



New England Fishery Management Council

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

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Observer Policy Committee

Sheraton Four Points, Wakefield, MA

April 16, 2015

The Observer Policy Committee met on April 16, 2015 in Wakefield, MA to: review and discuss updated information and analyses for the draft Environmental Assessment for NMFS-led omnibus amendment to establish provisions for industry-funded monitoring (IFM) across all Council-managed fisheries; and to develop recommendations related to additional options for industry-funded portside sampling and electronic monitoring (EM) in the Atlantic herring fishery, to be implemented immediately in the IFM amendment (versus a framework adjustment).

MEETING ATTENDANCE: Terry Stockwell (Chairman), Pete Kendall, Mary Beth Tooley, Terry Alexander, Mike Sissenwine, Jeff Kaelin, Peter Christopher, Wendy Gabriel, Gerry O'Neill, Rick Usher, Bruce Lambert, Doug Brander (12 of 14 Committee members present; Peter Hughes on GoToMeeting; Paul Parker absent); Lori Steele, Lou Goodreau (NEFMC staff); Carrie Nordeen, Aja Szumylo (NMFS GARFO staff); Mitch MacDonald (NOAA General Counsel); several members of the public in the audience.

In addition, several individuals listened to the meeting online via GoToMeeting.

KEY OUTCOMES

TBD.

Options for Industry-Funded Monitoring in the Atlantic Herring Fishery

The Observer Committee reviewed and discussed the development of options for IFM in the Atlantic herring fishery, including new options for industry-funded at-sea monitoring focused on collecting only discard data (added at the January 2015 Council meeting).

Additional discussion TBD.

Additional Options for Industry-Funded Portside Sampling and Electronic Monitoring for the Atlantic Herring Fishery

1. MOTION: ALEXANDER/KENDALL

To add an alternative that would require EM/portside monitoring for midwater trawl vessels only to be developed consistent with the timetable in the draft Action Plan (fallback).

Discussion on the Motion: TBD.

MOTION #1 PERFECTED:

To add an alternative (under the herring/mackerel options) that would require EM/portside monitoring to be developed consistent with the timetable in the draft Action Plan (fallback).

MOTION #1 carried 10-1-0.

2. MOTION: ALEXANDER/KENDALL

To recommend that the MWT fleet would be the priority for developing the EM/portside option

Discussion on the Motion: TBD.

MOTION #2 carried unanimously.

The Joint Observer Committee/Herring Committee Meeting, originally scheduled for June 8, 2015, rescheduled for late June/early July.