



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 9, 2010  
**TO:** Groundfish Oversight Committee  
**FROM:** Tom Nies  
**SUBJECT:** **Party/Charter Permits**

1. The Committee and Council will consider reaffirming the control date for the multispecies party/charter fleet. The attached background information on the party/charter fishery is extracted from section 6.2.5.5 of Amendment 16.

2. Table 140 (Northeast Region P/C Permits) is updated below with data for FY 2008 and 2009.

**Table 140 (updated) - Summary of Northeast region party/charter permits held by Multispecies Part/Charter Permit Holders FY 2001-2009.**

Permit Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Multispecies	652	687	687	692	741	738	762	760	795

**Table 139 - Monthly Distribution of Gulf of Maine Cod Harvest by Mode**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Private Boat Mode</b>							
Mar	0.5%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Apr	11.4%	21.3%	19.0%	0.3%	40.7%	5.6%	23.4%
May	21.7%	14.4%	34.4%	18.7%	21.0%	29.3%	12.0%
Jun	12.2%	4.1%	6.2%	11.8%	8.0%	4.9%	3.4%
Jul	21.1%	11.4%	15.7%	2.2%	5.7%	16.1%	6.2%
Aug	4.5%	10.1%	5.6%	2.4%	12.9%	14.6%	10.8%
Sep	5.8%	4.8%	14.8%	37.0%	3.5%	0.8%	28.7%
Oct	9.7%	8.6%	0.4%	4.7%	0.5%	25.8%	2.1%
Nov	11.4%	19.9%	2.7%	17.4%	7.9%	0.0%	13.5%
Dec	1.8%	3.4%	1.1%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Party/Charter Mode</b>							
Mar	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.8%	1.9%	12.4%	0.0%
Apr	0.8%	7.5%	4.6%	8.4%	28.4%	26.1%	15.4%
May	19.6%	16.5%	37.1%	25.5%	17.6%	9.2%	29.0%
Jun	4.7%	17.7%	11.6%	14.1%	16.3%	27.7%	14.1%
Jul	34.8%	7.7%	8.4%	7.7%	11.2%	9.0%	17.5%
Aug	6.1%	11.3%	6.8%	17.3%	11.6%	7.9%	6.4%
Sep	16.3%	18.7%	17.8%	14.9%	5.2%	6.0%	15.3%
Oct	16.4%	11.5%	9.5%	5.8%	5.8%	1.7%	2.4%
Nov	1.4%	1.4%	4.4%	4.5%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Dec	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%

#### 6.2.5.5 Party/Charter Permits

Federal party/charter permits are currently issued by the NERO under the Summer Flounder/Scup/Black Sea Bass, Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish, Multispecies, and Bluefish, FMPs. Federal party/charter permits for American lobster fishery are also issued under the provisions of ACFCMA. Each of these permits is open access and with the exception of multispecies any vessel operator must possess a federal permit when fishing in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. The multispecies plan is unique in that the FMP prohibits any limited access permit holder from also possessing any open access permit but allows limited access permit holders to carry passengers for hire. The number of multispecies party/charter permits issued has been increasing since 2001 from 652 permits to 762 permits in 2007 (Table 140). Almost all multispecies party/charter permit holders held at least one other party/charter permit with bluefish and fluke being the most commonly held permit. Only a small number of multispecies permit holders held a party/charter lobster permit during FY 2001-2007.

**Table 140 - Summary of Northeast region party/charter permits held by Multispecies Part/Charter Permit Holders FY 2001-2007.**

Permit Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Multispecies	652	687	687	692	741	738	762
Bluefish	553	590	609	626	674	674	699
Fluke	508	537	548	537	618	631	672
Lobster	12	16	17	23	22	22	23
Scup	438	469	470	491	560	568	610
Black Sea Bass	469	507	518	534	597	608	645
Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish	466	491	506	525	579	588	627

Although the number of unique party/charter permit combinations that would be possible to obtain is much larger, there were only 34 unique permit combinations issued to multispecies party/charter permit holders during FY 2001 – 2007. Of these combinations nine accounted for more than 80% of multispecies permit holders. More than half of all multispecies party/charter permit holders also held every other federal party/charter permit except lobster (Table 141). Most of the other common permit combinations at least included bluefish and summer flounder. Less than 50 multispecies party/charter permit holders only held a multispecies permit.

**Table 141 - Summary of Unique party/charter permit combinations held by multispecies party/charter permit holders FY 2001-2007**

Permit Combinations	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Mult/Bluefish/Fluke/Scup/BSB/SMB	304	340	362	379	449	469	511
Mult/Bluefish/Fluke/Scup/BSB	40	46	40	48	48	46	42
Multispecies-only	39	44	47	32	34	30	25
Mults/Bluefish	39	44	47	32	34	30	25
Mult/Bluefish/Fluke/BSB/SMB	23	27	32	28	20	25	22
Mult/Bluefish/SMB	24	29	28	36	28	23	19
Mult/Bluefish/Fluke/SMB	19	20	19	16	14	15	17
Mults/Bluefish/Fluke/Scup	24	18	18	16	15	14	14
Mult/Fluke/Scup/BSB/SMB	25	22	15	8	13	12	13
Percent of Total Permits	83%	86%	87%	87%	88%	91%	91%

#### Party/Charter Activity

The number of vessels reporting retaining any groundfish through the VTR ranged from 251 to 299 during FY 2001-2007 (Table 142). These vessels include individuals that hold an open access multispecies party/charter permit as well as limited access vessels that carry passengers for hire. The number of participating vessels declined in consecutive years from 283 operators during FY 2003 to 259 operators during FY2006 before increasing to 269 vessels during FY 2007. The number of trips retaining groundfish and number of passengers carried on those trips were highest during FY 2001. However, even as the number of trips and passengers fluctuated over time the number of trips taken per vessel was nearly constant at about 20 trips. Likewise the number of passengers per trip did not vary very much.

**Table 142 - Summary of Party/Charter Operations**

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>Number of Reporting Vessels</b>	<b>Number of Groundfish Trips</b>	<b>Number of Anglers</b>	<b>Anglers per Trip</b>	<b>Trips per Vessel</b>
2001	299	5,898	136,748	23.2	19.7
2002	251	5,106	108,034	21.2	20.3
2003	283	5,475	119,520	21.8	19.3
2004	277	5,710	119,612	20.9	20.6
2005	265	5,768	115,737	20.1	21.8
2006	259	5,133	102,759	20.0	19.8
2007	269	5,622	109,734	19.5	20.9

The number of party/charter operators taking passengers for hire on groundfish trips dropped by 48 permits from FY 2001 to FY 2002, but increased by 38 permit holders from FY 2002 to FY 2003. During FY 2004 – FY 2007 the annual change in number of operating units ranged between +10 to -6. Embedded in these changes is a mixture of vessels that have operated continuously for multiple years and others that have operated on an intermittent basis.

To get a better understanding of entry and exit patterns in the groundfish party/charter fishery two types of continuous operators were tracked from FY 2001 to FY 2007. Entering vessels were defined as being vessels that operated continuously from 2002 to 2007, from 2003 to 2007, 2004 to 2007 and so on. Exiting vessels were defined as vessels that operated from 2001 to 2002, from 2001 to 2003, from 2001 to 2004 and so on. An exiting vessel only means that it did not report taking passengers for hire where groundfish were retained. This does not necessarily mean that the vessel ceased altogether from carrying passengers for hire. For entering vessels the first fishing year denotes the fishing year in which they entered the party/charter groundfish fishery whereas the last fishing year for exiting vessels denotes the final year in which these vessels reported taking groundfish passengers. Note that any vessel that operated continuously from 2001 to 2007 was defined as neither an exiting nor an entering vessel. However, for purposes of reporting these vessels were included in both tallies.

A total of 87 party/charter vessels carried passengers for hire where groundfish were retained in every fishing year from FY 2001 – FY 2007 (Table 143). During 2002-2007 there were 100 party/charter operators that took trips where groundfish were landed. Note that these 100 vessels include the 87 that had also operated during FY 2001. During FY 2003-2007 there were 120 vessels carried passengers on one or more trips in every year where groundfish were landed. As was previously the case for the 120 vessels includes the 100 vessels operating during 2002 – 2007 as well as the 87 vessels that operated in every year during 2001 – 2007, and so on. There were 22 vessels that operated during 2001 – 2002 but did not report taking groundfish passengers for hire in any other fishing year. Similarly, there were 18 groundfish party/charter vessels that operated in every year during FY 2001 – FY 2003 but reported no groundfish trips in any other fishing year.

**Table 143 - Summary of Groundfish Party/Charter Operators by Years of Continuous Operation**

<b>Years of Operation Enter Year – FY 2007</b>	<b>Number of Operating Vessels</b>	<b>Years of Operation FY 2001 – Last Year</b>	<b>Number of Operating Vessels</b>
2001-2007	87	2001-2002	22
2002-2007	100	2001-2003	18
2003-2007	120	2001-2004	13
2004-2007	135	2001-2005	8
2005-2007	157	2001-2006	10
2006-2007	192	2001-2007	87

The net change in party/charter operators as either entering or exiting following more multiple years of continuous operation is reported in Table 144. Fishing year denotes the year in which new entrants first operated and the year in which exiting party/charter groundfish vessels stopped taking groundfish passengers for hire. The net change represented the difference between entering and exiting vessels. For example, 20 party/charter vessels started operating in FY 2003 that had not carried groundfish passengers in any prior year include in the analysis, while 22 operators that had carried passengers during FY 2001-FY 2002 left the fishery leaving a net reduction of 2 party/charter operators during FY 2003. The net change in entry and exit was also negative during FY 2004 but was positive in both FY 2005 and FY2006. During FY 2007 10 party/charter operators left the groundfish fishery, however, the net change will not be known until FY2008 since some operators may have begun carrying groundfish passengers for hire during FY 2007.

**Table 144 - Summary of Entry and Exit of Groundfish Party/Charter Operators**

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>Entering Operators</b>	<b>Exiting Operators</b>	<b>Net Change</b>
2002	13		13
2003	20	22	-2
2004	15	18	-3
2005	22	13	9
2006	35	8	27
2007		10	

The increase in new entrants to the party/charter fleet engaged in the groundfish fishery has resulted in greater competition for passengers. During FY 2001 the 87 vessels that operated in every year took two-thirds of the trips where groundfish were landed and carried 77% of all passengers (Table 145). These vessels maintained their share of both trips and passengers during FY 2002 – FY 2003. Since FY 2003 the share of trips and passengers has declined to 59% and 63% respectively.

**Table 145 - Passenger and Trip Shares for the 87 Vessels Active in Every Year**

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>Number of Groundfish Trips</b>	<b>Number of Anglers</b>	<b>Share of Groundfish Trips</b>	<b>Share of Passengers</b>
2001	3907	104944	66%	77%
2002	3442	83854	67%	78%
2003	3715	92228	68%	77%
2004	3622	83603	63%	70%
2005	3714	78997	64%	68%
2006	3176	67946	62%	66%
2007	3339	69610	59%	63%

Because of safety regulations the party/charter sector is segmented into operations that may only carry six or fewer passengers on a trip and operations that may carry more than six passengers. Thus there are operators that exclusively carry fewer than six passengers, operators that exclusively carry more than six passengers, and operators that sometimes carry six or fewer passengers and sometimes carry more than six. During FY 2001-FY 2007 there were between 163 and 195 party/charter operators that exclusively carried six or fewer passengers on all trips where groundfish were kept (Table 146). These operating units accounted for more than 60% of all operating units reporting groundfish trips (Table 147). These so-called “six-pack” vessels took about 2,000 trips during FY 2007 and carried more than 11,000 passengers. These trips represented just over one-third of total groundfish trips and 10% of total passengers. Thus while six-pack vessels represented the majority of party/charter operations they carried a small proportion of total party/charter passengers.

**Table 146 - Summary of Operating Units, Trips and Passengers by type of Operation**

Fishing Year	Only Six Passengers or Fewer			Only More than Six Passengers			Both Six and More than Six Passengers		
	Number of Operating Units	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers	Number of Operating Units	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers	Number of Operating Units	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers
2001	195	1,941	10,156	76	1,968	73,574	28	1,989	53,018
2002	163	1,802	9,570	67	2,537	85,942	21	767	12,522
2003	177	1,539	7,990	70	1,845	64,766	36	2,091	46,764
2004	172	1,807	9,600	66	1,828	64,990	39	2,075	45,022
2005	173	1,930	10,449	53	1,670	60,038	39	2,168	45,250
2006	166	1,947	10,500	71	2,171	75,415	22	1,015	16,844
2007	169	2,079	11,162	78	2,368	79,020	22	1,175	19,552

**Table 147 - Summary of Shares of Operating Units, Groundfish Trips, and Passengers by Type of Operation**

Fishing Year	Only Six Passengers or Fewer			Only More than Six Passengers			Both Six and More than Six Passengers		
	Number of Operating Units	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers	Number of Operating Units	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers	Number of Operating Units	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers
2001	65%	33%	7%	25%	33%	54%	9%	34%	39%
2002	65%	35%	9%	27%	50%	80%	8%	15%	12%
2003	63%	28%	7%	25%	34%	54%	13%	38%	39%
2004	62%	32%	8%	24%	32%	54%	14%	36%	38%
2005	65%	33%	9%	20%	29%	52%	15%	38%	39%
2006	64%	38%	10%	27%	42%	73%	8%	20%	16%
2007	63%	37%	10%	29%	42%	72%	8%	21%	18%

Party/charter operators that exclusively carried more than six passengers represented approximately one-quarter of the party/charter fleet engaged in the recreational groundfish fishery during FY 2001-FY 2007. In most years the share of groundfish trips taken by these vessels was similar to that of the number of the six-pack fleet but has increased during FY2006-FY 2007 to 42% of total trips. The share of passengers carried by party/charter vessels that only carry more than six passengers was as high as 80% during FY 2002, was just over 50% during FY 2001 and FY 2003-FY 2005, but more recently has increased to more than 70% during FY2006-FY 2007.

Party/charter vessels that offer both trips taking fewer than six passengers and trips taking more than six passengers represented the smallest number of operators ranging from 39 to 21 during FY 2001 – FY 2007. While these vessels do offer both types of trips one more than 80% of the occasions where groundfish were retained there were more than more than six passengers on board. These vessels represented 13-15% of total operating units during FY 2003-FY 2005, but have declined to 8% of operating units during FY2006-FY 2007. Similarly, the share of groundfish trips and passengers has also declined to about 20% and 17% during FY2006-FY 2007.

Party/charter operators offer trips of different duration. For purposes of analysis these trips were delineated between trips departing and returning on the same calendar day and trips that sailed and returned on different calendar days. The former were subdivided into half-day (6 hours or less), full-day (more than 6 and less than or equal to 12 hours), and extended (more than 12 hours), while the latter only included overnight trips regardless of actual trip duration. For both six-pack and trips carrying more than six passengers the number of full-day trips (6-12 hours) represented the majority of trips, at least 83% for the former and 73% for the latter (Table 148). Since 2003 there appears to have been a modest shift in emphasis away from half-day trips (6 hours or less) to a larger proportion of trips greater than 12 hours. However, there does not appear to be any notable change in the proportion of trips spanning more than one calendar day. Note that the proportion of passengers carried by trip duration was quite similar to trip proportions (Table 149).



**Table 148 - Summary of Number of Trips by Trip Duration and Number of Passengers per Trip**

Fishing Year	More than Six Passengers				Six or Fewer Passengers			
	Half-Day	Full-Day	Extended	Overnight	Half-Day	Full-Day	Extended	Overnight
2001	714	3075	166	53	141	1892	68	17
2002	564	2593	156	63	152	1722	58	9
2003	743	2739	217	77	145	1753	141	4
2004	576	2957	281	72	139	1924	262	6
2005	358	3007	361	65	52	2240	279	7
2006	343	2642	289	49	93	1965	248	6
2007	595	2707	362	48	105	2101	205	11
Shares								
2001	17.8%	76.7%	4.1%	1.3%	6.7%	89.3%	3.2%	0.8%
2002	16.7%	76.8%	4.6%	1.9%	7.8%	88.7%	3.0%	0.5%
2003	19.7%	72.5%	5.7%	2.0%	7.1%	85.8%	6.9%	0.2%
2004	14.8%	76.1%	7.2%	1.9%	6.0%	82.5%	11.2%	0.3%
2005	9.4%	79.3%	9.5%	1.7%	2.0%	86.9%	10.8%	0.3%
2006	10.3%	79.5%	8.7%	1.5%	4.0%	85.0%	10.7%	0.3%
2007	16.0%	72.9%	9.8%	1.3%	4.3%	86.7%	8.5%	0.5%

**Table 149 - Summary of Number of Passengers by Trip Duration and Number of Passengers per Trip**

Fishing Year	More than Six Passengers				Six or Fewer Passengers			
	Half- Day	Full- Day	Extended	Overnight	Half- Day	Full- Day	Extended	Overnight
2001	25145	99161	5005	1539	617	10032	323	64
2002	17494	78223	4090	2235	694	9237	294	50
2003	22761	83586	6745	2900	608	9372	747	19
2004	16375	89008	8193	2529	612	10339	1382	23
2005	9941	90365	11079	2172	248	12096	1491	31
2006	10493	78804	8375	1708	428	10683	1363	25
2007	17953	77650	10392	1450	470	11358	1113	59
Shares								
2001	19.2%	75.8%	3.8%	1.2%	5.6%	90.9%	2.9%	0.6%
2002	17.1%	76.7%	4.0%	2.2%	6.8%	89.9%	2.9%	0.5%
2003	19.6%	72.1%	5.8%	2.5%	5.7%	87.2%	7.0%	0.2%
2004	14.1%	76.7%	7.1%	2.2%	5.0%	83.7%	11.2%	0.2%
2005	8.8%	79.6%	9.8%	1.9%	1.8%	87.2%	10.8%	0.2%
2006	10.6%	79.3%	8.4%	1.7%	3.4%	85.5%	10.9%	0.2%
2007	16.7%	72.3%	9.7%	1.3%	3.6%	87.4%	8.6%	0.5%

Party/charter vessels may offer a mix of recreational trips that target groundfish and trips that do not. Since party/charter revenues are directly linked to passengers, dependence on groundfish was based on the proportion of passengers carried when groundfish were retained to total passengers carried. Of the party/charter operators that took at least one groundfish trip, the distribution of dependence exhibits a bimodal pattern where approximately three quarters of all vessels either relied on groundfish for more than 90% of passengers or relied on groundfish for 20% or less (Table 150). That is, about 35% of party/charter vessels taking at least one groundfish trip relied on groundfish for over 90% of total passengers. Approximately 40% of party/charter operators relied on groundfish for 20% or less of total passenger load.

**Table 150 - Dependence on Groundfish Trips**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<= 10%	102	81	95	90	70	75	76
> 10% <= 20%	22	25	22	24	24	22	31
> 20% <= 30%	11	8	14	10	9	5	13
> 30% <= 40%	13	6	9	12	13	11	14
> 40% <= 50%	10	8	6	9	11	11	9
> 50% <= 60%	10	6	6	8	13	14	11
> 60% <= 70%	10	9	8	13	11	11	6
> 70% <= 80%	10	6	6	8	11	2	6
> 80% <= 90%	7	11	8	11	7	9	8
> 90%	104	91	109	92	96	99	95
<= 10%	34.1%	32.3%	33.6%	32.5%	26.4%	29.0%	28.3%
> 10% <= 20%	7.4%	10.0%	7.8%	8.7%	9.1%	8.5%	11.5%
> 20% <= 30%	3.7%	3.2%	4.9%	3.6%	3.4%	1.9%	4.8%
> 30% <= 40%	4.3%	2.4%	3.2%	4.3%	4.9%	4.2%	5.2%
> 40% <= 50%	3.3%	3.2%	2.1%	3.2%	4.2%	4.2%	3.3%
> 50% <= 60%	3.3%	2.4%	2.1%	2.9%	4.9%	5.4%	4.1%
> 60% <= 70%	3.3%	3.6%	2.8%	4.7%	4.2%	4.2%	2.2%
> 70% <= 80%	3.3%	2.4%	2.1%	2.9%	4.2%	0.8%	2.2%
> 80% <= 90%	2.3%	4.4%	2.8%	4.0%	2.6%	3.5%	3.0%
> 90%	34.8%	36.3%	38.5%	33.2%	36.2%	38.2%	35.3%

The bimodal distribution of groundfish dependence is at least in part explained by area fished. On average, 82% of party/charter vessels took passengers for hire exclusively in the Gulf of Maine (48%) or in the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (34%) (Table 151). Of the vessels fishing exclusively in the Gulf of Maine more than 60% relied on groundfish for more than 90% of passengers (Table 152). By contrast, 87% of party/charter vessels fishing exclusively in the SNEMA area relied on groundfish for 20% or less of total passengers carried during the fishing year.

**Table 151 - Stock Area Combinations Fished by Party/Charter Vessels by Fishing Year**

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>GOM Only</b>	<b>GB Only</b>	<b>SNEMA Only</b>	<b>GOM &amp; GB</b>	<b>GB &amp; SNEMA</b>	<b>GOM &amp; SNEMA</b>	<b>All Areas</b>
2001	131	10	121	10	8	11	8
2002	123	4	85	12	11	12	4
2003	132	1	104	13	12	16	5
2004	126	4	87	15	11	27	7
2005	137	2	81	13	7	16	9
2006	134	2	76	11	8	20	8
2007	133	0	103	4	6	16	7

**Table 152 - Dependence on Groundfish for Vessels Fishing Exclusively in GOM or SNEMA**

<b>Fishing Year</b>	<b>GOM Only</b>			<b>SNEMA Only</b>		
	<b>GF</b>	<b>GF Depend</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>GF Depend &gt;</b>	<b>GF</b>
	<b>Depend &lt;= 20%</b>	<b>&gt; 20% &lt; 90%</b>	<b>Depend &gt;= 90%</b>	<b>Depend &lt;= 20%</b>	<b>20% &lt; 90%</b>	<b>Depend &gt;= 90%</b>
2001	4.6%	29.8%	65.6%	85%	14.0%	0.8%
2002	8.1%	29.3%	62.6%	91%	9.4%	0.0%
2003	5.3%	25.8%	68.9%	88%	6.7%	4.8%
2004	9.5%	30.2%	60.3%	92%	6.9%	1.1%
2005	6.6%	33.6%	59.9%	84%	13.6%	2.5%
2006	9.0%	30.6%	60.4%	86%	10.5%	3.9%
2007	8.3%	28.6%	63.2%	83%	12.6%	4.9%
Average	7%	30%	63%	87%	11%	3%

The majority (approximately 85%) of party/charter groundfish trips took place in the Gulf of Maine (Table 153). These trips also accounted for about 86% of passengers on board party/charter trips that landed groundfish. The number of trips and passengers on groundfish trips in the Gulf of Maine fell during FY2006 compared to FY 2003-FY 2005. This reduction may have been associated with Framework 42 measures that implemented a closed season and raised the cod size limit. During FY2006 the number of Gulf of Maine groundfish trips was down 5.4% compared to the FY 2003-FY 2005 average and the number of passengers was down 10.2%. Both trips and number of passengers rose in FY 2007 compared to FY2006 and while the number of Gulf of Maine groundfish trips was 1.1% higher compared to the FY 2003-FY 2005 average, the number of passengers was still down by 7.8%.

**Table 153 - Summary of Party/Charter Vessels Groundfish Trips and Passengers by Fishing Year and Stock Area**

Fishing Year	Number of Reporting Vessels	Number of Groundfish Trips	Number of Anglers	Anglers per Trip	Trips per Vessel
Gulf of Maine					
2001	153	4,786	11,4081	23.8	31.3
2002	146	4,456	9,6261	21.6	30.5
2003	164	4,534	10,1104	22.3	27.6
2004	165	4,823	10,3361	21.4	29.2
2005	171	4,861	9,673	19.9	28.4
2006	168	4,484	9,020	20.1	26.7
2007	157	4,792	9,256	19.3	30.5
Georges Bank					
2001	32	103	1,273	12.4	3.2
2002	30	82	1,022	12.5	2.7
2003	23	104	1,811	17.4	4.5
2004	26	108	1,955	18.1	4.2
2005	25	110	1,805	16.4	4.4
2006	21	113	2,415	21.4	5.4
2007	14	37	808	21.8	2.6
Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic					
2001	134	1,009	21,394	21.2	7.5
2002	97	568	10,751	18.9	5.9
2003	112	837	16,605	19.8	7.5
2004	117	779	14,296	18.4	6.7
2005	98	807	17,202	21.3	8.2
2006	98	536	10,142	18.9	5.5
2007	120	793	16,267	20.5	6.6

The number of party/charter groundfish trips to Georges Bank represented no more than 2.2% of trips and 2.4% of passengers in any fishing year from FY 2001- FY 2007. The number of passengers per trip was highest during FY2006-FY 2007 which may be the result of some switching between Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, but given the low number of trips and passengers this is unlikely to account for the changes in Gulf of Maine trips.

Party/charter groundfish trips taken in the SNE/MA stock area averaged 14% and 13% of total groundfish trips and passengers respectively. Both the number of trips and passengers was highest during FY 2001 at 1,009 and 21,394 respectively. In most years trips were around 800 and the number of passengers ranged between 16,000 – 17,000 anglers. However, during FY 2002 and FY2006 trips were down to between 500 and 600 and passengers were between 10,000 and 11,000 anglers. The reason for these low trip and passenger numbers are uncertain.

## 6.2.6 Wholesale Trade and Processing Component

### 6.2.6.1 Seafood Dealers

All Federally permitted groundfish vessels are required to sell to a federally permitted dealer. Further, federally permitted dealers are required to report all purchases of seafood regardless of