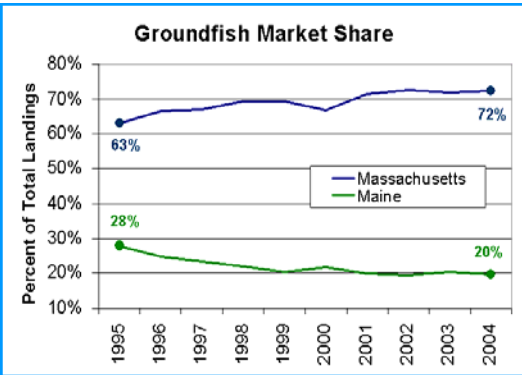
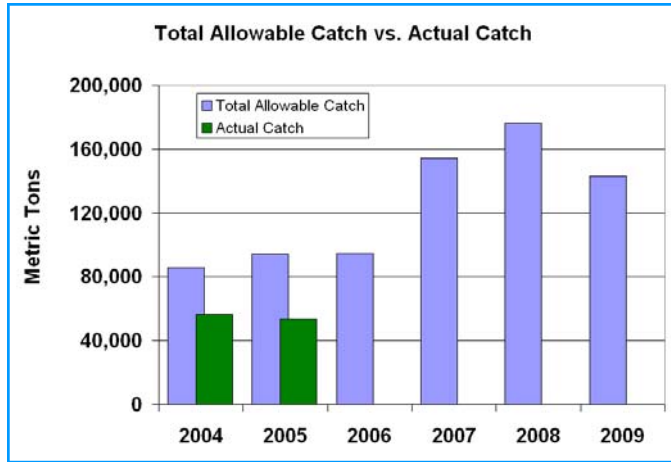




Groundfish: A Natural Resource Based Growth Opportunity

The New England groundfishery presents both a vexing management challenge and a tremendous economic opportunity. Decades of overfishing reduced groundfish stocks to an all-time low of 350 million pounds in 1994. But stringent fishery management controls implemented since then have increased the population to well over 1 billion pounds, on the way to a final goal of 2.5 billion pounds by the year 2025.

In fact, fishing effort has been reduced so much that most groundfish stocks are now under-harvested. Federal fishery scientists periodically determine 'Total Allowable Catch' figures for each species in the groundfish complex. In recent years, the fleet has fallen short of the Total Allowable Catch levels by more than a third. And Total Allowable Catches are scheduled to increase for the foreseeable future.

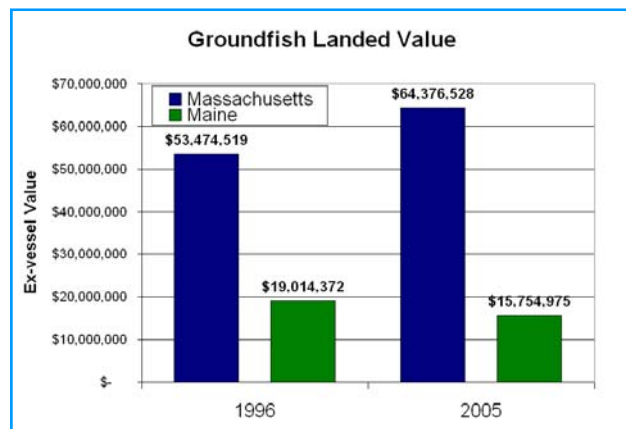


The federal government projects that the value of New England groundfish landings could increase from the current level of \$85 million, to \$375 million. **Every \$1 of groundfish landed in Maine contributes \$2 to Maine's economy.**

The state of Massachusetts is keenly aware of the future potential value of groundfish. The state maintains fishing-friendly policies, such as allowing bycatch lobster landings and not

charging a sales tax on diesel fuel. It maintains a Fisheries Recovery Commission, and public berthing is provided at subsidized rates. Massachusetts understands that the question is not only how much fish is going to be caught, but where it will be landed.

Unless Maine laws are amended to level the playing field with other states, Maine will miss the growth opportunity in federally managed groundfish stocks.



Please support LD 170 to preserve our fishing industry, brighten the future of the working waterfront, and bring Maine boats back home.

For more information, please visit:  www.betterlobsterlaw.com