

At-Sea Monitoring Action

Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish) Fishery Management Plan

Jamie M. Cournane, PhD and Jonathon Peros

Council Staff

**Groundfish Committee
Meeting
*September 3, 2015***



Goals for Committee Meeting Today

- To discuss any recommendations to the Council on the development of the alternatives.
- To consider recommending to the Council to add alternative(s) to FW 55 to address the ASM issue in time for FY 2016



Scope and Objective

Scope	Objectives
To make changes to the groundfish monitoring program.	To make the groundfish monitoring program more efficient and cost effective while achieving the stated goals of the program in Amendment 16 (A16) and Framework Adjustment 48 (FW48).



PDT Memo - Options

I) No Action

Options that might be possible to implement under NMFS authority in time for May 1, 2016

2) Refining coverage rates based on:

- a. Rolling averages
- b. Area-specific coverage rates
- c. Sector-specific rates
- d. Gear-specific rates



PDT Memo - Options

Options that require Council action and could potentially be implemented in time for May 1, 2016

- 3) Removing the ASM requirement for sector trips targeting monkfish, skates, and dogfish
- 4) Establishing sector specific coverage requirements
- 5) Establishing sector specific management uncertainty buffers or discard rates



PDT Memo- Options

Options that require Council action and may require more extensive development and analysis:

6) Setting a new CV standard ($CV > 30$)

7) Prioritizing coverage of how the CV is applied based on:

- a. Allocated stocks vs non-allocated stocks
- b. Stock condition - is the stock overfished or subject to overfishing?
- c. Percent of ACL harvested
- d. Percent of catch comprised of discards
- e. Impact of discard estimates on the stock assessment
- f. Impact of exemptions on discards of the stock



PDT Memo - Options

Options that require Council action and may require more extensive development and analysis:

- 8) Redesigning and re-stratifying the catch monitoring system to be proportional to landings and/or discards
- 9) Using a combination of monitoring tools to achieve monitoring goals, objectives, and requirements

