

Status of Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment

Maine Fishermen's Forum
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Status of IFM Omnibus Amendment

- MAFMC postponed action on the IFM Amendment until after completion of the NMFS electronic monitoring (EM) project
- NEFMC took final action on the IFM Amendment at its April 2017 meeting
- The IFM Amendment has become the New England IFM Omnibus Amendment
- NEFMC will consider approving EM/Portside Sampling for MWT vessels at its April 2018 meeting
- NE IFM Amendment implementation targeted for Fall of 2018
- MAFMC will revisit IFM in 2018

OMNIBUS MEASURES

NEFMC Preferred Omnibus Measures

Standardize new IFM programs across NEFMC fishery management plans

- Cost responsibilities for industry and NMFS
 - Amount of IFM coverage depends on NMFS having funding to administer the programs
- Requirements for IFM service providers
- Prioritize IFM programs for available Federal funding to administer programs
- Establish monitoring set-asides in a future framework

HERRING MEASURES

NEFMC Goals for Herring Measures

- Accurate estimates of catch
- Accurate catch estimates for species with catch caps
 - Haddock and river herring/shad
- Affordable monitoring for the industry

NEFMC Recommended Herring Measures

- 50% IFM coverage target on Category A and B vessels, including purse seine, midwater trawl, and bottom trawl vessels
- SBRM + IFM = 50% IFM coverage target
- Any IFM depends on NMFS having funding to administer the additional monitoring
- Vessels use a pre-trip notification system and NMFS selects vessels for SBRM or IFM coverage
- Vessels can request IFM coverage waivers for wing vessel trips or trips that land less than 50 mt of herring

NEFMC Recommended Herring Measures

- At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) coverage approved for all vessels
- Industry cost for ASM estimated at \$710 per sea day
- Average annual total cost estimated at \$566,580
- Average annual cost per vessel estimated at \$13,490
- Potential reduction to annual return-to-owner with ASM coverage up to 20%
- Costs based on analysis in associated EA

Status of MWT EM Project

- NMFS worked with Saltwater to conduct the project from August 2016 – January 2018
- 11 MWT vessels volunteered to participate in the project
- Saltwater and NMFS produced a draft report on the project in January 2018
- NMFS, NEFMC, and MAFMC staff will be conducting a review of the EM project in March 2018
- NMFS will release the final EM project report following the review
- NMFS and NEFMC staff will present the EM project report and recommendations to NEFMC in April 2018

EM Project Goals

- Evaluate the utility of EM for monitoring catch retention and identifying discard events in the Atlantic herring and mackerel MWT fisheries
 - Document slippage events
 - Categorize types of slippage events
 - Document other sources of discards
- Inform EM cost responsibilities for the fishing industry and NMFS

NEFMC Recommended Herring Measures

- In April 2018, NEFMC determines if EM/PS is adequate substitute for ASM aboard MWT vessels
- If yes, MWT vessels may choose between ASM or EM/PS coverage for 50% IFM coverage target
 - Choose 1 monitoring type per year
 - Declare monitoring type 6 months in advance
- Average per vessel cost of EM/PS per vessel is likely less than ASM Coverage
- Potential reduction to annual return-to-owner with EM/PS likely less than 20%
- Costs based on analysis in associated EA
- Final EM Report will be used to inform EM costs

NEFMC Recommended Herring Measures

- 100% observer coverage on MWT vessels fishing in GF Closed Areas
- Vessels may request purchasing observer coverage to access GF Closed Areas
- Any additional coverage depends on NMFS having funding to administer the additional coverage
- Industry cost associated with observer coverage estimated at \$818 per sea day
- Average annual total cost estimated at \$206,136
- Average annual cost per vessel estimated at \$17,178
- Potential reduction to annual return-to-owner with observer coverage in GF Closed Area up to 5%
- Costs based on analysis in associated EA

NEFMC Recommended Herring Measures

Slippage Requirements

- Includes prohibition and reporting requirements
- Apply on all trips with an observer (SBRM; 100% coverage in GF Closed Areas)
- Apply on all trips with an at-sea monitor
- Apply on all trips sampled portside

Slippage Consequence Measures

- Either 15-mile move or trip termination requirement applies on all trips with an observer (SBRM; 100% coverage in GF Closed Areas)
- Either 15-mile move or trip termination requirement applies on all trips with an at-sea monitor
- 15-mile move requirement applies on all trips sampled portside

IFM Amendment Timeline

Dates	Action
April 2017	NEFMC takes final action on IFM Amendment
January 2018	NMFS and Saltwater complete EM project on MWT vessels
Spring 2018	NMFS and NEFMC staff evaluate EM project Rulemaking for IFM Amendment
April 2018	NEFMC evaluates whether EM/PS is an adequate substitute for ASM coverage aboard MWT vessels
Spring 2018	Action to allow MWT vessels to choose ASM or EM/PS SBRM coverage for April 2018 - March 2019 available
July 2018	Vessels declare ASM or EM/PS for 2019
Fall 2018	IFM Amendment effective