

**Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM) Omnibus Amendment
New England Fishery Management Council
Mystic, Connecticut
April 20, 2017**

Herring Sub-Option 5 – 50 mt Exemption

At its April 5, 2017, meeting, the Herring Committee recommended adding a 50 mt exemption to Sub-Option 5. Currently, Sub-Option 5 exempts trips that land less than 25 mt of herring from IFM requirements.

During 2012-2014, there were 32 vessels with Category A and B herring permits and those vessels made 2,329 trips.

Table 1. Number of Category A and B herring vessels by trip size.

Number of vessels with trips always under 25 mt of herring	Number of vessels with less than 50% of trips under 25 mt of herring	Number of vessels with trips always under 50 mt of herring	Number of vessels with less than 50% of trips under 50 mt of herring
5*	22	8*	20
* Four of these vessels made less than four trips during 2012-2014.			

Source: VTR Data

Table 2. Trips by Category A and B herring vessels by gear type.

Gear Type	Percentage of trips under 25 mt of herring	Percentage of trips over 25 mt of herring	Percentage of trips under 50 mt of herring	Percentage of trips over 50 mt of herring
Small Mesh Bottom Trawl	45%	55%	81%	19%
Single Midwater Trawl	40%	60%	60%	40%
Paired Midwater Trawl	6%	94%	13%	87%
Purse Seine	16%	84%	33%	67%

Source: VTR Data

The Herring Committee also discussed fish hold capacity for Category A and B herring vessels. Vessels report fish hold capacity annually to NMFS as part of the permit renewal process. Fish hold capacities for Category A and B herring vessels range from 14 mt to 454 mt and average 132 mt.