

Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment

Update on Revised Draft EA

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**Observer Committee Meeting
April 16, 2015**



Background

Councils recommended Draft IFM Amendment/EA be revised to address/include:

- Expansion of the discussion of economic impacts – groundtruth fixed and operating costs for herring/mackerel vessels
- Expansion of the discussion of impacts on herring/mackerel fleets
- Information/analysis to support the implementation of a portside sampling program and/or EM program through FWA
- Expansion of impacts of herring and mackerel options on other fisheries (ex., groundfish)
- Impacts of current observer coverage requirements for midwater trawl vessels in the groundfish closed areas
- Costs differences between at-sea monitors versus observers
- Additional options for at-sea monitoring to document discards in the herring (and mackerel) fishery

Impacts on Herring/Mackerel Fleets

The IFM FMAT is:

- Updating/revising economic impact analysis to expand discussion of impacts on herring/mackerel fisheries – reaching out directly to industry to collect trip cost information
- Adding information to IFM Draft EA to better identify/characterize affected vessels
- Considering how to characterize “affordability”
- See 3/3/15 and 4/3/15 IFM FMAT Summaries



Portside Sampling/EM Information

- IFM FMAT is developing information to support portside sampling/EM through FWA in all fisheries; working with MA DMF and ME DMR on portside sampling
- NMFS Report summarizing costs for an example EM program for the groundfish and herring fisheries *expected to be released soon*
- GARFO staff will present Observer Committee with information to support development of additional portside sampling/EM options for the herring and mackerel fisheries

Other Impacts (Groundfish, etc.)

The IFM FMAT is:

- Developing summary/discussion of available midwater trawl observer data from year-round groundfish closed areas
- Considering ways to scale the relative economic impact of IFM requirements across all fisheries (affordability)
- Developing information about costs of IFM programs for other fisheries (scallops, groundfish)
- See *3/3/15 and 4/3/15 IFM FMAT Summaries*



Atlantic Herring ASM Options

- Developed based on industry-funded ASM for bycatch (discard) data
- Intent is to develop options that may reduce sea day costs while meeting monitoring needs
- Provides opportunity to better understand costs and more clearly specify monitoring objectives
- Addresses Council request to analyze cost differences between observers and at-sea monitors
- See *Herring IFM Draft Discussion Document*



Omnibus Amendment Timeline

Action	Current Timeline	Fallback Timeline
MAFMC approves Draft EA, selects Preferred Alternatives	June 9 – 11, 2015	October 6 – 8, 2015
NEFMC approves Draft EA, selects Preferred Alternatives	June 16 – 18, 2015	Sept 29 – Oct 1, 2015
30-day Draft EA comment period	July/Aug 2015	Oct/Nov 2015
NEFMC selects final measures	Sept 29 – Oct 1, 2015	January 2016
MAFMC selects final measures	October 6 – 8, 2015	February 2016
EA finalized, Proposed Rule drafted	Late Oct/Early Nov 2015	March 2016
PR publishes, 30-day comment period	November 2015	April 2016
Comment period ends	December 2015	May 2016
Final Rule publishes	January 2016	June 2016
Final Rule effective	February 2016	July 2016

Observer Committee (4/15/15)

- Review/discuss details of additional herring at-sea monitoring options (Draft Discussion Document)
 - *Discuss/clarify objectives*
 - *Provide input on details of ASM options and ways to reduce sea day costs*
- Consider adding options for portside sampling and EM in the herring fishery (GARFO Document)
 - *Develop Committee recommendation*
- Discuss structure of herring IFM options and relationship between different components
 - *Revisit at June 8 Joint Herring/Observer Meeting*