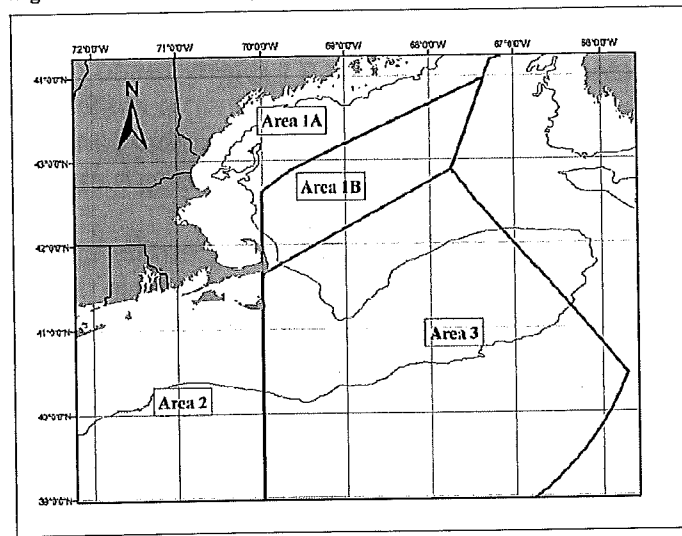


## Herring Update

Figure 2 Atlantic Herring Management Areas



- Magnuson: Annual catch limits and accountability measures on stocks by 2010 on stocks that are overfished and overfishing is occurring. Herring is not but the Science and Statistical Committee is still setting a total allowable catch for 2010 based on the best available science.
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC): 2009 = 154,000 mt and 2010 = 90,000mt – 108,000mt (1 metric ton = 2204 pounds). The final amount to be determined at the November New England Fishery Council Meeting.
- The total TAC 90,000mt – 108,000mt will be split between 4 different stocks (1A, 1B, 2, 3). Too much pressure on a single stock area could wipe out that entire stock. Area 1A summer lobster fishery, Area 2 winter lobster fishery, Area 3 fall lobster fishery.
- Science uncertainty and stocks: due to a lack of knowledge of what is being caught and what is being discarded in 2008 only 13% of the herring fishery was monitored across 40 boats compared to the groundfish fishery where 8% of the fishery was monitored in 2008 across 1,200 boats. Retrospective patterns are showing that stock size is decreasing. There are inconsistencies in the science due to a lack of data but they feel the exploitable biomass is about 40% of that in 2009, which is why the TAC has to be reduced in 2010 by that much. Stock recruitment levels are low. A new benchmark assessment set for 2011 using new models. Benchmark Assessment is one in which scientists change the model altering what data they collect and which models are used to assess the stock. Since 2006 scientists have been consistently over estimating the size of the herring stock and underestimating the fishing mortality.
- Maine Lobster Fishery used 60,000 mt of herring for bait in 2008. Other options; frozen herring, menhaden (pogies), Redfish (~9,000mt). In 2009 all of the waste (fish heads and racks/spines) from the Port Clyde Fresh Catch processing plant went to the Port Clyde Lobster Coop for bait – other processing plants from around the state and in Canada also do the same.

## Groundfish Update

- Federal Groundfish Amendment 16 is out for public comment until December 20, 2009.
- Some of New England's groundfish fishermen have selected to use a new management system in May of 2010. Instead of fishing under a system based on an amount of time they could fish (Days at Sea) they have selected to fish in a system based on the amount of fish they will be able to take out of the water called Sector Management.
- A sector is essentially a cooperative of fishermen it isn't tied to a specific area but it could be.
- There are now 18 sectors in New England roughly 700 permits and 90% of the groundfish allocation are within sectors, while 10% is still within the DAS system.
- Sectors remove some of the top down management approach – a hard limit on the amount of fish they can take in turn fishermen can decide how and when and where they want to fish.
- There are 4 Sectors that are made up of Maine boats
- One of the Maine Sectors we have been working with - The Port Clyde Community Groundfish Sector (PCS). There are roughly 37 permits or 30 members/boats that have committed to only fishing within the Gulf of Maine and landing in Maine. These fishermen make up about 1/2 of the fishermen who landed Groundfish in the state of Maine in 2008.
- The PCS is made up of 13 Trawlers from Port Clyde, 1 hookfisherman, 4 Trawlers from Portland and the other 12 are Gillnetters around Portland and south.
- Sectors provide a great way to loop back into innovative marketing such as Port Clyde Fresh Catch now that they aren't tied to a clock they can fill orders rather than fill their boats.
- Sectors are a big change for fishermen, fishermen who are used making decisions on their own not working as a group.
- In Sectors you can have fishermen that use similar gear – fish and land in similar locations banded together sharing costs and business plans.
- Now with sectors fishermen will have a stronger presence in the fishery management process as a group then they did as individuals – now they will be 1 voice in 18 not 1 in 1,200.
- National Marine Fishery Service is paying for 30% monitoring coverage at sea and 50% monitoring dockside in 2010.
- The State of Maine has received Emergency Groundfish Relief money some will go to each sector to cover start up costs and the rest will start a Maine State Groundfish Permit Bank.