

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)

Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

Council Staff

Council Meeting
June 12, 2019
South Portland, ME





Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring

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- Discuss the draft alternatives, and
- Approve the range of alternatives for analysis.

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.

PDT Meeting Summary – May 29, 2019

Summarizes revisions to the draft alternatives from tasking by the Committee in May

- Follow-up with NOAA GC on IFM Amendment interactions (**Section 4.1.1.5**)
- Clarification questions from PDT on Committee's intent for **Section 4.2.2.2.4** Sector Monitoring Plans to Ensure Sectors Meet Monitoring Standards

Summarizes progress on PDT analysis tasked by the Committee in April - *to be completed in the DEIS*

Provides clarification of observer effects analysis discussed at the joint Groundfish Committee/GAP/PDT meeting

Draft A23 Alternatives – May 31, 2019

4.1 Fishery Program Administration

4.1.1 Sector Administration Provisions

4.1.1.1 Sector Reporting Requirements

- *Grants RA authority to streamline*

4.1.1.2 Knowing the Total Monitoring Coverage Level at a Time Certain

- *Three weeks in advance of date sector rosters due to NMFS*

4.1.1.3 Funding for the Groundfish Monitoring Program

- *Additional NMFS funding up to 100 percent at-sea monitoring, provided NMFS has funding in a given year*

Draft A23 Alternatives – May 31, 2019

4.1.1.4 Review Process for Sector Monitoring Coverage Rates (developed from Committee tasking at May 21st Committee meeting)

- Establish a review process to evaluate the efficacy of sector monitoring coverage rates, to occur every five years

4.1.1.5 Fishery Operations if Funds for Monitoring Shoreside Costs are Unavailable (developed by PDT at May 29th PDT meeting)

- allow vessels to be issued waivers to exempt them from industry-funded monitoring requirements if coverage was unavailable due to insufficient funding for NMFS shoreside costs for the specified coverage level (from IFM Amendment)

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4.2 Commercial Fishery Measures

4.2.1 Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Program Revisions

4.2.1.1 Dockside Monitoring Program

- *100% coverage*

- *Options to address issues identified in previous DSM program* (further developed by the PDT at May 29th PDT meeting from Council recommendations)

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4.2.1.1 Dockside Monitoring Program

If Option 2 is selected, the Council would select either Sub-Option 1 or Sub-Option 2 to determine how DSM will be structured and who is responsible for costs.

Sub-Option 1: DSM as a Dealer Responsibility

- Two different options :

1A) *dealers contract individually with dockside monitor providers, or*

1B) *one program for all dealers administered by NMFS*

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4.2.1.1 Dockside Monitoring Program

Sub-Option 2: DSM as a Vessel Responsibility

- Two different options:

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

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

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4.2.1.1 Dockside Monitoring Program

If Option 2 is selected, the Council could select from the following options to specify details of the DSM program.

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, 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 (depends on whether DSM is dealer-funded or vessel-funded):

4A) *20 percent “spot check” coverage for dealers in all ports besides major ports (New Bedford, Gloucester, Boston, Chatham, Point Judith, or Portland), or*

4B) *20 percent “spot check” coverage for vessels with landings \leq 5,000lbs*

- 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 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 alternatives to monitors directly accessing fish holds – through use of cameras, or*

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

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4.2.2 Groundfish Sector Monitoring Program Revisions

4.2.2.1 Sector Monitoring Standards

4.2.2.1.2 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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4.2.2.1.3 Option 3: Coverage Level Based on a Percentage of Catch *(further developed by the PDT at May 29th PDT meeting)*

- *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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4.2.2.2 Sector Monitoring Tools

- options that sectors can choose to fulfill monitoring standards

4.2.2.2.1 At-Sea Monitoring Options

Human At-Sea Monitors or EM

Substitute

Audit Model Electronic Monitoring

4.2.2.2.2 Dockside Monitoring Option

4.2.2.2.3 Maximized Retention Option

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4.2.2.2.4 Sector Monitoring Plans to Ensure Sectors Meet Monitoring Standards

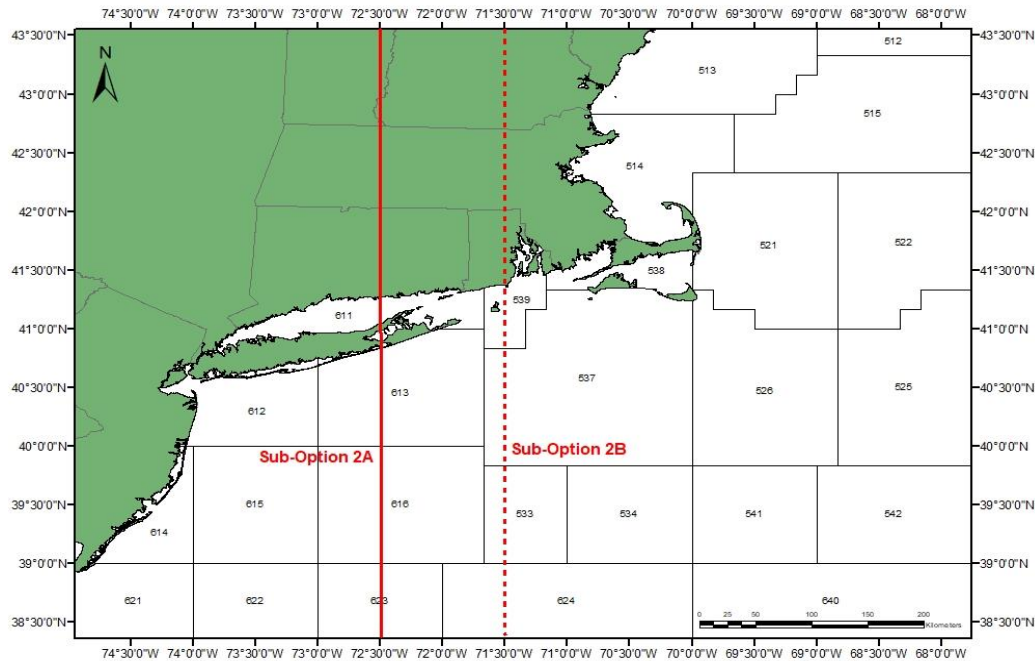
(developed from Committee tasking at May 21st Committee meeting)

- *provide the ability in sector monitoring plans to correct for when a sector is not meeting the set standard (from Section 4.2.2.1 Sector Monitoring Standards), as a measure of the effectiveness of monitoring at the sector-level*

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4.2.3 Exemptions from Groundfish Sector and Common Pool Monitoring Program Requirements

4.2.3.2 Option 2: Exemption for Certain Vessels Based on Fishing Location



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Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications

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Framework Adjustment 59: Specifications

(to be initiated by the Council today)

Specifications

- The Council is expected to initiate Framework Adjustment 59 to include:
 - 2020 total allowable catches (TACs) for US/Canada units of Eastern Georges Bank (GB) cod, Eastern GB haddock, and GB yellowtail flounder,
 - 2020-2022 specifications for most groundfish stocks (15), and
 - Other management measures.
- One of the possible other management measures may be the 2019 Council priority to address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) data.

Framework Adjustment 59/Specifications

- Initiate the action.