



WEATHER FOR
CAPE COD:
Temp: 70°
Forecasts | Radar

Serving all of Cape Cod, Nantucket and New Hampshire
COLDWELL BANKER JOLY, McAHEE & WEINERT REALTY
www.capecodcoldwellbanker.com

NEWS BUSINESS SPORTS OPINION ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE MULTIMEDIA COMMUNITY NEWS REPORTS VISITOR GUIDE MARKETPLACE

Fishing by sectors

June 24, 2009

First off, we freely admit that we are not fisheries experts. As a matter of fact, as we leaf through the hundreds of pages of fisheries rules and regulations, we begin to get as anxious as we do when we first tackle our federal and state tax forms.

How is it that fisheries regulations have become as complicated as the federal tax code?

Perhaps that is why we are attracted to the latest proposal to better manage our fisheries. The New England Fishery Management Council begins meeting today in Portland, Maine, to vote on the new system, known as "sectors."

Under this system, fishermen with groundfish permits voluntarily form a group, called a sector, and largely make their own rules for catching fish. Fishery regulators assign the sector different quotas for each fish stock they harvest. If a sector catches more than its quota, the group is penalized.

Advocates told our sister newspaper, the Standard-Times in New Bedford, that the plan offers fishermen more flexibility in deciding where, when and how they fish. In contrast, the current system dictates when they fish, how many days they fish and how much of each stock they may catch during a trip.

Some fishermen, however, are skeptical. In theory, fishermen have the choice of either joining a sector in 2010 or staying with the current management system, called the common pool. In reality, said Michael Matulaitis, captain of a dragger in Fairhaven, changes to the common pool will make it so restrictive that fishermen have no choice but to join a sector.

He may be right. After all, Jane Lubchenco, chief of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has promoted the sector system as the best way to achieve "healthy, profitable and sustainable" fisheries. Her agency has committed \$16.7 million in its 2009 budget and \$18.6 million in its 2010 budget to help the New England groundfish industry transition to sectors.

Some fishermen fear that sectors will soon be followed by another type of catch share, known as individual transferable quotas or ITQs. Under that plan, groundfish permit holders would be given a share of fish, which they could either catch or sell to another fisherman. The fishing industry has long opposed the transferable quota system, fearing it could lead to industry consolidation. Today, fishermen are somewhat protected from ITQs under federal fisheries law.

Despite their concerns, fishermen should give the new management system a chance to work. After all, under the current system, New England fishermen have watched their groundfishing season shrink, their trip limits drop and their profits plummet.

At the same time, if the fisheries council approves the sector system, it must develop a fair and equitable system that holds all fishermen accountable for their catch. "The problem ahead is that not all fishermen will join a sector under the new rules," said Stu Tolley of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association. "Those who do not could have the opportunity to continue with destructive fishing practices, undermining the new system." The new system, he said, "won't have a chance to be successful unless all groundfish vessels are held to conservative catch limits and adhere to rigorous monitoring and reporting standards."

HOME

Text Size: **A** | **A** | **A**

Print this Article Email this Article

ShareThis - Share this story with your favorite social networking sites.

NEWS CALENDAR HOMES AUTOS JOBS CLASSIFIEDS

FIND IT!

Microsoft Online Services



GET A FREE 30-DAY TRIAL

HOMES JOBS RENTALS CARS



\$17,220

2010 Toyota Corolla
Hyannis Toyota Scion



\$24,996

2008 Toyota Camry
Hyannis Toyota Scion



\$17,950

2010 Toyota Corolla
Hyannis Toyota Scion



\$20,980

2009 Ford Focus
Ford Of Hyannis

[View All Featured Autos](#)

capecodONLINE.com

Powered by FindItOnline.com

Find it all here!

Select Category

Business Name:

Location:

FIND IT!

Recently Reviewed by Your Neighbors

Hot Stove Saloon

"I've only gone there once for lunch and had a special called Pot Roast Stew. It was tremendous. I will be going back..." more
posted on 6/25/2009

Reader Reaction

Before you sign up to post on our discussion forums, you **MUST read our terms of use rules**. These discussions and our forums are not moderated. We rely on users to police themselves, and you need not be registered to report abuse. In accordance with our [Terms of Service](#), we reserve the right to remove any post at any time for any reason, and will restrict access of registered users who repeatedly violate [our rules](#).



[Browse All Forums](#) | [View All Comments](#) | [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Your Photo
 Login You are currently not logged in
 Register



[Login to comment.](#)

[Browse All Forums](#) | [View All Comments](#) | [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Ads by Google

[Cape Cod Fishing Charter](#)

Buzzards Bay, Striped Bass, Blues, Fluke, Sea Bass, Scup
www.philthylou.com

[Job On Cape Cod](#)

Make \$87 Per Hour From Home. Seen On CNN, NBC, CBS, & FOX News.
USAJobJournalCorp.com/

[Cape Cod Waterfront](#)

View 600+ Waterfront Properties \$51,000 - \$19.8 million
www.PropertyCapeCod.com



Ads by Google

Today's most viewed articles

- [Victims of fatal Bourne crash identified](#) - 6/29/2009
- [Falmouth epicures dine in empty lot](#) - 6/29/2009
- [SUV rolls over after hitting parking lot sign](#) - 6/29/2009
- [Vertical-axis wind turbine installed on Provincetown pier](#) - 6/29/2009
- [Casino deal loses its luster](#) - 6/29/2009
- [Blessing of the fleet caps Festival](#) - 6/29/2009

Bleu

"My Family and I have eaten here many times, and it is fantastic. This is one place on the Cape that actually has a true chef with a very high..."
[more](#)
posted on 6/25/2009



[VIEW MORE RESTAURANTS](#)

Become a member of the Cape Cod Times and enjoy the convenience of home or office delivery



[subscribe to the Cape Cod Times](#)

[TERMS OF USE](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [SITE MAP](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [ADVERTISE](#) | [MOBILE](#) |

Copyright © 2009 Cape Cod Media Group, a division of Dow Jones Local Media Group. All Rights Reserved.