

Updates on Projects Related to Industry-Funded Monitoring

New England Fishery Management Council
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
January 30, 2018

List of Updates

- NE Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment
- Electronic monitoring (EM) project on midwater trawl (MWT) vessels participating in the Atlantic herring and mackerel fisheries
- Introduction to potential service providers for IFM at-sea monitoring (ASM), EM, and portside sampling

Status of IFM Amendment

- NEFMC took final action on the IFM Amendment at its April 2017 meeting
- Proposed regulations were sent to NEFMC for deeming in December 2017
- Proposed rule is being reviewed by NMFS
- NEFMC will consider allowing EM/portside sampling for MWT vessels at its April 2018 meeting
- IFM Amendment implementation targeting Fall of 2018
 - Herring vessels would notify NMFS via the pre-trip notification system (PTNS) to request monitoring coverage
- MAFMC will revisit IFM in 2018

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 final report on the project in January 2018
- NMFS will be conducting an internal review of the EM project in February 2018
- NMFS will release the EM project report following the review
- NMFS 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

Data Collected by EM Project

- 126 herring fishing trips with EM footage
- 100% video review resulted in an estimated 1,000 hours of review time
- 32 trips with both EM and a NEFOP observer
- 37 outreach meetings with fishing industry
- 11 exit interviews with vessel owners and/or captains

Purpose of Increased Monitoring in the Atlantic Herring Fishery

- Accurate estimates of catch (retained and discarded)
- Accurate catch estimates for incidental species with catch caps (haddock and river herring/shad)
- Affordable monitoring for the herring fishery

Overview of EM Presentation for NEFMC in April 2018

- Utility of EM to monitor Atlantic herring fishery
 - Document slippage events
 - Categorize types of slippage events
 - Document other sources of discards
- Inform EM cost responsibilities for the fishing industry and NMFS
- Any additional information you need in April to facilitate your consideration of EM as a monitoring option for MWT vessels?

Monitoring Service Providers

- Fishing industry would contact service providers to purchase IFM coverage
- Service providers would be annually approved by NMFS
- Service providers are attending the January 2018 NEFMC meeting
 - Including ASM, EM, and portside providers
- Opportunity for fishing industry, interested stakeholders, and the NEFMC to become familiar with service providers

Questions?