



New England Fishery Management Council

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

February 4, 2015

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

RE: NE Council Motions re. Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment

Dear Chris:

At its January 27-29, 2015 meeting, the New England Fishery Management Council approved the following five motions regarding the Draft Omnibus Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Amendment:

1. Motion Carried Unanimously 16-0-0

That the following option be included in Section 2.2.2, Herring Alternative 2, p. 48 of the Omnibus IFM Amendment:

To require third-party at-sea monitoring on Category A/B herring vessels, designed to meet the following objective: to document all fish not retained on board the vessel for any reason, including detailed accounting of full and partial slippage events.

When the IFM amendment is implemented (Year 1), the third party at-sea monitor coverage level for Category A/B herring vessels under this option will be (sub-options) (a) 100%, (b) 75%, (c) 50% of all trips (on trips without a NEFOP observer) (sub-options with/without waivers) when the vessel is declared into the herring fishery.

This option includes portside sampling and electronic monitoring (EM), to be phased-in through the framework adjustment process. The third party at-sea monitor coverage target specified in this amendment will be adjusted as portside sampling/EM programs are implemented. Initially, the service provider standards under this option will be the same as those for the groundfish at-sea monitoring program, but these standards will be modified for portside sampling/EM in the implementing action.

2. Motion Approved by Consensus (No Objection)

To add Alternative 2.2.2.5 for 100% coverage on fishing in the current year-round groundfish closed areas (*staff to include specific areas*) to the IFM document

3. Motion Approved by Consensus (No Objection)

To add an alternative that would allow a wing vessel to be exempt from observer coverage. These vessels would be prohibited from carrying fish.

4. Motion Carried Unanimously 16-0-0

That the draft Omnibus IFM Amendment needs more development and additional analysis, and should be reviewed by the Observer Policy Committee and both Councils at a future meeting prior to going out for public comment.

5. Motion Carried Unanimously 16-0-0

To have the Industry Funded Monitoring FMAT address the 6 bullets on pg. 3 of the January 22, 2015 Observer Policy Committee meeting summary in the IFM Amendment:

- Expansion of the discussion of economic impacts – address/groundtruth fixed and operating costs for herring/mackerel vessels
- Expansion of the discussion of impacts on the Atlantic herring and mackerel fleets
- Information and analysis to support the implementation of a portside sampling program and/or EM program to be implemented through a framework adjustment (relative government costs/industry costs, comparison to at-sea costs)
- Costs differences between at-sea monitors versus observers
- Expansion of impacts of herring and mackerel options on other fisheries (groundfish stocks)
- Impacts of current observer coverage requirements for midwater trawl vessels in the groundfish closed areas

As you can see from the above motions, the New England Council believes that the Draft Omnibus IFM Amendment needs further development and more analysis before it moves forward for public comment and the selection of final measures by both Councils. Please consider the New England Council recommendations as the Mid-Atlantic Council develops its recommendations regarding the Draft Omnibus IFM Amendment at its February 2015 meeting.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Nies
Executive Director

cc: Council Members