



From the early American colonies well into the 20th century, cod was a mainstay of the New England economy and an icon of regional culture. Today, Atlantic cod hovers at a small fraction of its historic levels and continues to be overfished, causing further harm to the region's economy and marine environment. In fact, fisheries in New England are among the most depleted and poorly managed fisheries in the nation. Overfishing continues annually on at least 13 already depleted fish stocks, including cod, pollock and flounder.

The Pew Environment Group (PEG) is leading a campaign to rebuild these fish populations, which, in turn, will sustain more productive fisheries and stronger coastal economies.

PEG has partnered with two forward-thinking commercial fishing organizations, Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association and Midcoast (Maine) Fishermen's Association to encourage the New England Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement a new management system by January 2010. Called sector allocation, it operates on three simple premises:

- It implements science-based catch limits to rebuild fish populations and prevent overfishing.
- It incorporates monitoring so fishermen and regulators know exactly how much fish is being caught, and as a result, fishing stops once catch limits have been reached.
- It establishes community-based, fishermen-run co-ops, called sectors. Each sector receives its own share of the annual catch. While respecting catch limits, the co-ops provide fishermen with the flexibility to set their own fishing guidelines so they can run their businesses more efficiently and profitably.

Together with our partners, we are working to ensure that our shared goals are met: to end overfishing and protect the livelihood of fishermen while groundfish stocks are being rebuilt.

For more information, visit [newenglandfishing.org](http://newenglandfishing.org).