

Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan
Goals and Objectives.
(last revised by Amendment 13)

Goals

- 1** Consistent with the National Standards and other required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other applicable law, manage the northeast multispecies complex at sustainable levels.
- 2** Create a management system so that fleet capacity will be commensurate with resource status so as to achieve goals of economic efficiency and biological conservation and that encourages diversity within the fishery.
- 3** Maintain a directed commercial and recreational fishery for northeast multispecies.
- 4** Minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse impacts on fishing communities and shoreside infrastructure.
- 5** Provide reasonable and regulated access to the groundfish species covered in this plan to all members of the public of the United States for seafood consumption and recreational purposes during the stock rebuilding period without compromising the Amendment 13 objectives or timetable. If necessary, management measures could be modified in the future to insure that the overall plan objectives are met.
- 6** To promote stewardship within the fishery.

Objectives

- 1** Achieve, on a continuing basis, optimum yield (OY) for the U.S. fishing industry.
- 2** Clarify the status determination criteria (biological reference points and control rules) for groundfish stocks so they are consistent with the National Standard guidelines and applicable law.
- 3** Adopt fishery management measures that constrain fishing mortality to levels that are compliant with the Sustainable Fisheries Act.
- 4** Implement rebuilding schedules for overfished stocks, and prevent overfishing.
- 5** Adopt measures as appropriate to support international transboundary management of resources.
- 6** Promote research and improve the collection of information to better understand groundfish population dynamics, biology and ecology, and to improve assessment procedures in cooperation with the industry.
- 7** To the extent possible, maintain a diverse groundfish fishery, including different gear types, vessel sizes, geographic locations, and levels of participation.
- 8** Develop biological, economic and social measures of success for the groundfish fishery and resource that insure accountability in achieving fishery management objectives.
- 9** Adopt measures consistent with the habitat provisions of the M-S Act, including identification of EFH and minimizing impacts on habitat to the extent practicable.
- 10** Identify and minimize bycatch, which include regulatory discards, to the extent practicable, and to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.