

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Council Staff

**Joint VMS/Enforcement
Committee and Advisory Panel
Meeting
July 25, 2019
Portsmouth, NH**





Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

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- Review the draft alternatives under consideration in Amendment 23, and
- Provide recommendations regarding their enforceability and compliance improvement.

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring Timeline

2018	
DEC 4-6	Council receives progress report
DEC	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
2019	
JAN 29-31	Council receives report from Fishery Data Working Group; SSC sub-panel provides report on review of Fishery Data Working Group report
FEB-APR	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses
APR 16-18	Council approves range of alternatives for further development
APR	SSC sub-panel reviews PDT analytical approach to monitoring issues
MAY	Joint Committee/AP/PDT meeting to discuss and consider the SSC sub-panel review recommendations, continue to develop revisions to the draft alternatives
MAY	Committee/AP/PDT continue to develop alternatives and analyses

Draft

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring Timeline

2019	
JUN	SSC sub-panel provides report on review of PDT analyses; Council approve range of alternatives for analysis
JUN-AUG	PDT completes DEIS
SEP	Council approves DEIS for public comment period/hearings, selects preferred alternatives
OCT-NOV	Public hearing and comment period
DEC	Council takes final action
2020	
JAN	Staff finalizes EIS
FEB	Preliminary submission
MAR/APR	Final submission
MAY	Target implementation

A23 Purpose and Need Statement

To implement measures to improve reliability and accountability of catch reporting and to ensure a precise and accurate representation of catch (landings and discards).

To improve the accuracy of collected catch data. Accurate catch data are necessary to ensure that catch limits are set at levels that prevent overfishing and to determine when catch limits are exceeded. To create fair and equitable catch reporting requirements for all commercial groundfish fishermen, while maximizing the value of collected catch data and minimizing costs for the fishing industry and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Draft A23 Alternatives – July 18, 2019

4.1 Groundfish Monitoring

4.1.1 Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program
Revisions

4.1.2 Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring
Program Revisions

4.2 Sector Reporting

4.3 Funding/Operational Provisions of Groundfish Monitoring

4.4 Management Uncertainty Buffers

4.5 Exemptions from Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Requirements

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4.1 Groundfish Monitoring

4.1.1 Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program Revisions

4.1.1.1 Sector Monitoring Standards and Monitoring Tools

4.1.1.1.2 Option 2: Fixed Total At-Sea Monitoring Coverage Level Based on a Percentage of Trips

- Four levels of coverage for analysis – 25, 50, 75, and 100%

- an annual target coverage level of all sector trips

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4.1.1.1 Sector Monitoring Standards and Monitoring Tools

4.1.1.1.3 Option 3: Coverage Level Based on a Percentage of Catch

- *Four levels of coverage for analysis – 25, 50, 75, and 100%*
- *target at the total sector sub-ACL level, as the percentage of total catch to be independently verified for each allocated groundfish stock*

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4.1.1.1 Sector Monitoring Standards and Monitoring Tools

Substitute Options for Sector Monitoring Tools

- options that sectors can choose to fulfill monitoring standards, in addition to human at-sea monitors

Sub-Option A: EM as a replacement for ASM

- EM runs only on trips that are selected for coverage under the specified coverage rate

Sub-Option B: Audit Model Electronic Monitoring

- EM run on 100% of trips, a subset of hauls or trips is reviewed to verify vessel trip report (VTR)-reported discards

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4.1.1.1 Sector Monitoring Standards and Monitoring Tools

Substitute Options for Sector Monitoring Tools

- options that sectors can choose to fulfill monitoring standards, in addition to human at-sea monitors

Sub-Option C: Maximized Retention Electronic Monitoring

- EM runs on 100 percent of trips and verifies that all groundfish are landed, paired with dockside monitoring to sample catch

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4.1.1.2 Addition to List of Framework Items*

- new sector monitoring tools

* Administrative
measure

4.1.1.3 Knowing the Total Monitoring Coverage Level at a Time Certain

4.1.1.3.2 Option 2: Administrative Measure for Knowing the Total Monitoring Coverage Level at a Time Certain*

4.1.1.4 Review Process for Sector Monitoring Coverage

4.1.1.4.2 Option 2: Administrative Measure to Establish a Review Process for Monitoring Coverage Rates*

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4.1.2 Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Program Revisions

4.1.2.1 Dockside Monitoring Program

4.1.2.1.2 Option 2: Dockside Monitoring Program for the Entire Commercial Groundfish Fishery (Sectors and Common Pool)

- mandatory program at 100% coverage

4.1.2.1.3 Option 3: Dockside Monitoring as an Optional Program for Sectors

- voluntary program as a supplemental, add-on tool for sectors to use in their monitoring plans

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If Option 2 or Option 3 is selected, the Council would choose from the following sub-options to determine the responsibility of DSM program costs and how the DSM program will be structured, and to specify details of the DSM program.

4.1.2.1.4 Dockside Monitoring Program Structure and Design

Sub-Option 1: DSM Program Funding Responsibility

- Two different options :

1A) Dealer-funded program, or

1B) Vessel-funded program

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4.1.2.1.4 Dockside Monitoring Program Structure and Design

Sub-Option 2: DSM Program Administration

- *Two different options:*

2A) *dealers or vessels contract individually with dockside monitor providers, or*

2B) *one program for all dealers or vessels administered by NMFS*

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4.1.2.1.4 Dockside Monitoring Program Structure and Design

Sub-Option 3: Options for Reconciling Discrepancies between Dealer Reports and Dockside Monitor Reports

- *Two different options:*

3A) *whichever record has the higher value to be the official record, or*

3b) *dealer data remains the official record with a comparison of dealer reports to DSM reports, recommend enforcing OLE penalty structure if there are discrepancies*

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Sub-Option 4: Options for Lower Coverage Levels in Small, Remote Ports and for Small Vessels with Low Landings

- Two different options (the Council could choose both):

4A) *Lower coverage for dealers in small ports (landings threshold will be determined in impacts analysis), and/or*

4B) *Lower coverage for vessels with low landings (landings threshold will be determined in impacts analysis),*

- With options in both to increase coverage if there are discrepancies

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Sub-Option 5: Options for Dockside Monitor Safety and Liability Associated with Fish Hold Inspections

- Three different options:

5A) *require that monitors be allowed to access the fish hold of vessels directly only once fish hold has been emptied, require providers to carry insurance,*

5B) *allow the use of cameras as an alternatives to monitors directly accessing fish holds, or*

5C) *no fish hold inspections required - captains sign affidavit verifying all catch offloaded*

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* Administrative measure

4.2 Sector Reporting

4.2.2 Option 2: Grant Regional Administrator Authority to Streamline Sector Reporting Requirements*

4.3 Funding/Operational Provisions of Groundfish Monitoring

4.3.2.2 Sub-Option 2A: Additional NMFS Funding for Increased Monitoring if Funds Available*

4.3.2.3 Sub-Option 2B: Waivers from Monitoring Requirements Allowed*

4.4 Management Uncertainty Buffers

4.4.2 Option 2: Revised Management Uncertainty Buffers*

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4.5 Exemptions from Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Program Requirements

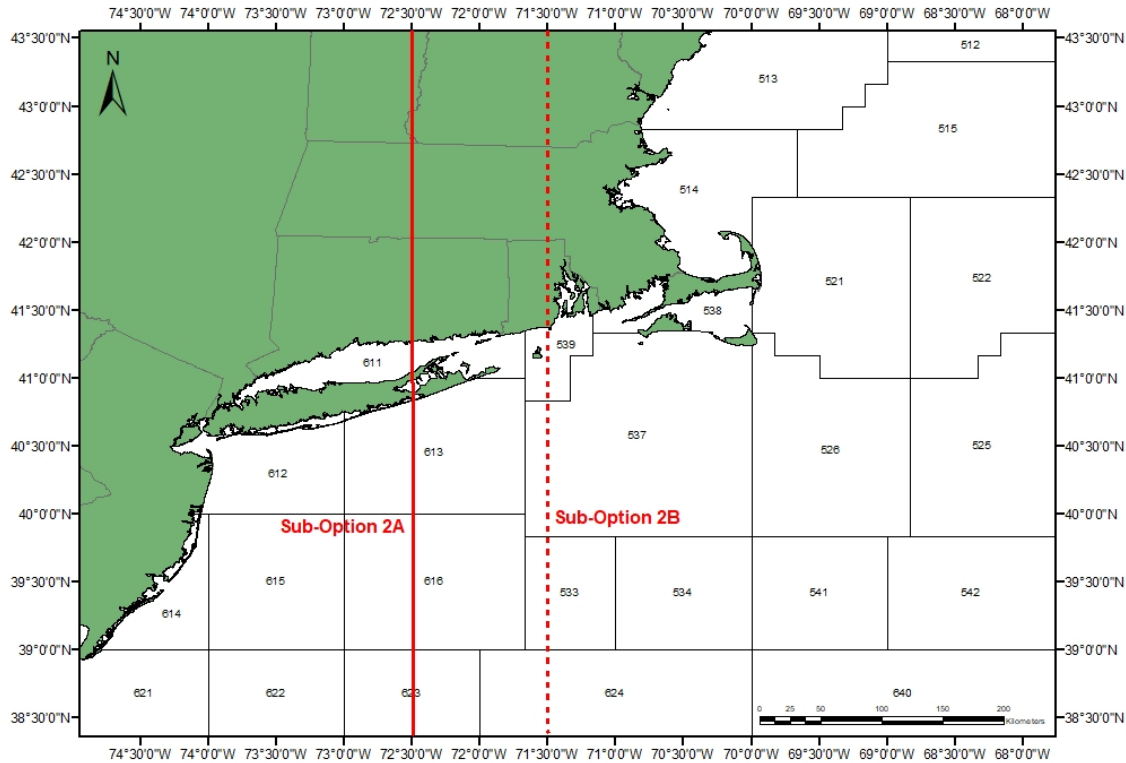
4.5.2 Option 2: Exemptions for Certain Vessels Based on Fishing Location

4.5.2.1 Sub-Option 2A: Exemption for Vessels Fishing Exclusively West of 72 Degrees 30 Minutes West Longitude

4.5.2.2 Sub-Option 2B: Exemption for Vessels Fishing Exclusively West of 71 Degrees 30 Minutes West Longitude

- exempt vessels from at-sea monitoring and/or dockside monitoring (if implemented)

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* Administrative measure

4.2.5.3 Review of Exemptions Based on Catch Composition*

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- Review the draft alternatives under consideration in Amendment 23, and
- Provide recommendations regarding their enforceability and compliance improvement.

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Review alternatives under consideration in Amendment 23 and provide recommendations regarding their enforceability.

- Dockside Monitoring Program
 - Inspections of fish holds
- Exemptions for vessels fishing exclusively west of 72 degrees 30 minutes west longitude *or* 71 degrees 30 minutes west longitude
 - increased VMS polling
 - transit rules
- At-sea monitoring (human observers and electronic monitoring)
- Audit model electronic monitoring option
- Maximized retention option