciates the importance of Sector IX to the Port of New Bedford and it is committed to the individuals and businesses who are dependent upon the health of the Sector to provide for their families. **This Board is willing to reshape the Sector for the good of the community and the industry.** The Board invites you to come to New Bedford to sit with the Board so that you can get to know the individual members to personally express any concerns you have and to provide guidance to the

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<sup>1</sup> Sector IX will also submit formal comments on the Interim Final Rule (document NOAA-MNFS-2017-0016) under separate cover.

Board so that they can help the many people whose lives have been harmed by the interim ruling. We respectfully ask that this meeting happen as soon as possible so that the hard working people dependent upon Sector IX can get back to work before Christmas.

As you review this situation, we also point out that your November 20, 2017 determination overlooks the significant changes implemented by the new Board, including updated reporting protocols applicable to all vessels enrolled in Sector IX. As your team knows, since June 1, 2017 (i) all Sector IX vessels have been required to land their catch at the Whaling City Seafood Display Auction, (ii) the vessels must hail their catch to the auction before any catch is unloaded and most importantly (iii) the Auction is now the Buyer reporting entity. These changes are aimed at breaking the past comingled reporting chain of both the Seller and Buyer which allowed for the past criminal activity of Mr. Rafael. Contrary to the position taken by NOAA in the Interim Final Rule dated November 17, 2017 (document NOAA-MNFS-2017-0016<sup>2</sup>), these changes were previously presented to your staff and were openly discussed with them during the October 26, 2017 meeting. At the meeting, the Board asked your staff for its input and thoughts on any other style operation plan changes it could think of to try to improve the operational aspect of the sector.

Additionally, we advise that Sector IX continues to undergo changes such as undertaking efforts to relocate its office and is also actively formulating a plan of transition to allow the Board to accept the resignation of the current manager.

Your office seems to believe that Sector IX has not taken any sector operation plan measures in response to Mr. Rafael's criminal activity<sup>3</sup>. This position is concerning as this topic was thoroughly discussed by the Board and your staff during the October 26, 2017 meeting. To put this issue in perspective, Sector IX (like your office) has always taken the position that it was prudent not to take any enforcement style action against Mr. Rafael (or members he is associated with) until the resolution of the criminal action. This position was reassessed when the New England Fisheries Management Council on September 27, 2017 passed a resolution asking your office to immediately enforce sector regulations and the Sector IX operations plan.

Following the September 27, 2017 action by the Council, the Board and the Enforcement Committee has undertaken efforts to address this unprecedented situation. We report that the Committee has reviewed the public record and has been conducting an investigation to (i) account for past unreported and/or misreported catch amounts (by both species, amount and

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<sup>2</sup> The actual text reads: "However, the Board of Directors indicated that no additional changes have been made to the operations of the sector beyond what was described in the May 30, 2017, letter."

<sup>3</sup> The actual text from the Interim Final Rule dated November 17, 2017 (document NOAA-MNFS-2017-0016) reads: "Nor has there been any indication that the Board, Enforcement Committee, or Manager have taken any sector operations plan measures to address any breach such as imposing or putting in place any liquidated damages, fine, stop fishing order, expulsion, or a requirement to post a bond, which are potential actions included in the NEFS 9's operation plan."

location of catch) to quantify and understand the effects on the Sector ACE, (ii) develop recommendations for additional changes to reporting methods which have been shown by past events as needing improvement, and (iii) assess the appropriate penalty and/or sanctions against Mr. Rafael for his admitted past criminal activities which amount to a violation of the Sector IX Management Plan. The Committee was and will continue to compile a report which will serve as the factual basis for the actions that the Enforcement Committee deems appropriate. Having such a factual basis is critical to being able to ensure that any penalties and/or sanctions which are assessed are capable of withstanding appeals and challenges from Mr. Rafael if he chooses to exercise his arbitration rights under the Sector IX Management Plan. Additionally, the Board and Enforcement Committee is trying to devise the appropriate response in a way that should a monetary fine be levied against Mr. Rafael, it does not result in harm to others and an indirect benefit to Mr. Rafael's other corporations<sup>4</sup>.

It is also important to highlight that Sector IX through its Enforcement Committee made a deliberate effort not to commence this investigation/accounting in a vacuum. It had been working directly with your staff in this regard and specifically discussed this topic with your staff during the October 26, 2017 meeting in Gloucester. The Board and your team agreed that the next step should be a follow up meeting in December. The lines of communication were open. The Enforcement Committee and Sector IX Board, as a whole, believed in good faith that it was in all parties' best interest to involve your office actively in these deliberations, since it would be the most efficient way to have Sector IX execute its downstream contractual duties to its members while at the same time fulfilling its upstream regulatory obligations to the NOAA. Again, Sector IX currently finds itself in an unprecedented situation and believed that working cooperatively with your staff and seeking its counsel in certain areas was the best course of action.

To try to erase any misunderstanding or ambiguity as to what the Sector IX Board of Directors and Enforcement Committee has been doing to address the situation caused by Mr. Rafael, we provide for your quick review copies of the agenda from the October 26, 2017 meeting as well as the minutes to that meeting. The fundamental purpose of the meeting was to start a dialogue of coordination between the Sector IX Enforcement Committee and your staff and to get feedback from your staff on sector operational and process issues. Specifically, what was discussed was:

- Introduction of Current/New Sector IX Board Members
- Discussion on May 30, 2017 correspondence

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<sup>4</sup> Section 10.12 of the Sector IX Management Plan and Agreement provides that "where a member's breach causes one or more other members to harvest less than their harvest share, damages awarded to the sector under this provision shall first be distributed *pro rata* among the members whose harvest share was reduced, ..." Mr. Rafael controls all of the member organizations and vessel which hold Sector IX harvest share.

- Coordinating actions going forward on Enforcement Committee efforts
- Open discussion/dialogue of above – and application of past learning lessons going forward, and
- Walk through by NMFS on any outstanding issues NMFS may have with sector operation/processes

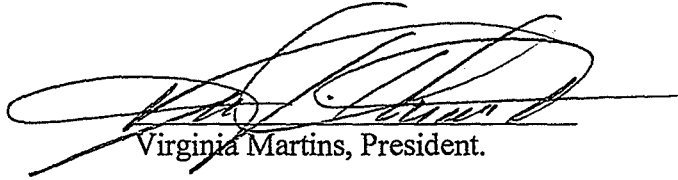
Sector IX Board members left that meeting with the impression that the Sector was on the right track and that your staff was satisfied with the past actions and the plan going forward. Your letter of November 20, 2017 was surprising and troubling in that your determination to suspend the authorization for Sector IX does not seem to acknowledge any of these past efforts and communications with your staff. To the Board it appears that all of its past work has fallen on deaf ears and that the revocation of the Sector's authorization was a foregone conclusion. Hopefully, when the Board gets to meet with you personally it too can have a dialogue to bring you up to speed on the past efforts and to seek your input in finding the best measured and appropriate response to this unprecedented situation. We reiterate the sentiment in our May 30, 2017 letter to you that the Board truly wants Sector IX to be successful to preserve and protect the commercial fishing assets that exist in the Port of New Bedford and the jobs that depend upon them. Communication and cooperation in good faith from both sides is essential and the Board looks forward to working with you to find a quick resolution to this predicament.

Sector IX will continue with its responsibilities and continues to work to complete its investigation. Once its investigation is concluded, the Enforcement Committee will publish its findings. It will work within the bounds of the Management Plan as that document is the basis of the contract between Sector IX and its members. We will do this with the best available information. We are also committed to try to develop an upstream plan to address the issue of repayment of Sector ACE overages which from our initial review appear to have occurred with certain sub-ACE species.

In closing, Sector IX respects your authority to impose a revocation of the previously authorized Management Plan. But, we respectfully suggest that it is an action that should not be taken arbitrarily and any action should consider the harsh collateral consequences of the decision. Sector IX will work to improve itself and find itself in a position to have its Management Plan reauthorized.

Please contact me, so that we can set up a date, time and location to meet. If you are able to come to New Bedford to meet with the Board that would be great, if not the Board would be willing to meet with you in Gloucester. In either case, we would like a meeting at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely,



Virginia Martins, President.

Cc: Anne E. Jardin-Maynard  
John F. Reardon  
Tor Bendiksen  
Daniel Georgianna  
Raymond Canastra  
New England Fishery Management Council  
Sarah Heil (Sarah.Heil@noaa.gov)  
Elizabeth Sullivan (Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov)  
Mitch McDonald (mitch.macdonald@noaa.gov)

## **Virginia Martins, Personal Biography**

Virginia is the President and a member of the Board of Directors of IX Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc. Her Career in the fishing industry started in 1984 working for a Marine Supply Store. Loving everything about the fishing industry and being a daughter to a fisherman, in 1998 she started her own business selling marine supplies and marine fuel to the fishing vessels out of New Bedford. Virginia is proud to say that she is the only woman that owns a business of this type in Greater New Bedford servicing the commercial fishing industry and she has witnessed many changes in the industry over the years. Virginia employ 6 employees.

Bay Fuel Inc.  
87 Conway St  
New Bedford Ma 02740  
508-979-5511

## **Anne E. Jardin-Maynard, Personal Biography**

Anne is the Clerk and a member of the Board of Directors of IX Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc. After graduating from Roger Williams University in 1985 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and a Minor in Computer Science, Anne started working as an accountant at Dawson Boat Settlements in New Bedford. In 1988 she become partner with Kevin Dawson. In 2012, with Kevin Dawson's retirement, she became the sole owner of Jardin and Dawson, Inc. She has over 32 years of fishing industry experience, from boat settlements, corporate and personal tax returns, fishing vessel permit applications, licensing, and all accounts payable and receivables. She handle all of the accounting needs for the fishing industry. Over the last 32 years working with the fishing industry, she has been very much involved in the many changes that have impacted the fishing industry and have seen it develop over these years to its current state. Jardin and Dawson, Inc. currently employs six employees.

Anne E. Jardin-Maynard  
Owner and President  
**Jardin & Dawson Inc**  
**Accounting & Tax Consultants**  
84 Front Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
(508) 992-3334

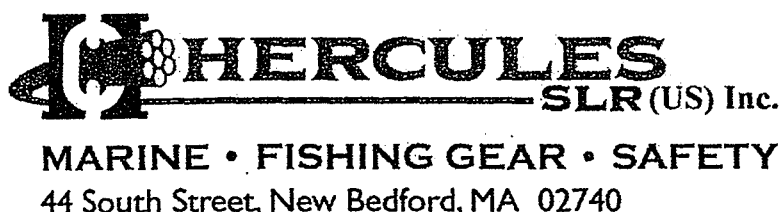
## **John F. Reardon, Personal Biography**

John is a member of the Board of Directors of IX Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc. and also serves on the Enforcement Committee. His career in the commercial fishing industry started in February



1982 as crew to Captain on several different fishing vessels in the ground fishing industry. On November 8<sup>th</sup> 1999, he was hired by IMP Marine Group to run this company as general manager taking the company from 5 core employees to 19 presently employed. In April 2010, IMP Marine was purchased by Hercules SLR US Inc. and he was kept on in the same capacity to present date.

**John F Reardon**  
**General Manager**  
**Phone: 508-993-0010**  
**Fax: 508-993-9005**



### **Tor Bendiksen, Personal Biography**

Tor is a member of the Board of Directors of IX Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc. and also serves on the Enforcement Committee. He is the Operations Manager and Trawl Technician at *Reidar's Trawl Gear and Marine Supply* in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He has over 25 years' experience in the fishing industry. He comes from a fishing family and went out to sea for the first time at 13 years old, with his father, on the F/V Narragansett. He earned a certification in Trawl Technology from SINTEF Fisheries in Hirtshals, Denmark and has travelled extensively throughout the North Atlantic studying mobile fishing gear. He has designed and developed innovative fishing gear for research organizations such as NOAA and Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries as well as several universities on the East Coast. His family's company, *Reidar's Trawl Gear and Marine Supply*, employs 16 individuals who manufacture fishing gear for vessels in the Northeast Fisheries.

Tor Bendiksen  
Chief Operating Officer  
*Reidar's Trawl Gear and Marine Supplies*  
9 Tarkiln Place  
New Bedford, MA 02745  
(508) 999-4616 / [Tortrawl@gmail.com](mailto:Tortrawl@gmail.com)

### **Raymond Canastra, Personal Biography**

Co-owner

BASE New England/ Whaling City Seafood Display Auction

Ray is the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of IX Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc. He has been involved in the fishing industry for 40 years. He started off on the New Bedford waterfront as a fish lumper, eventually making his way onto several fishing vessels from 1977 – 1989. In 1984, he became the captain of a scalloper, the F/V Donna Lynn. After the birth of his daughter Cassie in 1989, he decided to stay on land to be closer to my family. He opened RCC Foods Inc. with his brother, Richard in 1989. At the time he and Richard offloaded many of the fishing vessels in the Port of New Bedford. They also purchased and processed large volumes of multi-species groundfish, scallops and lobsters. He and Richard then decided to start a seafood display auction, Whaling City Seafood Display Auction, in 1994; to provide a fair market for New Bedford fishing vessels. As a result, they developed BASE (Buyers and Sellers Exchange) an electronic auctioning company in which WCSDA owns and operates. In conjunction with BASE New Bedford, they opened BASE Gloucester in 2007 to offer vessels another unloading facility further north. Currently, they offer both fish and scallop auctions to fishing vessels from Maine to North Carolina.

### **Daniel Georgianna, Personal Biography**

Dan is a member of the Board of Directors of IX Northeast Fishery Sector, Inc. and also serves on the Enforcement Committee. He is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at UMass Dartmouth and currently a Research Associate at SMAST. He is also a member of the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the New England Fishery Management Councils. Over the past 40 years, he has completed over 25 contracts with NOAA or other government agencies on the economics of fisheries and management. He also published 20 papers in peer reviewed journals on fisheries. He has worked with numerous Federal, State and Local government agencies, including the US State Department in presenting the US position on the US-Canadian Boundary to the World Court.

## Meeting between NEFS 9 & GARFO

October 26, 2017 1:00-2:30

### Agenda

- Introduction of Current/New Sector IX Board Members
- Discussion on May 30, 2017 Correspondence
- Coordinating actions going forward on Enforcement Committee efforts
- Open discussion/dialogue of above – and application of past learning lessons going forward
- Walk through by NMFS on any outstanding issues NMFS may have with sector operation/processes.

## Meeting Between NEFS IX & GARFO

October 26, 2017

### In Attendance:

**Board members:** Raymond Canastra, Virginia Martins, Tor Bendiksen, John Reardon, Daniel Georgianna, Anne Jardin

**NEFS IX manager:** Stephanie Rafael- DeMello

**NEFS IX lawyer:** Andrew Saunders

**NESC:** Vito Giacalone, Libby Etrie, Jackie Odell

**GARFO:** Sarah, Liz Sullivan, Mitch

### Discussion:

- Responsibility to permit holders as well as active vessels
  - 12-15 inactive permit holder (10 actual people)
  
- Option: Amend operations plan
  - landing only at the auction
  - All reported by Whaling City auction
  
- We have taken action post plea (May 30<sup>th</sup> letter)
  - Primary buyer – reporting buyer = most important step
    - Chain of misreporting broken
  - Board structure: independence from the sector
    - Vertical integration of the board
  
- **Operations Plan:** Question proposed to GARFO, what do we do?
  - How do we implicate our options?

- Cooperatively
  - Collateral consequences of actions taken
  - Upstream/downstream responsibilities
- **Enforcement committee:**
    - Enforcement provisions found in OP plan
      - Balance
      - What to do at this scale
    - ACE accountability: top down to sector – implications of the case
      - Sectors primary responsibility is to the ACE
      - Question: how far back in time do we go?
- **What now?**
    - Preventing anything happening in the future
- **Note:** there was a motion yesterday afternoon on the forfeiture issue by the US Attorney's office (Sarah mentioned this )
- **Baseline from NOAA:** uncertainty, management issue, not enforcement
    - Work on info they do know now (greysole and dabs)
    - Flagged
    - Information from the criminal case is what we have now
- **Brainstorming;**
    - Investigation enforced by the sector:
      - In OPS, enforcement committee reports
      - Detailed report: use template
    - Libby is now working with Stephanie to capture this in a report
    - Investigation: reach out to GARFO for guidance
    - ACE: public is on species level, not specific stocks
      - would help if we had stock area
    - Pound for pound payback

- How does this work?
  - How far back do we go?
  - Deemed value
  - 2012-2016?
  - Sector can look at a financial penalty since each year is closed
    - Paid to the entire sector
  - Inactive members are concerned
    - What harm? Not overages, more so, what the agency will do
    - Two tier system: downstream responsibility of sector to protect each other from each other & upstream from NOAA
  - When does the clock stop? What year?
    - Deemed value as financial harm
- **Plea Agreement:** (does not say if it is over ACE)  
(From Mitch, GARFO lawyer)
1. Attorney/ government: want to see that the sector is working and the ACE is accounted for
    - a. Operations plan geared to government getting accurate reporting and sector able to work properly (structure)- which has been done
  2. How do we make the sector itself, whole?
    - a. Deemed value is a problem because Carlos would get it back
- **Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>: business will change** – preserve operating environment
- Cannot make it a disadvantage to be in sector 9 → boats would leave the sector
  - the potential to shut down the sector
  - Inactive members are enforced at the sector level, not NOAA
    - 2 type of members
    - Inactive members would lose the right to become active

o **Plan:**

- Look at examples from other sectors
  - Libby will work with Stephanie
  - Trip issue reports
- Necessary to go back in time
  - Will be helpful to NOAA to have investigation so they can see if we added to overfishing for a given year (ACE is what matters)
- We need data: quota for each stock (not unit stocks) ex. Yellowtail , cod
  - Take the plea agreement at face value and go from there
- Not really an "investigation" more so, accounting
- Right format in report , in the context of ACE
  - Trip report, typically for the yearend report
- Enforcement committee will then make a recommendation to the full board
- Enforcement action from the agency is separate
  - Criminal, separate from civil (fisheries side)
- Addendum to operations plan on Carlos Seafood
- Concern about current members:
  - Level of participation: should we be concerned?
  - Dominance of Carlos was the issue
- Now landing only at the auction: need steps for reporting in OPS plan.
- This meeting is concerned with the management side only

- **Operations of Sector**
  - NOVAs: separate issue
  - 2 groups: 1. Enforcement 2. ACE
  - Council vote to enforcement of the operations plan
  
- **What is missing now?**
  - Next steps
  - Rules in the OPS plan are not being followed now- need to enforce that the hail matches the offload
  - Frequent check ins moving forward:
    1. Vessel operators will sign a contract to the sector
    2. We will use court filings for enforcement
    3. **Check in with GARFO in month after the enforcement committee meets and conducts investigation.**





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

# Groundfish Summary Report

May 1, 2017 – November 29, 2017

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**DEC -5 2017**

**AT THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERY  
 MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

## DAS Leasing Program

	Common Pool	Sectors
Total Leases Processed:	7	57
Total Leases Approved:	7	56
Number of Distinct Permits:	10	86
Total DAS Leased:	65.9971	1685.6597
Average Cost per DAS Leased*:	\$104.39	\$0.63
Highest Cost per DAS Leased:	\$170.59	\$9.95
Lowest Cost per DAS Leased:	\$0.50	\$0.00

\* For leases greater than \$ 0.00

## Sector ACE Transfers

STOCK	Number of Transfers	Total Pounds Transferred
CC/GOM Yellowtail Flounder	52	206496
GB Cod East	49	137932
GB Cod West	65	233837
GB Haddock East	8	214775
GB Haddock West	17	410224
GB Winter Flounder	39	164571
GB Yellowtail Flounder	13	26241
GOM Cod	58	203330
GOM Haddock	74	1996353
GOM Winter Flounder	14	64646
Plaice	72	554284
Pollock	20	1488657
Redfish	19	2245757
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	20	25348
White Hake	32	1519334
Witch Flounder	70	308718
SNE/MA Winter Flounder	59	206663
<b>Total</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>10,007,166</b>





**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

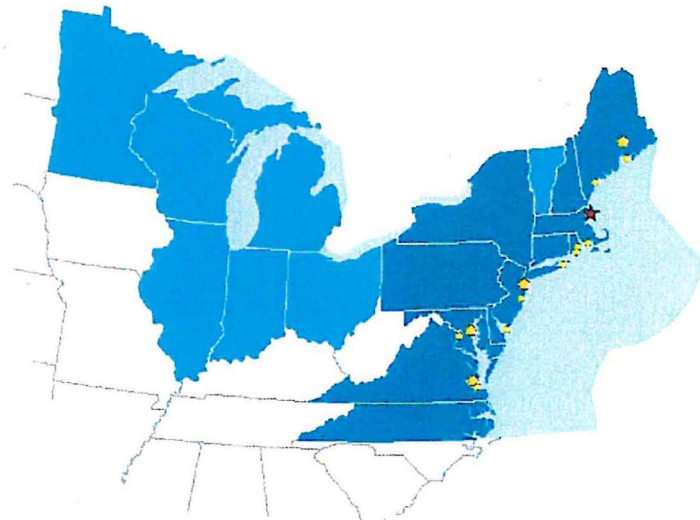
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DEC -5 2017

AT THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

# 2016 Commercial Fish Landings Data

## Greater Atlantic Region



## OVERVIEW OF 2016 FISH LANDINGS<sup>1</sup>, NORTHEAST US

NORTHEAST STATES RANKED BY VALUE OF FISH LANDINGS 2015			NORTHEAST STATES RANKED BY VALUE OF FISH LANDINGS 2016			
STATE	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED METRIC TONS		STATE	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED METRIC TONS
ME	\$590	109,056	1	ME	\$633	112,194
MA	\$505	110,757	2	MA	\$531	103,616
VA	\$172	210,426	3	VA	\$155	177,053
NJ	\$166	56,830	4	NJ	\$189	56,171
MD	\$88	25,074	5	NY	\$171	17,475
RI	\$82	32,756	6	MD	\$95	26,608
NY	\$71	17,082	7	RI	\$94	36,147
NC	\$42	11,625	8	NC	\$56	11,713
DE	\$36	1,603	9	DE	\$34	2,251
NH	\$28	4,914	10	NH	\$33	3,475
CT	\$16	4,078	11	CT	\$15	5,444
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,796</b>	<b>584,201</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,006</b>	<b>552,147</b>

NORTHEAST STATES Aquaculture Sales <sup>2</sup> Ranked by Value: 2013	
STATE	VALUE (MILLIONS)
ME	\$57 M
VA	\$56 M
CT	\$29 M
NC	\$25 M
MA	\$18 M
NJ	\$14 M
NY	\$8 M
MD	\$6 M
RI	\$6 M
NH	\$1 M
DE	-
<b>ALL</b>	<b>\$219 M</b>

<sup>1</sup> From dealer weighout data (values rounded), report run in November 29, 2017 by APSD staff, GAR. Data are preliminary and subject to change. Please see all caveats listed at the end of these tables.

<sup>2</sup> From: *The 2013 Census of Aquaculture*. *The Census of Aquaculture* is a mandatory survey conducted by the US Department of Agriculture. Prior to the 2013 census, this effort was last conducted in 2005. For the purpose of the census:

- An aquaculture farm is defined as any place from which at least \$1,000. of aquaculture products was produced and sold or distributed.
- Aquaculture products include: baitfish, crustaceans, food fish, mollusks, ornamental fish, sport or game fish and other aquaculture products. Farming involves some form of intervention in the rearing process (seeding, stocking, feeding or protecting from predators).
- Farming implies ownership of the cultivated stock in a controlled environment and does not include products caught or harvested by the public from non-controlled waters or beds.

### Top Northeast US Ports Ranked by Value of Fish Landings

2015				RANK	2016			
PORT		VALUE MILLIONS	LANDED MT		PORT		VALUE MILLIONS	LANDED MT
NEW BEDFORD	MA	\$322	53,506	1	NEW BEDFORD	MA	\$326	45,676
CAPE MAY	NJ	\$67	24,885	2	CAPE MAY	NJ	\$83	24,336
STONINGTON	ME	\$64	8,694	3	STONINGTON	ME	\$68	10,508
POINT JUDITH	RI	\$46	19,944	4	POINT JUDITH	RI	\$56	23,403
GLOUCESTER	MA	\$44	29,076	5	GLOUCESTER	MA	\$52	27,366
VINALHAVEN	ME	\$40	4,383	6	VINALHAVEN	ME	\$42	4,734
PORTLAND	ME	\$34	27,857	7	PORTLAND	ME	\$38	22,361
POINT PLEASANT	NJ	\$27	10,643	8	POINT PLEASANT	NJ	\$31	11,779
NEWPORT NEWS	VA	\$26	1,392	9	BARNEGAT LIGHT/LONG BEACH	NJ	\$27	2,914
BARNEGAT LIGHT/LONG BEACH	NJ	\$25	2,378	10	NEWPORT NEWS	VA	\$24	1,524

TOP 25 FISH SPECIES LANDED IN THE GREATER ATLANTIC REGION (ME-NC), BY VALUE								
2015					2016			
Species	Value Millions	Percent of Total	Landed mt	Rank	Species	Value Millions	Percent of Total	Landed mt
LOBSTER	\$622	35%	66,682	1	LOBSTER	\$669	33%	72,138
SEA SCALLOP	\$438	24%	16,197	2	SEA SCALLOP	\$486	24%	18,440
Aquaculture value, all species, ~\$219 M in 2013 per USDA's 2013 Census of Aquaculture								
BLUE CRAB	\$101	6%	31,438	3	QUAHOG (INSHORE)	\$134	7%	7,184
OYSTERS	\$62	3%	26,196	4	BLUE CRAB	\$119	6%	36,078
LARGE MESH MULTISPECIES	\$58	3%	19,455	5	SURFLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG	\$57	3%	32,145
AMERICAN EEL	\$58	3%	368	6	LARGE MESH MULTISPECIES	\$57	3%	16,126
SURFLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG	\$56	3%	37,639	7	SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$50	3%	18,170
MENHADEN	\$37	2%	191,986	8	OYSTERS	\$42	2%	11,029
SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$32	2%	4,857	9	AMERICAN EEL	\$40	2%	346
SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$31	2%	11,934	10	MENHADEN	\$33	2%	171,552
QUAHOG (INSHORE)	\$30	2%	1,754	11	ATLANTIC HERRING	\$29	1%	62,677
SOFT CLAM	\$29	2%	1,186	12	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$28	1%	3,537
ATLANTIC HERRING	\$25	1%	79,531	13	SOFT CLAM	\$25	1%	1,186
ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$19	1%	4,563	14	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$20	1%	4,779
STRIPED BASS	\$18	1%	2,249	15	STRIPED BASS	\$19	1%	2,202
ELVER	\$11	1%	5	16	OTHER SHELLFISH	\$14	1%	2,136
SCUP	\$11	1%	7,721	17	ELVER	\$13	1%	6
SMALL MESH MULTISPECIES	\$11	1%	6,890	18	JONAH CRAB	\$12	1%	7,049
JONAH CRAB	\$10	1%	6,251	19	SMALL MESH MULTISPECIES	\$11	1%	6,862
BLACK SEA BASS	\$8	<1%	1,079	20	SCUP	\$11	1%	7,147
BROWN SHRIMP	\$8	<1%	1,597	21	BLUEFIN TUNA	\$11	1%	673
WORMS	\$8	<1%	276	22	BLACK SEA BASS	\$9	<1%	1,174
CHANNELED WHELK	\$8	<1%	587	23	WORMS	\$8	<1%	262
BLUEFIN TUNA	\$8	<1%	553	24	CHANNELED WHELK	\$8	<1%	657
SKATES	\$6	<1%	9,655	25	CALICO SCALLOP	\$7	<1%	6

Aquaculture farms do not report to NOAA and are surveyed differently and are not reported here. The latest USDA Census of Aquaculture 2013 census estimated \$218.9 M value of Aquaculture products for NE US states (NC through ME) in 2013.

Note that state managed and reported shellfish landings may include misreported aquaculture product.

Large Mesh Multispecies include: American plaice, Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut, Atlantic wolffish, haddock, ocean pout, pollock, redfish, white hake, windowpane flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder.

Small Mesh Multispecies include: offshore hake, red hake, and silver hake.

**2016 TOP COMMERCIAL FISH LANDED, BY NORTHEAST STATES, AND  
TOP TEN NORTHEAST PORTS (BY LANDINGS VALUE) Listed from North to South**

STATE	SPECIES RANK	SPECIES	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED MT
ME  Total Commercial Landings \$633M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$57.3M	1	LOBSTER	\$540	60,030
	2	ATLANTIC HERRING	\$19	35,563
	3	SOFT CLAM	\$16	712
	4	ELVER	\$13	6
	5	WORMS	\$8	262
	6	SEA SCALLOP	\$7	253
	7	SEA URCHINS	\$7	933
	8	OYSTERS	\$5	51
	9	BLUEFIN TUNA	\$3	152
	10	POLLOCK	\$2	421
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN STONINGTON, ME 3rd largest Northeast US port by value		LOBSTER	\$65	7,918
		ATLANTIC HERRING	\$1	2,433
		SEA SCALLOP	\$1	29
		SP COMBINED,CONFIDENTIALITY	<\$1	96
		ATLANTIC HALIBUT	<\$1	3
		JONAH CRAB	<\$1	29
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN VINALHAVEN, ME 6th largest NE US port		LOBSTER	\$42	4,426
		SP COMBINED,CONFIDENTIALITY	<\$1	288
		ROCK CRAB	<\$1	21
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Portland, ME 7th largest Northeast US port by value		LOBSTER	\$18	1,867
		ATLANTIC HERRING	\$10	17,106
		SP COMBINED,CONFIDENTIALITY	\$2	570
		POLLOCK	\$2	407
		ELVER	\$1	1
		MENHADEN	\$1	1,602
		HAKE,WHITE	\$1	145
		BLUEFIN TUNA	\$1	34
		HADDOCK	\$1	124
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	75
NH  Commercial Landings \$33M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$0.8M	1	LOBSTER	\$30	2,623
	2	BLUEFIN TUNA	\$1	61
	3	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	53
	4	SEA SCALLOP	<\$1	11
	5	HAKE,SILVER	<\$1	147
	6	POLLOCK	<\$1	39
	7	COD	<\$1	21
	8	JONAH CRAB	<\$1	68
	9	AMERICAN PLAICE	<\$1	17
	10	YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER	<\$1	14

2016 TOP COMMERCIAL FISH LANDED, BY NORTHEAST STATES, AND TOP TEN NORTHEAST PORTS (BY LANDINGS VALUE) Listed from North to South				
STATE	SPECIES RANK	SPECIES	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED MT
MA Commercial Landings \$531M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$18.1M	1	SEA SCALLOP	\$281	10,366
	2	LOBSTER	\$82	8,058
	3	SURFLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG	\$27	14,538
	4	HADDOCK	\$13	4,266
	5	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$11	2,449
	6	JONAH CRAB	\$8	4,842
	7	ATLANTIC HERRING	\$8	21,433
	8	WINTER FLOUNDER	\$7	933
	9	SOFT CLAM	\$6	308
	10	BLUEFIN TUNA	\$6	391
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN New Bedford, MA, largest Northeast US port by value		SEA SCALLOP	\$252	9,328
		SURFLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG	\$22	12,403
		LOBSTER	\$9	785
		WINTER FLOUNDER	\$6	752
		HADDOCK	\$5	1,798
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$5	1,143
		JONAH CRAB	\$5	2,637
		SILVER HAKE	\$3	1,719
		CRABS	\$3	1,212
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Gloucester, MA, 5th largest Northeast US port by value		LOBSTER	\$17	1,728
		HADDOCK	\$5	1,802
		ATLANTIC HERRING	\$5	12,926
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$3	551
		REDFISH	\$3	2,096
		POLLOCK	\$2	945
		BLUEFIN TUNA	\$2	134
		SILVER HAKE	\$2	1,350
		WHITE HAKE	\$2	452
		SEA SCALLOP	\$2	64

**2016 TOP COMMERCIAL FISH LANDED, BY NORTHEAST STATES, AND  
TOP TEN NORTHEAST PORTS (BY LANDINGS VALUE) Listed from North to South**

STATE	SPECIES RANK	SPECIES	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED MT
<b>RI</b> <b>Commercial Landings \$94M</b>  <b>Aquaculture Product value ~ \$5.7M</b>	1	SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$28	10,208
	2	LOBSTER	\$12	1,026
	3	SEA SCALLOP	\$9	368
	4	QUAHOG	\$6	303
	5	SQUID ( <i>ILLEX</i> )	\$6	4,720
	6	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$5	592
	7	OYSTERS	\$5	93
	8	SCUP	\$4	3,089
	9	JONAH CRAB	\$3	1,665
	10	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$2	720
<b>TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Point Judith, RI</b> <b>4th largest Northeast US port by value</b>		SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$22	8,153
		SEA SCALLOP	\$1	312
		LOBSTER	\$1	498
		SUMMER FLOUNDER	<\$1	518
		SCUP	<\$1	2,751
		HAKE,SILVER	<\$1	1,665
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	417
		ATLANTIC HERRING	<\$1	3,157
		WINTER FLOUNDER	<\$1	135
<b>CT</b> <b>Commercial Landings \$15M</b>  <b>Aquaculture Product value ~ \$29M</b>	1	SEA SCALLOP	\$6	241
	2	SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$2	822
	3	LOBSTER	\$1	119
	4	WHELK	\$1	194
	5	HAKE,SILVER	\$1	430
	6	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$1	87
	7	SCUP	\$1	426
	8	SKATES	\$1	2,495
	9	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	146
	10	WINTER FLOUNDER	<\$1	39
<b>NY</b> <b>Commercial Landings \$171M</b>  <b>Aquaculture Product value ~ \$8M</b>	1	QUAHOG	\$122	6,549
	2	AMERICAN EEL	\$14	15
	3	SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$8	2,819
	4	SEA SCALLOP	\$4	182
	5	TILEFISH,GOLDEN	\$3	309
	6	SCUP	\$3	1,591
	7	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$3	274
	8	STRIPED BASS	\$2	247
	9	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$2	550
	10	SILVER HAKE	\$2	780



**2016 TOP COMMERCIAL FISH LANDED, BY NORTHEAST STATES, AND  
TOP TEN NORTHEAST PORTS (BY LANDINGS VALUE) Listed from North to South**

STATE	SPECIES RANK	SPECIES	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED MT
NJ Commercial Landings \$189M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$14M	1	SEA SCALLOP	\$123	4,758
	2	SURFLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG	\$26	15,703
	3	BLUE CRAB	\$8	3,135
	4	SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$6	2,108
	5	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$5	584
	6	MENHADEN	\$5	20,866
	7	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$2	649
	8	BLACK SEA BASS	\$2	238
	9	LOBSTER	\$2	159
	10	SCUP	\$2	1,060
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Cape May, NJ 2 <sup>nd</sup> largest Northeast US port by value		SEA SCALLOP	\$69	2,711
		SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	\$5	1,904
		SP COMBINED,CONFIDENTIALITY	\$5	17,489
		SQUID ( <i>ILLEX</i> )	\$1	1,753
		SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$1	106
		BLACK SEA BASS	\$1	68
		KNOBBED WHELK	<\$1	35
		CHANNELED WHELK	<\$1	8
		LOBSTER	<\$1	9
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	18
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Point Pleasant, NJ 8th largest Northeast US port by value		SEA SCALLOP	\$15	577
		SURFLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG	\$8	4,249
		SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$2	229
		SCUP	\$1	821
		BLACK SEA BASS	\$1	109
		LOBSTER	\$1	74
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	123
		SQUID ( <i>LOLIGO</i> )	<\$1	114
		DOGFISH SPINY	<\$1	605
		DOGFISH SMOOTH	<\$1	100
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Barnegat Light/ Long Beach, NJ 9th largest Northeast US port by value		SP COMBINED,CONFIDENTIALITY	\$24	2,091
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	\$2	485
		SHARK/TUNA/SWORD	\$1	110
		BLUEFISH	<\$1	135
		DOGFISH SMOOTH	<\$1	71
		BLACK SEA BASS	<\$1	3
		ATLANTIC CROAKER	<\$1	7
		SCUP	<\$1	6

2016 TOP COMMERCIAL FISH LANDED, BY NORTHEAST STATES, AND TOP TEN NORTHEAST PORTS (BY LANDINGS VALUE) Listed from North to South				
STATE	SPECIES RANK	SPECIES	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED MT
DE Landings \$34M	1	ALL FISHFISH COMBINED	\$26	233
	2	ALL SHELLFISH COMBINED	\$8	2,015
MD Commercial Landings \$95M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$6M	1	BLUE CRAB	\$60	16,537
	2	OYSTERS	\$12	818
	3	STRIPED BASS	\$7	775
	4	SOFT CLAM	\$2	163
	5	SEA SCALLOP	\$2	68
	6	CHANNEL CATFISH	\$1	863
	7	WHITE PERCH	\$1	828
	8	MENHADEN	\$1	2,751
	9	BLACK SEA BASS	\$1	123
	10	BIG EYE TUNA	\$1	50
VA Commercial Landings \$155M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$56M	1	SEA SCALLOP	\$52	2,115
	2	BLUE CRAB	\$41	12,750
	3	MENHADEN	\$25	143,372
	4	OYSTERS	\$13	9,916
	5	STRIPED BASS	\$5	605
	6	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$5	709
	7	ATLANTIC CROAKER	\$3	1,816
	8	BLACK SEA BASS	\$2	234
	9	OTHER FISH	\$1	579
	10	BLUE CATFISH	\$1	1,218
TOP SPECIES LANDED IN Newport News, VA 10th largest Northeast US port by value		SEA SCALLOP	\$22	854
		SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$1	203
		OTHER SHELLFISH	\$1	222
		SP COMBINED,CONFIDENTIALITY	<\$1	179
		BLACK SEA BASS	<\$1	23
		SQUID (LOLIGO)	<\$1	12
		ANGLER (MONKFISH)	<\$1	3
		BLUEFISH	<\$1	6
		WINTER SKATE (BIG)	<\$1	6

**2016 TOP COMMERCIAL FISH LANDED, BY NORTHEAST STATES, AND  
TOP TEN NORTHEAST PORTS (BY LANDINGS VALUE) Listed from North to South**

STATE	SPECIES RANK	SPECIES	VALUE (MILLIONS)	LANDED MT
NC Commercial Landings \$56M  Aquaculture Product value ~ \$25M	1	OTHER SHELLFISH	\$14	2,089
	2	BROWN SHRIMP	\$6	1,251
	3	SUMMER FLOUNDER	\$5	953
	4	BLUE CRAB	\$3	1,765
	5	ATLANTIC CROAKER	\$2	943
	6	SEA SCALLOP	\$2	77
	7	WORDFISH	\$1	146
	8	YELLOWFIN TUNA	\$1	206
	9	SOUTHERN FLOUNDER	\$1	155
	10	DOLPHINFISH	\$1	153

**Caveats:**

Landings data were tabulated by the NOAA FISHERIES Analysis and Program Support Division (APSD) from the Dealer Weighout Database (values rounded). The data for all tables are from reports run in November, 2017 by APSD staff, GAR. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

All data are for Maine through North Carolina.

Confidential landings are those that were reported by fewer than three vessels or dealers. For confidential species landings data, we combined species/masked confidential data as appropriate. Therefore, all data are non-confidential and releasable.

Dealer database landings clearly attributed as aquaculture based on disposition or gear codes were not included in the commercial landings tables, however, landings data for some species may include some aquaculture products.

Large Mesh Multispecies include: American plaice, Atlantic cod, Atlantic halibut, Atlantic wolffish, haddock, ocean pout, pollock, redfish, white hake, windowpane flounder, winter flounder, witch flounder, and yellowtail flounder.

Small Mesh Multispecies include: offshore hake, red hake, and silver hake.

**Aquaculture numbers are not based on NOAA data. They are taken from the latest USDA Census of Aquaculture (2013).**



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# Status Report of Greater Atlantic Region Actions

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AT THE NEW ENGLAND FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Prepared for the December 5-7, 2017  
Meeting of the  
New England Fishery Management Council

December 4, 2017

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## New England Council Actions

### Small-Mesh Multispecies

None at this time

### Groundfish

#### **Withdrawal of Approval for Northeast Fishery Sector IX Operation Plan**

On November 20, 2017, we filed an interim final rule in the *Federal Register* (82 FR 55522), withdrawing approval of the NEFS 9 operations plan. The rule published on November 22, 2017. We are accepting comments on the interim final rule through December 20, 2017.

The Regional Administrator determined that the sector and its participants are not complying with the requirements of the approved operations plan, and that the continuation on of the operation plan will undermine achievement of conservation and management objectives of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. Without an approved operations plan, members of NEFS 9 cannot fish on a sector trip or with a multispecies day-at-sea. Permits are enrolled in a sector for an entire fishing year, and cannot move to other sectors or to the common pool mid-year. The quota allocated to NEFS 9 at the beginning of the 2017 fishing year remains allocated to the sector, but NEFS 9 is not permitted to transfer quota to or from other sectors. For additional information, please contact Liz Sullivan at (978) 282-8493 or email at [Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov](mailto:Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov).

#### **Adjustments to Fishing Year 2017 Catch Specifications for the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan**

On November 8, 2017, we published a final rule to make minor adjustments to Framework Adjustment 56 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The possibility of minor adjustments and corrections was noted in the Framework 56 proposed and final rules because final allocations are not always available at the time of the rulemaking for the upcoming fishing year. This action revised the Georges Bank cod common pool sub-ACL due to a 2016 overage as required by regulation and corrected an error in the 2017 sector carryover and annual catch entitlement included in the Framework 56 final rule. For additional information, please contact Emily Keiley at (978) 281-9116 or email at [Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov](mailto:Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov).

#### **Reimbursement of Sector At-Sea Monitoring Costs**

For the 2017 fishing year, NMFS has continued to offset a portion of industry's costs for the groundfish at-sea monitoring program through a cooperative agreement with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The ASMFC is reimbursing sectors for 60 percent of their ASM and electronic monitoring costs for sector trips beginning on or after May 1, 2017. We are actively monitoring and evaluating the spend-down of available funds consistent with projected effort for the remainder of the fishing year. For additional information, please contact Liz Sullivan at (978) 282-8493 or email at [Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov](mailto:Liz.Sullivan@noaa.gov).

**Georges Bank Cod Possession and Trip Limit Decrease for the Groundfish Common Pool Fishery**

On October 3, 2017, NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* (82 FR 46002) decreasing the possession and trip limits for Georges Bank cod from 250 pounds per day and 500 pounds per trip to 25 pounds per day and 50 pounds per trip. Recent catch data reported through September 19, 2017, indicates that the common pool fishery has already caught 2.4 metric tons, or 65.7 percent, of the Trimester 2 Georges Bank cod Total Allowable Catch (TAC) since the second trimester began on September 1, 2017. An adjustment decreasing the common pool possession and trip limits is necessary to prevent the common pool from exceeding its Georges Bank cod allocation for fishing year 2017. For additional information, please contact Claire Fitz-Gerald at (978) 281-9255 or email at [claire.fitzgerald@noaa.gov](mailto:claire.fitzgerald@noaa.gov).

**Trimester 2 Georges Bank Cod Total Allowable Catch Area Closure and Possession Prohibition for the Common Pool Fishery**

On October 16, 2017, NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* (82 FR 48007) closing the Georges Bank Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area for the remainder of Trimester 2, through December 31, 2017. The rule also prohibited possession of Georges Bank cod common pool vessels for the remainder of the fishing year, through April 30, 2018. Finally, the rule reduced the 2017 fishing year Georges Bank cod sub-annual catch limit for the common pool due to an overage in fishing year 2016. Recent catch data reported through October 3, 2017, indicated that the common pool fishery had caught 123 percent of the adjusted Trimester 2 TAC (2.6 mt) for GB cod and 83 percent of its adjusted 2017 sub-ACL. Federal regulations require the Regional Administrator to close a common pool Trimester TAC Area for a stock when 90 percent of the Trimester TAC is projected to be caught. In addition, an adjustment prohibiting possession of Georges Bank cod is necessary to prevent the common pool from exceeding its Georges Bank cod allocation for fishing year 2017. For additional information, please contact Spencer Talmage at (978) 281-9232 or email at [Spencer.Talmage@noaa.gov](mailto:Spencer.Talmage@noaa.gov).

## Scallops

**Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Windowpane Flounder Accountability Measure Triggered**

In fishing year 2015, the scallop fleet exceeded their sub-ACL for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) windowpane flounder by 15.1 percent. As a result of this overage, vessels are required to comply SNE/MA windowpane accountability measure for the month of February in 2018. During this time, in the area west of 71° W. Long., excluding Mid-Atlantic access areas, vessels will be required to fish with scallop dredge gear that:

- (1) The maximum number of rows of rings in the apron of the topside does not exceed five rows; and
- (2) The maximum hanging ratio for a net on the top of a scallop dredge (twine top) does not exceed 1.5:1 overall.

Scallop trawl gear is also prohibited in this time and area. We will send a notice to scallop permit holders in early January to remind them of this gear restriction. For additional information, please contact Travis Ford at (978) 281-9233 or email at [travis.ford@noaa.gov](mailto:travis.ford@noaa.gov).

## Herring

None at this time

## Monkfish

None at this time

## Skate

None at this time

## Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

None at this time

## Mid-Atlantic Council Actions

### Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass

#### Scup Specifications 2018-2019

On November 7, 2017, NMFS published a rule in the *Federal Register* proposing scup specifications for the 2018 and 2019 fishing years. This action would replace previously established 2018 catch limits and establish measures for 2019 in response to updated information about the scup stock. The proposed specifications would increase the 2018 commercial quota by 38 percent and increase the 2018 recreational harvest limit by 41 percent. We are currently preparing a final rule to implement this action. For additional information, please contact Emily Gilbert at (978) 281-9244 or email at [emily.gilbert@noaa.gov](mailto:emily.gilbert@noaa.gov)

#### Proposed 2018 February Black Sea Bass Recreational Fishery

This action is under development to modify the current Federal recreational black sea bass measures to open an additional 28-day recreational black sea bass fishery for the month of February in 2018. The remaining current recreational management measures of a 12.5-inch minimum fish size and 15-fish possession limit would apply to this limited winter season. In addition to these measures, the 2018 recreational harvest limit for the remainder of the fishing year (3.66 million lb) would be reduced by 100,000 pounds to account for expected harvest during this February season. States that decide to participate in this February fishery would need to account for this estimated catch when developing their management measures for the remainder of the 2018 black sea bass recreational fishery to ensure the 2018 recreational harvest limit is not exceeded. Federal measures for the rest of the 2018 recreational fishery will be developed through the winter for implementation in spring 2018. We are currently preparing a proposed rule to seek public comment on the action. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

#### Summer Flounder Safe Harbor Quota Transfer – New Jersey to Rhode Island

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on October 10, 2017 (82 FR 46936) allowing New Jersey to transfer 380 pounds of summer flounder commercial quota to Rhode Island. The revised summer flounder quotas for calendar year 2017 are: New Jersey, 946,132 lb; and Rhode Island, 887,922 lb. This transfer was requested by New Jersey to repay landings by a New Jersey-permitted vessel that landed in Rhode Island under a safe harbor agreement. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).



**Rhode Island Commercial Summer Flounder Closure**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on November 16, 2017, (82 FR 53430) as notification that the 2017 commercial summer flounder quota allocated to the State of Rhode Island has been harvested, and the fishery is closed for the remainder of the fishing year. Vessels holding Federal commercial permits are prohibited from landing summer flounder, effective 0001 hours, November 14, 2017, for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year, unless additional quota becomes available through a transfer from another state. This closure was coordinated with the State of Rhode Island's closure of its commercial summer flounder fishery to state permitted vessels and dealers on November 14, 2017. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

**Summer Flounder Safe Harbor Quota Transfer – North Carolina to New York**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on October 16, 2017, (82 FR 48008) allowing North Carolina to transfer 3,000 pounds of summer flounder commercial quota to New York. The revised summer flounder quotas for calendar year 2017 are: North Carolina, 1,536,693 lb; and New York, 435,764 lb. This transfer was requested by North Carolina to repay landings by a North Carolina-permitted vessel that landed in New York under a safe harbor agreement. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

**Summer Flounder Commercial Quota Transfer – Maine to Connecticut**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on October 16, 2017, (82 FR 48008) allowing North Carolina to transfer 2,500 pounds of summer flounder commercial quota to New York. The revised summer flounder quotas for calendar year 2017 are: Maine, 192 lb; and Connecticut, 130,234 lb. This transfer was requested under a mutual agreement by state officials in both Maine and Connecticut in an effort to prevent Connecticut from exceeding the state commercial summer flounder quota. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

**Summer Flounder Safe Harbor Quota Transfer – Virginia to Rhode Island**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on November 28, 2017, allowing Virginia to transfer 38 pounds of summer flounder commercial quota to Rhode Island. The revised summer flounder quotas for calendar year 2017 are: Virginia, 1,219,874 lb; and Rhode Island, 887,960 lb. This transfer was requested by Virginia to repay landings by a Virginia-permitted vessel that landed in Rhode Island under a safe harbor agreement. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

## **Surfclam and Ocean Quahog**

**Surfclam and Ocean Quahog ITQ Cost Recovery**

On May 10, 2017, NMFS announced the 2017 cost recovery tag fees for the surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferable quota (ITQ) fisheries. This is the start of the new cost recovery program for the surfclam and ocean quahog ITQ fisheries. The 2017 tag fees are \$0.32 per surfclam tag and \$0.20 per ocean quahog tag. The fee to the ITQ shareholder will be based on how many cage tag numbers initially allocated to each shareholder are used to land clams, even if some or all of those tags are leased or otherwise transferred to another individual who uses them to land clams. NMFS will issue ITQ shareholders a single bill in March 2018 based on all of the cage tags used during 2017. Shareholders who do not use any tags will not receive a bill. The tag fee announcement is available online at: [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/clam/](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/clam/). For additional information, please contact Doug Potts at 978-281-9341 or [Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov](mailto:Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov).

### **2018-2020 Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Specifications**

This action would implement surfclam and ocean quahog specifications for fishing years 2018 through 2020. The proposed commercial quotas are status quo, continuing measures in place from previous years. We are currently preparing a proposed rule to seek public comment on the action. For additional information, please contact Michael Ruccio at (978) 281-9104, or email at [Michael.Ruccio@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Ruccio@noaa.gov).

## **Atlantic Bluefish**

### **Atlantic Bluefish Commercial Quota Transfer – North Carolina to Rhode Island**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2017, (82 FR 52249) allowing North Carolina to transfer 100,000 pounds of bluefish commercial quota to Rhode Island. The revised bluefish quotas for calendar year 2017 are: North Carolina, 2,638,704 lb; and Rhode Island, 681,563 lb. This transfer was requested under a mutual agreement by state officials in both North Carolina and Rhode Island in an effort to prevent Rhode Island from exceeding the state commercial bluefish quota. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

### **Atlantic Bluefish Commercial Quota Transfer – New Jersey to Rhode Island**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2017, (82 FR 52675) allowing New Jersey to transfer 50,000 pounds of bluefish commercial quota to Rhode Island. The revised bluefish quotas for calendar year 2017 are: New Jersey, 1,215,633 lb; and Rhode Island, 731,563 lb. This transfer was requested under a mutual agreement by state officials in both New Jersey and Rhode Island in an effort to prevent Rhode Island from exceeding the state commercial bluefish quota. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

### **Atlantic Bluefish Safe Harbor Quota Transfer – Virginia to Rhode Island**

NMFS published a temporary rule in the *Federal Register* on November 28, 2017, allowing Virginia to transfer 338 pounds of bluefish commercial quota to Rhode Island. The revised bluefish quotas for calendar year 2017 are: Virginia, 1,014,435 lb; and Rhode Island, 731,901 lb. This transfer was requested by Virginia to repay landings by a Virginia-permitted vessel that landed in Rhode Island under a safe harbor agreement. For additional information, please contact Cynthia Hanson at (978) 281-9180 or email at [Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov](mailto:Cynthia.hanson@noaa.gov).

## **Spiny Dogfish**

None at this time

## **Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish**

None at this time

## **Tilefish**

### **Blueline Tilefish Amendment**

On November 15, 2017, we published a final rule (82 FR 52851) to implement the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Blueline Tilefish Amendment, formally known as Amendment 6 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. This action establishes management measures for the recreational and commercial blueline tilefish fishery in federal waters north of the Virginia/North Carolina border. The

new measures are effective starting December 15, 2017, and include permitting and reporting requirements for commercial or for-hire vessels and a commercial possession limit of 300 lb per trip. The recreational fishery for blueline tilefish will be closed from November 1 through April 30, annually. When the recreational fishery opens on May 1, 2018, the bag limit will depend on the type of fishing vessel: Three fish per angler on private vessels, five fish per angler on uninspected for-hire vessels (e.g., charter boats), and seven fish per angler for USCG inspected for-hire vessels (e.g., party boats). For additional information, please contact Doug Potts at 978-281-9341 or [Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov](mailto:Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov).

### **Tilefish Framework 2**

This action would modify the tilefish incidental possession limit, clarify allowed gear for recreational fishing, and make several improvements to the tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. A proposed rule published on October 18, 2017 (82 FR 48967), and the public comment period ended on November 7, 2017. A final rule is under development. For additional information, please contact Doug Potts at 978-281-9341 or [Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov](mailto:Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov).

## **Other Actions**

### **Lobster**

#### **Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making for Changes to the Lobster Management Program**

NOAA Fisheries published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in the *Federal Register* on November 15, 2017. The ANPR announces that NOAA Fisheries is considering changes to the lobster management program, based on recommendations by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to control effort in the lobster fishery and mitigate impacts on the Southern New England lobster stock. NOAA Fisheries may select a control date to limit the number of lobster permits or traps that a Federal lobster permit holder may own. Additionally, the ANPR notifies the public that NOAA Fisheries is considering minor changes to the Lobster Trap Transfer Program, use of a substitute vessel to actively haul the lobster gear of an inoperable Federal lobster vessel, and modifications to gear marking requirements. You may submit comments no later than December 15, 2017. For more information, please contact Peter Burns at (978)-281-9144 or email at [peter.burns@noaa.gov](mailto:peter.burns@noaa.gov).

## **Paperwork Reduction Act**

None at the time

## **Forage Species**

None at this time

## **Jonah Crab**

None at this time

## Blueline Tilefish

### Blueline Tilefish Amendment

On September 13, 2017, on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, we approved the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Blueline Tilefish Amendment, formally known as Amendment 6 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. This action establishes management measures for the recreational and commercial blueline tilefish fishery in the Mid-Atlantic. We published a notice of availability (82 FR 27223; June 14, 2017) and a proposed rule (82 FR 29263; June 28, 2017) for this action. A final rule to respond to public comments and implement new management measures is pending. For additional information, please contact Doug Potts at 978-281-9341 or email at [Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov](mailto:Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov).

## Industry Funded Monitoring Omnibus Amendment

None at this time

## Electronic Vessel Trip Report Omnibus Framework

NMFS published a final rule on September 11, 2017, that implements a requirement for charter and party vessels that hold a Federal permit to fish for species managed by a Mid-Atlantic Council FMP, while on a trip carrying passengers for hire, to submit VTRs by electronic means. Vessels must submit these reports within 48 hours following the completion of a fishing trip. This action will be effective on trips occurring on or after March 12, 2018. For additional information, please contact Dan Luers at 978-282-8457 or [Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov](mailto:Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov).

## Omnibus Acceptable Biological Catch Framework

None at this time

## Cost Recovery Programs

### Cost Recovery Transition to CRS

The Regional Office is working to transition some aspects of cost recovery billing and collections for our catch share programs (LAGC Scallop IFQ, Tilefish IFQ, and Surfclam and Ocean Quahog ITQ) to Central Receivables Service (CRS). CRS is a free service of the Treasury Dept. that assists other federal agencies to issue bills and collect past-due funds. This transition should help streamline our process and reduce some administrative costs currently charged to the industry. We are still finalizing some aspects of this change, and the transition **will not** affect the upcoming LAGC Scallop IFQ bills scheduled for November. When we finalize the new system, we will have a larger outreach effort to make sure the Council and the industry know exactly what these changes mean for them. For additional information, contact Doug Potts at 978-281-9341. For additional information, please contact Doug Potts at 978-281-9341 or email at [Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov](mailto:Douglas.Potts@noaa.gov).

## Protected Resources Actions

### Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Reinitiation

On October 17, 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) reinitiated consultation on the Biological Opinions (BiOps) that consider fishery management actions associated with the Batched Fisheries (Northeast multispecies, monkfish, spiny dogfish, Northeast skate complex, Atlantic mackerel/squid/butterfish, Atlantic bluefish, and summer flounder/scup/black sea bass), American Lobster, and Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab fisheries. Consultation was reinitiated based on the information from Pace *et al.* (2017) regarding the decline in right whale abundance since 2010 which represents new information about the status of North Atlantic right whales that has not previously been considered in existing BiOps. As such, these fisheries may be affecting right whales in a manner or to an extent not previously considered. During consultation, NMFS will review new information on listed whales, sturgeon, Atlantic salmon, and sea turtles that has become available since consultations on these fisheries were last completed and incorporate the appropriate information into the new Fisheries BiOp(s).

GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD) will coordinate with the Councils and ASMFC to keep them informed of progress with the BiOp(s) and any potential consequences of the reinitiation process. GARFO will work closely with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team (TRT) to gather advice and recommendations on management measures to assist with the recovery of right whales. NMFS encourages the Councils and ASMFC to actively participate in the TRT process as the results and outputs of the TRT process will be used to inform the development of the BiOp(s). The timeline for completion of the BiOp(s) is contingent upon the information put forth by multiple US/Canada working groups being available for use in the consultation and the recommendations and outputs of the TRT.

Questions regarding the reinitiating of consultation can be directed to Mark Murray-Brown, GARFO ESA Section 7 Coordinator (978-281-9306 or [Mark.Murray-Brown@noaa.gov](mailto:Mark.Murray-Brown@noaa.gov)) or Dan Marrone, GARFO ESA Section Biologist (978-282-8465 or [Daniel.Marrone@noaa.gov](mailto:Daniel.Marrone@noaa.gov)). Questions regarding the TRT can be directed to Mike Asaro, GARFO Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator (978-282-8469 or [Michael.Asaro@noaa.gov](mailto:Michael.Asaro@noaa.gov)).

## Research Permits and Acknowledgments - Applications Under Review

On March 7, 2017, NMFS received an initial Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) request from the Environmental Defense Fund and Gulf of Maine Research Institute to test a maximized retention electronic monitoring (EM) program. A revised and complete EFP request was submitted on April 17, 2017. The application requests that participating vessels be exempt from commercial minimum fish sizes. Participating vessels would retain all allocated groundfish catch, regardless of size. Vessels would run EM on 100 percent of trips, and the video footage would be used to verify that vessels adhered to retention requirements. Catch would be verified and sampled through an accompanying dockside monitoring program. The applicants also requested that participating vessels be granted access to closed areas and be exempt from minimum mesh size requirements for trawl gear. For additional information, please contact Claire Fitz-Gerald at (978)281-9255 or email at [claire.fitz-gerald@gmail.com](mailto:claire.fitz-gerald@gmail.com).

On August 14, 2017, NMFS received an EFP application from the Coonamessett Farm Foundation (CFF) to test the selectivity of raised webbing and 6.0-inch gillnets in the commercial haddock fishery. The applicant has requested access to Closed Area I and an exemption from the minimum mesh regulations to facilitate their research. This project was funded through the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP). For additional information, please contact Kyle Molton at (978) 281-9236 or email at [Kyle.Molton@noaa.gov](mailto:Kyle.Molton@noaa.gov).

On September 18, 2017, NMFS received an EFP application from CFF for a 2017 BREP grant project to test a modified flounder cookie sweep on the outer bale bars of the scallop dredge and film fish-dredge interactions to monitor the effectiveness of the gear modification in reducing flatfish bycatch. The project has requested exemptions from access area, gear, crew size, and observer requirements, as well as exemptions from possession limits and minimum fish sizes for sampling purposes only For additional information, please contact Shannah Jaburek at (978) 282-8456 or email at [shannah.jaburek@noaa.gov](mailto:shannah.jaburek@noaa.gov).

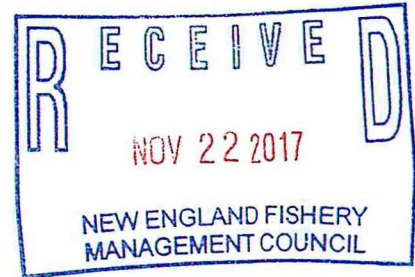
## **Research Permits and Acknowledgments - Application Review Completed**

NMFS issued an EFP to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to test an experimental, off-bottom trawl net outfitted with 5.1-inch, or 4.5-inch codend mesh to target haddock and redfish on September 26, 2017. The EFP will allow researchers to test the experimental net during commercial fishing operations. This project was funded through the 2015 Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program. Testing of the off-bottom trawl will occur October 2017 through April 2018. For additional information, please contact Emily Keiley at (978) 281-9116 or email at [Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov](mailto:Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov)

On November 1, 2017 NMFS issued an updated LOA to the University of New Hampshire to conduct a study testing the efficacy of a traditional otter trawl fitted with a deflector (guiding panel) to reduce catch of depleted groundfish stocks while increasing access to healthy groundfish stocks. For additional information, please contact Emily Keiley at (978) 281-9116 or email at [Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov](mailto:Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov).

On September 29, 2017 NMFS issued an updated LOA to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to collect cod for an age-structure study within and around the Cashes Ledge Closure Area (including the Ammen Rock pinnacle). The vessel will use jig gear to target a range of GOM cod sizes and ages. The research will be conducted for 8-10 sea days through December 2017. For additional information, please contact Emily Keiley at (978) 281-9116 or email at [Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov](mailto:Emily.Keiley@noaa.gov).

On November 3, 2017, NMFS issued an LOA to the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology to conduct a video trawl survey. A chartered commercial fishing vessel will conduct survey work in the western Gulf of Maine from December 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018. For additional information, please contact Spencer Talmage at (978) 281-9232 or email at [Spencer.Talmage@noaa.gov](mailto:Spencer.Talmage@noaa.gov).



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Dr. John Quinn  
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50 Water Street, Mill 2  
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Nov, 22, 2017

**“Framework 57 Recreational Measures for Gulf of Maine Cod”**

Dear Dr. Quinn,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association with over one hundred and fifty members consisting of both charter boat captains and recreational anglers. After attending the Recreational Advisory Panel Meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>, we are very concerned with what the future looks like for the charter head boat sector. Dr. Jamie Cournane explained to the audience the estimates of Gulf of Maine (GOM) cod landings, discards and number of angler trips for the past two years. Once again these estimates are based on the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data which is highly questionable with high PSEs. During haddock trips boats are finding large numbers of cod including many to twenty pounds on Jeffries Ledge, Stellwagen Bank and in Massachusetts Bay. Boats fishing for haddock and tuna in Maine are seeing large numbers of cod on tuna grounds such as Platts Bank and the surrounding ledges and west to the inshore ledges indicating cod are being located easily from the Maine Mid Coast Region all the way down through Massachusetts Bay.

In Green Harbor, MA which was known for a destination to go cod fishing, we have seen the charter boat fleet consisting of fifteen to twenty boats going out on weekends dwindle to less than three. The long time customer has now decided to fish other areas of the country or southern New England. Customers who want to fish and retain cod only have to travel to Rhode Island, Connecticut and Long Island to go on a charter where there is currently no bag limit and multiple head boats and charter boats running on weekends.

We are respectfully requesting the NEFMC to please take a hard look and try to understand the situation charter boats are in due to being able to retain virtually zero cod during the past four years. Please find a way to allow customers to have a bag limit of GOM cod even if it means separate bag limits for charter/party boats and private recreational anglers. In the GOM there is no large biomass of black sea bass, fluke, tautog, squid or porgy to support the charter industry, like the boats south of Cape Cod have. Pollock are over 30 miles offshore in Mass Bay, usually in late fall or winter being too distant for small boats to safely transit. GOM haddock has seasonal closures and giant tuna is now closed. Boats are shut down and if the recreational sector was allowed maybe four or five cod the additional bump in trips would be a boost to the charter boat industry. Thank you for your time, and appreciate any consideration with this request.

David Waldrip  
Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association

JC 11/27/17