

## **NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

### **Observer Policy Committee**

#### **I. STATUS**

##### **A. Meetings:**

The IFM PDT/FMAT met via teleconference on July 20, 2016, to discuss the outcome of the NEFMC and MAFMC meetings in June on the herring and mackerel alternatives for the IFM Amendment. The PDT also discussed a revised timeline for the IFM Amendment. GARFO and Council staff currently is working to plan hearings on the IFM Amendment, likely to occur this autumn.

##### **B. Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment:**

At its June 23, 2016 meeting, the Council: 1) recommended using an equal weighting approach for the Council-led Prioritization Process for new IFM programs; 2) recommended a subset of alternatives that would allow additional biological information to be collected (kept and discarded catch) by at-sea monitors; 3) supported an additional herring coverage alternative; and 4) recommended that the Draft Environmental Assessment move forward for public comment with updated analysis regarding the additional alternative.

#### **II. COUNCIL ACTION**

Receive an update on the progress of GARFO's Electronic Monitoring Pilot Project in the herring and mackerel midwater trawl fishery.

#### **III. INFORMATION**

1. GARFO Staff Presentation – NMFS EM Implementation Project for Herring and Mackerel MWT Fisheries.
2. Summary of 2016/2017 Herring and Mackerel Fishery Electronic Monitoring Project, Dan Luers (GARFO Staff).