

# Sector Management in the New England Groundfish Fishery

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# Overview

- Program explanation
- Development
- Performance standards
- Roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring
- Co-management examples
- Challenges

# What are New England sectors?

- Cooperative catch share system
- Voluntary, self-selecting groups of fishermen organized into groups called sectors
- Each sector allocated percentage of the ACL based on catch history of its members (note this is not allocated to the individual permit holder)
- Over 95 percent of catch occurs in sectors
- Not a LAPP or ITQ – because NMFS said so and a judge agreed



# Development (1)

- First authorized in 2004
  - Mitigation from effort control measures
  - Self-governance
  - Consolidation
  - Quid pro quo: no effort controls but increased management responsibilities



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# Development (2)

- Expanded in 2010
  - Address bycatch issues;
  - Simplify management;
  - Give industry greater control over their own fate;
  - Provide a mechanism for economics to shape the fleet rather than regulations(while working to achieve fishing and biomass targets); and
  - Prevent excessive consolidation that would eliminate the day boat fishery



# Performance Standards

- Council:
  - Operations plan development
  - Enforcement of operations plans provisions
  - Monitoring standards
  - Weekly reporting requirement
  - Annual reporting requirement
  - Catch monitoring
- NMFS/GARFO
  - Administrative requirements

# Roles and Responsibilities

- Council
  - Establish and adjust program
  - Initial approval of individual sectors
- NMFS/GARFO
  - Approve program, ops plans, exemption requests
  - Sector support
- Sectors
  - Identify operations
  - Monitor catch
  - Enforce compliance with sector rules



# Co-Management Examples

- Vessel logbook compliance
- Fishing location issues
- Response to court order on allocation carry-over
- Pooling of quota within sectors
- Right of First Refusal



# Challenges

- Co-management with who?
- Monitoring
  - Data confidentiality
  - Internal sector operations
- Administrative burden
- Shifting enforcement dynamic
- Evolution
- Who speaks for sectors?



Questions?