Verification Report on
Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Stock of Pollock (Pollachius virens)

✓ The fishery is managed by a competent authority and has a management plan in place that incorporates a science-based approach to ensure sustainability.
  o Pollock is managed by NMFS and NEFMC, and regulated by the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan, which utilizes the best available science to inform the management process, and to ultimately set biological reference points and harvest restrictions.

✓ If stock sizes are below management target levels, whether due to natural or man-made causes, management plans are established that enable rebuilding within a specified timeframe.
  o According to the most recent assessment data, Atlantic pollock spawning stock biomass is above management target levels. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

✓ Sufficient data exists to determine harvest levels.
  o The 2010 50th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW 50) and the most recent operational assessment in 2017 utilized fisheries-dependent and independent data to determine stock status and biological reference points (BRPs), which are assessed through the NEFMC process. Ultimately, the NEFMC sets the harvest levels based on this data, which incorporate uncertainty. Atlantic pollock is not considered a data poor species.
  o This stock is unique in that the assessment considers two different selectivity profiles. While they give different estimates of current biomass, both suggest that the stock is healthy and that fishing mortality is low.

✓ Monitoring and compliance measures are in place to ensure acceptable harvest levels.
  o Pollock catch is monitored through vessel trip reports (VTRs), observers, dealer reports; and for sectors, additional at-sea monitoring. Compliance is assessed through consistency throughout these reports as well as enforcement in the field.

✓ Enforcement exists to ensure that harvesters follow regulations, and to prevent illegal practices and unreported harvest.
  o U.S. Coast Guard, NMFS Office of Law Enforcement agents, and state marine patrol agents enforce the laws and regulations governing the harvest of Pollock.
I. Definition of Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Pollock

Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank pollock (*Pollachius virens*) is harvested from the waters off the coast of Maine, south to New Jersey (see Figure 1). While the pollock stock unit extends into southern New England waters, this report focuses on the management and harvesting of pollock in the area outlined by the Gulf of Maine Responsibly Harvested Standard\(^1\). The primary gear types utilized to target pollock are otter trawl and gillnet.

Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank redfish, pollock, and haddock collectively received Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification specifically for otter trawl gear in July 2016. These three otter trawl fisheries will need to be re-assessed in July 2020 in order to maintain certification. Otter trawl catches comprise more than 70% of pollock, haddock, and redfish landings collectively (MSC 2016).

\[\text{Figure 1. Statistical areas that define the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stock of pollock. The orange line represents the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (NEFSC 2006).}\]

\(^1\) This excludes pollock harvested in statistical area 536 and all other areas directly west of statistical area 525.
**CRITERION:** The fishery is managed by a competent authority and has a management plan in place that incorporates a science-based approach to ensure sustainability.

**II. Description of the Management Authority and Regulatory Process**

Responsibility of Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank pollock management lies within the **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**, which is a part of the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**. The **New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC)** facilitates the development of pollock regulations as part of a complex of 16 groundfish species that are managed together as the Northeast Multispecies Fishery. The NEFMC consists of 18 voting members, including the Regional Administrator for NMFS, the principal marine resource management official from each New England state, and governor appointees.

For Northeast multispecies fisheries management, a sub-set of NEFMC members form an Oversight Committee. This committee is responsible for the development of the fishery management plan and regulations that are consistent with the ten national standards outlined in the **Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA)**, which dictate that conservation and management measures shall:

1. Prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield.
2. Be based upon the best scientific information available.
3. Manage individual stocks as a unit throughout their range, to the extent practicable; interrelated stocks shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.
4. Not discriminate between residents of different states; any allocation of privileges must be fair and equitable.
5. Where practicable, promote efficiency, except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.
6. Take into account and allow for variations among and contingencies in fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.
7. Minimize costs and avoid duplications, where practicable.
8. Take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities to provide for the sustained participation of, and minimize adverse impacts to, such communities (consistent with conservation requirements).
9. Minimize bycatch or mortality from bycatch.

To help the oversight committee meet these requirements, an Advisory Panel made up of representatives from the fishing industry, scientists, and conservation organizations provides input to management measures. The chairs of the oversight committee provide detailed guidance (terms of reference) to a Plan Development Team (PDT), which consists of scientists, managers and other experts on biology and/or management of pollock. Then the PDT provides reports to the oversight committee in response to the terms of reference. The PDT meets regularly to provide analysis of species-related information and to develop issue papers, alternatives, and other documents as appropriate. The NEFMC is also assisted by the members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC); SSC members review and participate in stock assessment.

_Last verified June 2018_
updates, and develop acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendations that inform management decisions. Figure 2 provides a visual of this process.

Figure 2. Fishery Management Plan Process (Fiorelli 2008)

III. Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan

The Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP) was implemented in 1986 to reduce fishing mortality of heavily fished groundfish stocks and to promote rebuilding to sustainable biomass levels. Sixteen species of groundfish are managed under Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP. Thirteen large-mesh species are managed together based on fish size and type of gear used to harvest the fish: Atlantic cod, haddock, pollock, yellowtail flounder, witch flounder, winter flounder, windowpane flounder, American plaice, Atlantic halibut, redfish, ocean pout, white hake, and wolfish. Because several large-mesh species are managed as two or more separate stocks, e.g., Gulf of Maine haddock and Georges Bank haddock, there are a total of 20 separate stocks of groundfish managed under the FMP. The other three species (silver hake [or whiting], red hake, and offshore hake) are managed under a separate small-mesh multispecies program pursuant to Amendment 12 of the Northeast Multispecies FMP.

During the 1990s and until April 2009, the groundfish complex was primarily managed under the Days-At-Sea (DAS) system: by seasonal and year-round area closures (i.e., no fishing in certain areas), gear restrictions (i.e., specified mesh size, number of nets/hooks, etc.), minimum fish size.
limits, trip limits (i.e., limiting fishermen to a certain poundage of fish per trip), limited access (i.e., limiting the number of participants in the fishery) and restrictions on the number of days a vessel is allowed to fish for groundfish each year (i.e., days-at-sea) (NEFMC 2009). In May 2004, Amendment 13 to the FMP implemented formal rebuilding plans for groundfish stocks, including pollock, based on revised biomass and fishing mortality targets derived by the Working Group on Re-evaluation of Biological Reference Points for New England Groundfish. Amendment 13 also marked the development of the first sector in New England (the Georges Bank Hook Sector on Cape Cod). The overall goal of these actions was to reduce fishing mortality to rebuild depleted groundfish stocks to target biomasses.

In May 2010, Amendment 16 authorized the formation of individual fishing organizations, which shifted the management regime from the DAS system to an output-controlled system, referred to as sectors. In addition to general regulations for the fishery, Amendment 16 also implemented species- and stock-specific regulations for vessels in the common pool and in sectors. Beginning in FY 2010, commercial harvesters of groundfish have been managed in two self-selecting categories: common pool and sectors. From the start in 2010, the vast majority of the Northeast groundfish fishery has been enrolled in sectors.

The current regulations setting the catch levels for each of the 20 groundfish stocks, which were implemented by FW 48 to Amendment 16 in 2013, and revised in FW 50 in 2013, implemented new requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) of 2006. The MSRA requires the NEFMC to determine Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) that enable rebuilding within specified time frames for all managed stocks. This action implements a process for calculating an ACL in addition to the overfishing level (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC) for each stock. Recommendations for these figures are developed by the PDT. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommends ABC levels, and the NEFMC approves final ACLs, but cannot exceed the SSC’s recommended levels. ACLs may be broken into subcomponents for different segments of the fishery, including state waters, commercial, recreational, sectors, and the common pool. Accountability measures can be implemented in-season as management actions to prevent reaching or exceeding the ACL, or they can be corrective post-season management actions that address overages of an ACL. Although the following stocks have ACLs, possession is prohibited: northern and southern windowpane flounder, ocean pout, and wolffish. In addition, Atlantic halibut catch is limited to one fish per trip. Northeast Multispecies permit holders are eligible to receive an allocation for the remaining groundfish stocks.

**Common Pool**

Members in the common pool are managed by an effort control system that regulates the number of days a harvester may fish. In addition to a limited number of days a harvester may fish, controls include 24-hour days-at-sea counting, trip limits on other groundfish stocks, gear restrictions, minimum mesh size restrictions, gillnet restrictions, hook limits, seasonal and year-round closures, minimum fish size restrictions, and special access programs. Specific effort control measures, such as minimum mesh size and trip limits, are described in the final rule for Amendment 16 (NMFS 2010). For FY 2016, the common pool possession for pollock was unlimited (81 FR 26428; 2 May 2016).
Starting in 2012, a trimester hard TAC (total allowable catch) has been used as a primary accountability measure (AM) and the fishery is suspended once 90% of the trimester TAC is reached (79 FR 14957; 17 March 2014).

**Sectors**

Nineteen sectors have been authorized in the New England region. Sectors are self-selecting and largely self-regulating groups of fishermen who collaboratively manage an allocation of fish. Sectors must draft and submit formation proposals, operations plans, and sector monitoring plans, revised enforcement provisions, and clarification of the interaction of sectors with Special Management Programs, such as U.S./Canada management areas. NMFS prepares an environmental assessment (EA) annually to assess the impacts of the individual and cumulative sector operations as proposed in their operations plans.

In exchange for fishing under an ACL for each allocated species in the management plan, sectors are exempt from most common pool effort control measures, such as limited number of days at sea and trip limits. These are referred to as universal exemptions. A sector’s allocation of an ACL for a particular stock is called the Annual Catch Entitlement (ACE) and is a sub-ACL of the overall fishery ACL. At-sea catch monitoring ensures that sector ACEs are not exceeded. For each permit that is eligible to join a sector, the permit’s Potential Sector Contribution (PSC) is calculated based on the permit’s catch history. The ACE that is allocated to a sector is based on the sum of the PSCs for the permits that join the sector. Sector participants are not allowed to discard legal sized fish, and all fish caught count toward their allocations.

If the ACL is not reached in a given year, sectors can carry over a maximum of 10% of the unused ACL into the following year. This maximum of 10% can be reduced if the carry over, in addition to the ACL of the upcoming year, exceeds the total ABC (NMFS 2016).

**Regulations Shared by Common Pool and Sector Vessels**

- All commercial vessels participating in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery are required to use a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to report fishing activities, as well as vessel trip reports (VTR).
- Minimum size for pollock is 19 inches.
- Sector vessels participating in Special Access Programs must only use gear approved under those programs.
- Fish fillets must have skin on while possessed on board a vessel at the time of landing in order to meet minimum size requirements. (NOAA 2017).
CRITERION: If stock sizes are below management target levels, whether due to natural or man-made causes, management plans are established that enable rebuilding within a specified timeframe.

CRITERION: Sufficient data exist to determine harvest levels.

IV. Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank Pollock Data

Stock Status

The Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank stock of pollock was assessed by the 50th Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW 50) in June 2010, and the Assessment Summary Report (NMFS CRD 10-09) was published in July 2010 (NEFSC 2010). Since SAW 50, there have been three operational assessments, in 2014, 2015, and 2017.

SAW 50 utilized a model known as an aged structured assessment program (ASAP) to determine the stock status of pollock, which was different than previous models used to assess pollock. This model incorporated age structure, additional surveys, more comprehensive catch information, changes in selectivity, and uncertainty in the input data. Catch-at-age and Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) spring and fall surveys, both including data for 1970-2009, were used in the ASAP model. The biological reference point (BRP) to determine if pollock is overfished was \( \frac{1}{2} SSB_{MSY} = B_{THRESHOLD} = 45,500 \) metric tons (mt). In 2009, spawning stock biomass (SSB) was estimated to be 196,000 mt, and thus well above the \( \frac{1}{2} SSB_{MSY} \) threshold. In 2009, fishing mortality was estimated to be 0.07, below the fishing mortality threshold of 0.25, and thus overfishing of the pollock stock was not occurring. These numbers indicated that pollock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring as of 2009 (NEFSC 2010).

The previous stock assessment to SAW 50 was the Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (GARM) III in 2008, which showed that pollock was considered overfished and overfishing was deemed to be occurring. However, it was subsequently discovered that the GARM III assessment determined stock status based on erroneous methods and assessment uncertainties. Revisions were made to the GARM III assessment, and SAW 50 was scheduled as soon as possible in order to fully address these errors. Under federal law, NMFS is empowered to enact emergency rules, such as raising catch limits. Due to the findings of the SAW 50 pollock stock assessment, NMFS decided to implement an emergency ruling. In order to enact an emergency ruling, the following criteria must be met:

1. The emergency results from recent, unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances;
2. The emergency presents serious conservation or management problems in the fishery;
3. The emergency can be addressed through emergency regulations for which the immediate benefits outweigh the value of the advance notice, public comment, and deliberative consideration of the impacts on participants to the same extent as would be expected under normal rulemaking process (62 FR 44421, August 21, 1997).
NMFS implemented an emergency rule that revised and substantially increased pollock catch limits in FY 2010, while ensuring the increased catch limits were consistent with sustaining a long-term biomass associated with maximum sustainable yield. The emergency ruling increased acceptable biological catch from 3,293 mt in FY 2009 to 19,800 mt in FY 2010 (75 FR 41997, July 20, 2010).

**Operational assessments**

The 2014 operational assessment updated BRPs, determining that the overfishing threshold proxy of $F_{40\%} = 0.27$ and the biomass proxy $= 76,900$ mt. $SSB_{MSY}$ was considerably less than the estimates from SAW 50 due to decreases of weight-at-age during this time period. Fishing mortality in 2013 was estimated to be at 0.10 while the SSB was estimated to be 126,000 mt. (Hendrickson et al 2015).

The 2015 operational assessment used both a base model (dome-shaped survey selectivity) and a flat selectivity sensitivity model (flat-topped survey selectivity) within ASAP. Pollock stock status is sensitive to gear selectivity at age when looking at older ages. The base (dome) model showed a cryptic biomass of older fish that neither the survey nor the landings reflected. The flat selectivity model run with ages 6 – 9+ resulted in a lower SSB and higher $F$. When both models were adjusted for retrospective bias, the base model SSB was within the 90% confidence interval. The base model was used to recommend management advice while the flat selectivity model was used to demonstrate the sensitivity of the assessment results to survey selectivity assumptions. The BRPs determined from both models are listed in Table 1, showing that pollock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring (NEFSC 2015).

| Table 1. Biological Reference Points for Pollock in the 2015 Operational Assessment |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------|
| $SSB_{MSY}$ ($B_{TARGET}$) | Base model | Flat sel sensitivity model |
| 2014 SSB | 105,226 mt | 54,900 mt |
| 1/2 $SSB_{MSY}$ (Overfished threshold) | 198,847 mt | 57,327 mt |
| $F_{MSY}$ proxy $F_{40\%}$ (Overfishing threshold) | 52,613 mt | 27,450 mt |
| 2014 $F$ | 0.277 | 0.252 |

The 2017 operational assessment also used both the base model (dome-shaped survey selectivity) and a flat selectivity sensitivity model (flat-topped survey selectivity). The base model is used for management advice, and the flat selectivity model is meant to demonstrate how sensitive the assessment results are to different selectivity assumptions. It was determined that pollock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring – the results of the two models are seen in Table 2 below. Adjustments were made for major retrospective patterns in both models.
### Table 2. Biological Reference Points for Pollock in the 2017 Operational Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Base model</th>
<th>Flat sel sensitivity model</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSB_{MSY} (B_{TARGET})</td>
<td>105,510 mt</td>
<td>60,738 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 SSB</td>
<td>183,907 mt</td>
<td>72,889 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 SSB_{MSY} (Overfished threshold)</td>
<td>52,755 mt</td>
<td>30,369 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(F_{MSY}) proxy (F_{40%}) (Overfishing threshold)</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.249</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 (F)</td>
<td>0.036</td>
<td>0.079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sources of Uncertainty

The SAW 50 assessment included the consideration of pollock as a transboundary resource as a possible source of uncertainty for management decisions and projections. Another source of uncertainty was that the landings data in the assessment were determined by market categories (large, medium, small) that are variable throughout New England and through time. It was recommended that catch at age was a more appropriate measure of landings as opposed to market category (NEFSC 2010).

In both the 2015 and 2017 operational assessments, the largest source of uncertainty was selectivity from the fisheries-independent survey. The base model suggests that there is a large, unidentified biomass of older fish within the fishery that cannot be confirmed. If the flat topped selectivity is assumed, the unidentified biomass estimate is smaller. Recommendations were made to explore the configuration of the ASAP model to address some of these uncertainties in the next benchmark assessment. Additional studies on gear selectivity were recommended as future research needs to further understand the selectivity shape of fisheries-independent surveys (NEFSC 2017). An additional uncertainty is the size of the 2013 year class, but that uncertainty will diminish with further years of data (NEFSC 2017).

### Stock History

Prior to the 1980s, Atlantic pollock were caught as bycatch in demersal otter trawl fisheries, with landings of about 4,000 mt yearly. In the 1980s, fishing effort became more directed, peaking at 24,000 mt in 1986 and 1987. Following this peak, landings declined to a low of 4,000 mt in 1996 (NEFSC 2010). Pollock catches increased again, peaking at around 12,000 mt in 2008 and have been mostly on the decline since then. Recreational catches increased from 600 mt in 2009 to around 1,600 mt in 2013 (Hendrickson et al 2015). In 2016, commercial landings were at 2,582 mt and recreational landings dropped down to 352 mt (NEFSC 2017). These trends are reflected in Figure 3.
Figure 3. Total landings and discards of pollock (U.S. commercial landings and discards, Canadian commercial landings, distant water fleet landings, and recreational landings and discards) between 1970 and 2016 (NEFSC 2017).

Harvest Levels

Since the emergency ruling in 2010, catch limits have remained at similar levels. The catch limits for FY 2016-2018 can be found in Table 2 below (81 FR 26428; 2 May 2016).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Pollock Catch Levels (mt) for FY 2016-2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollock Regulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overfishing Level (OFL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acceptable Biological Catch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groundfish sub-ACL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector sub-ACL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Pool sub-ACL</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Waters ACL subcomponent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ACL sub-component</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CRITERION: Monitoring and compliance measures are in place to ensure acceptable harvest levels.

V. Monitoring

The monitoring programs in place for the Northeast multispecies fishery provide information to scientists and managers about when, where, and how fish are caught. In addition to information about fish that are landed, the monitoring programs can provide information about species that are not landed. For example, in support of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), observers record interactions with protected and endangered species.

Monitoring of the common pool is carried out through several different programs. When fishing in certain areas, such as the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, vessels are required to submit daily vessel trip reports (VTRs), which provide details on type of gear fished, area fished, species caught (and discarded), dealer information, and port of landing information, in addition to other details. The New England Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) employs at-sea observer coverage and biological sampling for the groundfish fleet. Separate from NEFOP, there are also shore-side port samplers who take biological samples from landed catch to help inform stock assessments and other fisheries research.

The final rule for Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) states that the Regional Administrator and the Science and Research Director will allocate at-sea observer coverage to the applicable fisheries of the Northeast Region sufficient to achieve a level of precision (measured as the coefficient of variation [CV]) no greater than 30% for each fishery (73 FR 4736; January 28, 2008). The Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) ensures fair and adequate coverage of vessels across the multispecies fishery. Vessels enter information into PTNS prior to a trip, and an algorithm randomly selects trips for coverage in order to achieve the targeted observer and at-sea monitor coverage across sectors, areas, and gear types. In addition, vessels fishing in Special Access Programs (SAPs) are required to contact NEFOP prior to their trip to determine if they will have observer coverage.

Sectors have additional monitoring requirements. Sector operations plans specify how a sector will monitor its catch to assure that sector catch does not exceed the sector allocation. Industry funding of at-sea monitoring (ASM) was introduced in March 2016, beginning the transition from the federal government covering the costs of ASM to the industry covering the costs. NOAA reimbursed the industry 85% of its expenses in FY 2016 and 60% in FY 2017 through a grant from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). During FY 2018, ASM will be fully funded by NOAA because Congress appropriated additional funding. For FY 2018, total target coverage is 15% for ASM based on an average of ASM data from FY 2014-2016. The Northeast Fishery Observer Program (NEFOP) covers 8% of the target coverage, while the remaining 7% must be covered by industry ASM.

Previously, sector required at-sea monitoring coverage was typically between 17% and 22%. In 2016, additional factors were accounted for in determining the target so as to ensure compliance with the 30% CV requirement, including: removing ASM coverage for a subset of sector trips,
using more years of discard data to predict coverage levels, and basing the target on predictions for stocks that are at a higher risk for error in the discard estimate (NMFS 2016). All sector vessels are still required to submit weekly VTRs in accordance with Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP.

Shore-side, there is 100% electronic dealer reporting on a weekly basis, which includes, but is not limited to, unique trip identifier, quantity of species landed, price per unit by species, and port and state landed.

Based on the data collected through monitoring, the Northeast multispecies complex is routinely evaluated and necessary changes to management measures are made through biennial Framework Adjustments.

**CRITERION: Enforcement exists to ensure that harvesters follow regulations, and to prevent illegal practices and unreported harvest.**

**VI. Enforcement**

In general, enforcement of the Northeast Multispecies FMP is coordinated through NOAA’s Office of Law Enforcement (OLE). OLE Special Agents and Enforcement conduct complex criminal and civil investigations, board vessels fishing at sea, inspect fish processing plants, and conduct patrols on land, in the air and at sea. In addition to this enforcement work, the OLE administers the Cooperative Enforcement Program (CEP), which authorizes certain coastal state and territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies to enforce federal laws and regulations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). OLE also partners with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and various other federal agencies, fishery management councils, and non-governmental organizations.

In the common pool, enforcement is focused on compliance with DAS, seasonal closures, closed areas, gear restrictions, and trip limits, to name a few measures. Enforcement for sector vessels primarily relies on monitoring harvest levels through sector reporting and VTRs (in addition to some of the measures described above for which sectors are not universally exempt); however individual sectors are also responsible for self-enforcement. Dealer reporting is a requirement of dealers who receive the fish.

It is the responsibility of each sector to enforce any provisions adopted through procedures established in the operations plan and agreed to through the sector contract. Sectors may be held jointly liable for violations of the following sector operations plan requirements: ACE overages, discarding of legal-sized fish, and misreporting of catch (landings or discards).

NOAA’s Office of General Counsel reports on any enforcement actions taken, by region, on a semi-annual basis, and also outlines regional enforcement priorities on an annual basis. Atlantic pollock is not identified as a species of concern under OLE’s enforcement priorities. Data available on enforcement actions between March 2010 - February 2018 shows that in the Northeast, there were no specific violations involving pollock (NOAA 2018). Of the general
enforcement actions reported that could have pertained to fishermen in the Northeast Multispecies fishery (although not specified in these more general violations), the most predominant problems were related to fishing in closed areas, reporting violations, gear violations, and possession or overage violations. In total, there were less than 25 of these possible NE Multispecies fishery violations between March 2010 – February 2018 (NOAA 2018). Many of the recent cases involved noncompliance with possession limits, particularly for cod.

VII. References


National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 2017. Subpart F—Management Measures for the NE Multispecies and Monkfish Fisheries; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States. 50 CFR Part 648.83 Available: https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=9f5bb83d0dd1bf6af01d7baf383b29c0&r=SUBPART&n=50y12.0.1.1.5.6#se50.12.648_183


