Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment: Atlantic Herring Fishery
Milestones for IFM Amendment

• Notice of availability published in September 2018 with the comment period ending November 2018
• Proposed rule published in November 2018 with the comment period ending December 2018
• Amendment approved on December 18, 2018
• Final rule is expected to publish soon
Omnibus Measures

• Amend Council FMPs to standardize future IFM programs
  o Process to develop and revise programs
  o Service provider requirements
  o Cost responsibilities
  o Process to prioritize programs for Federal funding
  o Establish monitoring set-asides

• Effective 30 days after final rule publishes
Herring Measures

• 50% IFM coverage target for at-sea monitoring (ASM) on vessels with Category A or B herring permits
• Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) + IFM = 50% coverage target
• Allow midwater trawl vessels to purchase observer coverage to access Groundfish Closed Areas
• Slippage requirements apply on trips with observers or ASMs
• Aligns coverage year with SBRM year
• Effective April 1, 2020
Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

- Exempt midwater trawl vessels from ASM requirement and allow them to use electronic monitoring (EM) and portside sampling (PS) to meet 50% coverage target
- NMFS working with interested midwater trawl vessels to develop terms and conditions of EFP
  - EM coverage on 100% of trips
  - EM review and PS coverage on 50% of trips
  - Slippage requirements apply on trips selected for PS
  - Allow vessels to switch gear (purse seine, bottom trawl)
  - Allow vessels to use EM/PS to access Groundfish Closed Areas
  - Allow vessels to discard fish (operational discards or after sorting)
- Beginning in April 2020
Implementing Herring IFM in 2020

• NMFS has sufficient funding to pay its administrative cost responsibilities to fully implement IFM in the herring fishery
• April 1 – March 31 coverage year
• Herring vessels will use the pre-trip notification system (PTNS) to notify NMFS to be considered for SBRM or IFM coverage
• Improved sampling stations for primary midwater trawl ports
Implementing Herring IFM in 2020

• EM coverage will be provided through a contract between NMFS and Saltwater
• NMFS will approve service providers for ASM, PS, and observer coverage in March/April
• Herring vessels will begin using PTNS in April to notify for coverage
• NMFS will train new monitors (ASM and PS) and observers in early April
• IFM coverage expected to begin in mid to late April
Outreach for Herring IFM in 2020

• IFM and PTNS information will be mailed to herring fishery participants

• Maine Fishermen’s Forum
  o NMFS staff providing an update on IFM and a PTNS demonstration on March 6
  o NMFS and Saltwater staff available for questions
  o IFM and PTNS information sheets available

• IFM and PTNS information session in Gloucester on March 9

• NMFS staff will be doing outreach in ports during March and April