

Status of IFM Omnibus Amendment

- MAFMC postponed action on the IFM Amendment until after completion of the NMFS EM project at the end of 2017
- 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 allowing EM/Portside Sampling for MWT vessels at its April 2018 meeting
- NE IFM Amendment implementation targeted for Summer/Fall of 2018

OMNIBUS ALTERNATIVES

What is the Purpose of the Omnibus Alternatives?

- Allow industry funding to be used to increase monitoring above current levels
- Allow Councils to implement new IFM programs with available Federal funding
- Allow Councils and NMFS to prioritize available Federal funding among IFM programs
- Allow NMFS to approve new IFM programs before funding is determined to be available

NEFMC Preferred Omnibus Alternatives

Omnibus Alternative 2

- Standardized structure for new IFM programs
 - Standard cost responsibilities
 - Standard process for new IFM programs to be implemented via amendment and revised via framework
 - Standard requirements for IFM service providers
 - Observers and at-sea monitors may be deployed on more than two consecutive trips or twice per month on the same vessel

NEFMC Preferred Omnibus Alternatives

Omnibus Alternative 2.2

- Council-led prioritization process to allocated available Federal funding
 - Equal weighting approach to allocate available Federal funding
 - Equal weighting approach would be re-adjusted on an as-needed basis

Omnibus Alternative 2.6

- Ability to develop monitoring set-aside in a future framework

HERRING ALTERNATIVES

What is the purpose of the Herring Alternatives

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

NEFMC Preferred Herring Alternatives

Herring Alternative 2

- IFM coverage targets for herring fishery

Herring Alternative 2.5

- 100% observer coverage on MWT vessels fishing in GF Closed Areas

NEFMC Preferred Herring Alternative

Herring Alternative 2.7

- Initially 50% ASM coverage on Category A and B vessels
- If NEFMC determines EM/PS is adequate substitute for ASM, vessels can choose between 50% ASM and 50% EM/PS coverage
- Once vessels can choose monitoring type
 - Choose 1 monitoring type per year
 - Declare monitoring type 6 months in advance

NEFMC Preferred Herring Sub-Options

- Sub- Option 1: Waiver allowed if IFM coverage is not available
- Sub-Option 2: Wing vessel exempt from IFM requirements
- Sub-Option 4: IFM requirements are re-evaluated in two years
- Sub-Option 5: IFM requirements only apply on trips that land more than 50 mt of herring

NEFMC Recommended Clarifications to Herring Alternative 2

Clarification 1B - Federal funding prioritized to ASM and EM/PS coverage (Alternative 2.7) before to observer coverage in GF Closed Areas (Alternative 2.5)

Clarification 1C – Combined coverage targets calculated by NMFS, in consultation with Council staff

Clarification 1D - If herring and mackerel coverage targets do not match, the higher coverage target applies on trips declared into both fisheries

NEFMC Recommended Clarifications to Herring Alternative 2.7

Clarification 3A – NEFMC initially evaluates EM/PS suitability for MWT vessels, but it may evaluate EM/PS for other gear types in the future

Clarification 3B – Specifies general process for NMFS to consult with NEFMC to approve EM/PS

- Similar process implemented as part of GF Amendment 16

NEFMC Recommended Clarifications to Herring Sub-Options

Clarification 4A – Sub-Option 1 allows coverage waivers to be issued on a trip-by-trip basis to vessels using ASM and EM/PS

Clarifications 5A and 7A – NMFS issues waivers for trips identified in PTNS as “wing vessel” or “less than 50 mt of herring” trips

- Vessel must adhere to the conditions of the exemption, otherwise it would be out of compliance with IFM coverage requirements

NEFMC Recommended Slippage Measures

Slippage Requirements

- Includes prohibition and reporting requirements
- Apply on all trips with an observer (100% coverage in GF Closed Areas)
- Apply on all trips with an at-sea monitor (50% coverage target)
- Apply on all trips sampled portside (50% coverage target)

Slippage Consequence Measures

- Either 15-mile move or trip termination requirement applies on all trips with an observer (100% coverage in GF Closed Areas)
- Either 15-mile move or trip termination requirement applies on all trips with an at-sea monitor (50% coverage target)
- 15-mile move requirement applies on all trips sampled portside (50% coverage target)

NE IFM Amendment Timeline

Dates	Action
April 2017	NEFMC takes action
2017	EA finalized and rulemaking
December 2017	EM project completed
February - March 2018	NEFSC evaluates EM project
April 2018	NEFMC evaluates whether EM/PS is an adequate substitute for ASM coverage
Spring 2018	Rulemaking 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
Summer - Fall 2018	Amendment effective