



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



For more information on the
Georges Bank Cod Hook
Sector:

[Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector
Operations Plan and Agreement
and Allocation of Georges Bank
Cod Total Allowable Catch](#)

<http://www.ccchfa.org>

Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector

Vital Stats

First year: 2004

Type of Catch Share Program: Sector Allocation.

Management units: The Georges Bank (GB) Cod Hook Sector Area, an area that represents a portion of the overall GB and Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas.

Vessels / Gear types: 19 participating fishermen in 2008. Vessels use bottom longline (tub trawl), and non-automated jigs and handlines.

Available Trend Data

Season length:

Before Program: Variable

After Program: Year-long. One twelfth of the Sector's annual cod quota is allocated to each month of the fishing year by the Sector. Quota that is not landed during a month is rolled over into the next month.

Ex-vessel value:

Before Program (2003): \$110M (value of entire groundfish fishery)

After Program (2008): \$572,500 (value of entire groundfish fishery; \$489,000 in 2003 dollars) with an 8% Hook Sector allocation of the GB cod TAC.

Consolidation

(2008): 19 sector vessels in the Hook Sector, with 8 active vessels.

Stock status:

Before Program (2003): Overfishing: YES; Overfished: YES

After Program (2008): Overfishing: YES; Overfished: YES. However, in 2008 the Hook Sector was allocated 658 metric tons of GB cod, and only caught 40 metric tons, so this sector is not contributing to overfishing.

Nature of Harvest Privilege

Eligibility: To qualify for membership in the Sector, each member must possess a limited access Northeast (NE) multispecies permit with Days at Sea (DAS), and must qualify with landings of GB cod. Members sign a legally binding contract that commits their vessels and permits to the Sector Agreement for the duration of the fishing year.

Duration: Open-ended. Annual Operations Plan must be approved by NMFS after consultation with the New England Council. The Council can take action to end the program through the Council process. NMFS can withdraw approval of a Sector after consultation with the Council.

Transferability: Participating vessels and/or permits may transfer or lease DAS to other participating vessels and/or permits, provided that the Sector Manager has given its prior written consent to such transfer or lease.

Initial Allocation: Sector allocation set annually, not to exceed 20%. Historic Hook Sector allocation: 12.6% (2004), 11.7% (2005), 10% (2006), 8% (2007) 6.4% (2008) of the annual GB cod TAC, based upon member landing history.

Accumulation: A vessel may not lease in more DAS than its 2001 DAS allocation. There will be no cap to sector allocations under Amendment 16, starting 5/2010.



For additional Catch Share
Spotlights in this series go to:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares>

Questions, comments or need
more information? Contact us
via email at:

catchshares@noaa.gov

Management

Identified Costs: NMFS has estimated annual implementation and monitoring to be \$13,000.

Cost recovery: The Hook Sector assesses per pound fees (\$0.05/lb of cod and haddock in 2008) to pay for its administration costs.

Monitoring: Members must call or email sector manager prior to sailing. Required to turn in Vessel Trip Reports to the Sector Manager within 48 hours, and dealer reports within one week. About 40% have VMS. In the case of enforcement, members may be held jointly liable for violations of the sector agreement.

Summary

The Georges Bank Hook Sector has been in place since the implementation of Amendment 13 in the NE Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in May 2004. Amendment 13 was developed to address overfishing of several groundfish stocks, including GB cod, and bring the FMP into conformance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The GB Hook Sector emerged largely in response to impending effort restrictions in Amendment 13 (such as increased DAS limitations) that participants felt were likely to render their businesses unviable. This small boat fleet considered the development of a collectively managed sector as a way to gain greater control over decisions that affect the livelihoods of its members, and a way to proactively participate in the conservation of their fishery.

The Hook Sector originally consisted of 58 boat owners, but membership in the Sector is voluntary and annually renewed. In the 2008 fishing season, 19 boats participated; many original sector members have moved to a second subsequent sector, the GB Cod Fixed Gear Sector. The Hook Sector is annually allocated a percentage of the overall GB cod total allowable catch (TAC), based on members' collective GB cod catch histories. Sector members propose, and NMFS approves, harvest methods and exemptions from many of the fishing restrictions of the NE multispecies FMP in the annual operations plan and agreement. Members are still bound by DAS (days-at-sea) limits, although they can engage in transfers/leases of DAS with other sector members.