

# Achieving Compliance

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Associated Fisheries of Maine

# New England Groundfish

- Seasonal and year-round areas closed to:
  - Control fishing mortality
  - Limit habitat impacts
  - Protect marine mammals
  - Allocate harvest to certain gear types
- Limited fishing time
  - Days at sea
  - Blocks of time out of fishery

# New England Groundfish

- Fishing gear restrictions:
  - Minimum mesh sizes which vary by gear and fishing area.
  - Gear restricted areas
  - Gear stowage requirements
  - Gillnet and hook count limits
- Possession limits
  - Minimum sizes
  - Limits on pounds retained
  - Limits on count retained

# New England Groundfish

- Summary:
  - 19 stocks of fish
  - Five major fishing sub-areas with quota tracking requirements for each stock
  - Pre-trip, daily, trip-level, and weekly reporting requirements (some duplicative)
  - Permits, letters of authorization, letters of exemption
  - Several dozen combinations of VMS declaration codes



# Achieving Regulatory Compliance?

- It is not possible for fishermen to monitor the development and implementation of fishing rules, because monitoring the regulatory process is itself a full time job.
- Technology is inadequate or prohibitively expensive for fishermen to monitor developments while at sea, particularly as we move to more real time management.

# Strategies

- “Pay” attention
- Track regulations under development:
  - NEFMC
  - ASMFC
  - New England states
- Monitor and serve on advisory panels:
  - Groundfish
  - Habitat
  - Monkfish

# Strategies

- Monitor stock assessments:
  - NEFSC
  - ASMFC
  - US/CA TRAC
- Draft industry comment on proposed rules, and translate final rules into plain language
- Work cooperatively with other fisheries to minimize conflicts and enhance compliance

# Strategies

- Track and report in-season regulatory changes (possession limits, closures).
- Advocate for elimination of duplicative or obsolete regulations.
- 24/7 response to fishermen at sea facing regulatory situations which require immediate interpretation.

# Suggestions

- The way to help fishermen achieve compliance is through

## **Education, not Violation:**

- ▶ Persistent patterns of noncompliance may signal confusion, not intent
- ▶ Port agent outreach on the docks
- ▶ 24/7 access to qualified agents (e.g. weekly duty rotation, call forwarding)
- ▶ Eliminate “pulse operations”!