

Amendment 16 Accountability Measure Issues

June 9, 2010

Sectors:

No sector specific AMs for SNE/MA winter flounder, ocean pout, Northern windowpane flounder, southern windowpane flounder, Atlantic wolffish (NERO letter dated January 21, 2010)

Common Pool

In FY 2012, hard TAC AM does not apply to ocean pout, northern and southern windowpane flounder, Atlantic halibut. (NERO letter dated January 21, 2010)

Comment: A16 authorizes RA to adjust a trip limit for these stocks as part of the hard TAC AM (authority also adopted in FW 44), but several (ocean pout, windowpane flounder) cannot be possessed at all so this is unlikely to be effective. When combined with the lack of AMs on sector vessels for these stocks, in FY 2012 there won't be any effective AM for these stocks (prior to FY 2012 the common pool vessels assume burden for the AMs for these stocks). In the case of Atlantic halibut, only one fish can be possessed so the only possible adjustment is to prohibit all possession.

Other Issues

Common Pool

White hake possession limit is automatically reduced to 500 lbs/DAS in FY 2012 as part of the hard TAC AM.

Dockside and at-sea monitoring requirements for hand-gear vessels may be cost prohibitive.

No automatic adjustment of DAS, or elimination of DAS, once hard TAC AM is implemented. (FW 44, however, authorizes the RA to adjust trip limits and DAS to facilitate harvesting an ACL, or to prevent an ACL from being exceeded.)