

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Observer Policy Committee

I. STATUS

I. Meetings:

- The Observer Committee met on December 17, 2015 to review/discuss omnibus alternatives in the IFM amendment and develop recommendations regarding preliminary preferred alternatives for the omnibus alternatives in the IFM amendment.
 - The Committee selected Omnibus Alternative 2 (Standardized Structure for IFM Programs) and Omnibus Alternative 2.6 (Monitoring Set Aside) as their preliminary preferred alternatives for the omnibus components to the IFM Amendment.
 - Based on concerns raised at the meeting, the Committee did not select preferred alternatives for the prioritization process (Alternatives 2.1 to 2.5).
 - In addition, the Observer Policy Committee recommends that the Council adopt guiding principles for Industry Funded Monitoring Programs (refer to December 17, 2015 meeting summary).

The Council is expected to make recommendations on preliminary preferred alternatives for the herring and mackerel alternatives at the April 2016 Council meeting. The Council will review an updated Draft EA for public comment at the April 2016 Council meeting.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Approve preliminary preferred alternatives for the omnibus components in the IFM amendment at this meeting.

III. INFORMATION

1. Discussion Document and Appendix 1-3 (January 12, 2016)
2. Decision Document (January 12, 2016)
3. Draft Environmental Assessment (Version 2, September 2015)
4. Background - Observer Committee Motions on Omnibus Alts. (January 12, 2016)
5. Observer Committee Meeting Summary (December 17, 2015)
6. Plan Development Team Meeting Summaries (November 30 and December 14, 2015)
7. Omnibus IFM Amendment Draft Action Plan (January 12, 2015)