

Industry-funded Monitoring Omnibus Amendment

Portside and Electronic Monitoring Alternatives for the Midwater Trawl Fleet

New England Fishery Management Council

Mystic, CT

April 21, 2015

Purpose and Need

- Allow Councils to implement IFM programs with available Federal funding
- Allow Councils and NMFS to prioritize available Federal funding among FMPs
- Establish monitoring coverage targets for the Atlantic herring and Atlantic mackerel fisheries

Herring Alternatives

- Herring Alternative 1: No coverage target specified for industry-funded monitoring programs (No action)
- Herring Alternative 2: Coverage target specified for industry-funded monitoring programs (waiver and no waiver options)
 - *Permit-based alternatives (would apply to Category A + B vessels):*
 - 100% NEFOP-equivalent coverage target
 - 100% At-sea monitor coverage target
 - 75% At-sea monitor coverage target
 - 50% At-sea monitor coverage target
 - *Fleet-based alternatives:*
 - NEFOP-equivalent coverage on MWT Fleet to achieve a 30% CV on river herring and shad catch
 - 100% NEFOP-equivalent coverage on MWT Fleet in Groundfish Closed Areas
 - *Other alternatives:*
 - Wing vessel exempt from coverage; vessels prohibited from carrying fish
 - 2 year sunset or re-evaluation of coverage levels

Cost Responsibilities Associated with NEFOP Coverage

Industry Cost Responsibilities	Cost per observed sea day (FY2013)
Salary and per diem for travel, deployments and debriefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea day charges paid to providers: \$640/day • Travel: \$71/day • Meals: \$22/day • Other non-sea day charges: \$12/day
Equipment	\$11/day
Costs for cancellation without notification	\$1/day
Provider overhead and project management costs	Training: \$61/day
Other costs	TBD – depends on implemented program
Total (not including other costs)	\$818/day

Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Portside Sampling

- May be a more cost effective way to monitor herring and mackerel fisheries
- Coverage would initially focus on MWT fleet
 - Fewer than 20 vessels
 - ME to NJ
 - Harvests majority of herring (73%) and river herring and shad in herring and mackerel fisheries (57%)
 - Discard less than 5% of catch at sea

EM Alternative

EM Used to:

- Verify retention of catch for portside sampling
- Possibly used to verify compliance with discard reporting requirements (i.e., released catch affidavits)

Sampling Design

- Carry EM for duration of fishing year
- EM video footage recorded throughout entire trip or around haulback
- EM video footage sampled (either 100% or less than 100%) to verify retention

EM Alternative Responsibilities

Vessel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain/operate cameras and software• Contract with service provider to ensure proper operation, data review, and summary• Transfer harddrives to/from NMFS
Service Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install, troubleshoot, remove EM systems• Sample/review EM video footage and produce summary reports for NMFS
NMFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and validate/cross-check provider's EM summary data reports• Develop EM type approval, provider approval, data and report standards

Portside Sampling Alternative

Portside sampling used to:

- Verify amount/species composition of catch in the herring and mackerel fisheries
- Help track catch against caps for RH/S and haddock

Sampling design

- Sample MWT trips in port
- Methodology consistent with NEFOP protocols
- Basket samples at 5-min intervals
- Baskets sorted and weighed by species
- Species composition of sub-samples extrapolated to total catch based on vessel hail weight
- Actual weights verified against VTR

Portside Sampling Alternative

- Initially 100% of MWT trips sampled
- For 2013, MWT ports included:
 - ME (Portland, Rockland, Vinalhaven, Prospect Harbor, Jonesport, Milbridge)
 - NH (Newington)
 - MA (Boston, Gloucester, New Bedford)
 - RI (Point Judith, North Kingston)
 - NJ (Cape May)
- Not planning to limit landing ports at this point

Portside Sampling

Alternative Responsibilities

Vessel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contract with service provider for sampler to sample entire offload
Service Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage portside sampling program• Training/scheduling samplers• Data collection/storage/processing• Providing data/summary reports to NMFS
NMFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and validate/cross-check data and/or summary data• Develop sampling/data quality standards, provider approval, training standards

Timeline

Dates	Meeting/Deadline	Action
June 8, 2015	Joint Herring/Observer Policy Committee Meeting	
September 11, 2015	NEFMC Briefing book deadline	Revised EA complete for release
September 29 – October 1, 2015	NEFMC Meeting	NEFMC selects preferred alternatives
October 6 – 8, 2015	MAFMC Meeting	MAFMC selects preferred alternatives
October/November 2015		30-day comment period on draft EA
January 2016	NEFMC Meeting	NEFMC takes final action
February 2016	MAFMC Meeting	MAFMC takes final action
March - June 2016		EA finalized, proposed rule and final rulemaking
July 2016		Final rule effective

Observer Policy Committee motions...