

Industry-Funded Monitoring Amendment: Atlantic Herring Fishery

New England Fishery Management Council
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
January 30, 2020

Milestones for IFM Amendment

- Notice of availability published in September 2018 with the comment period ending November 2018
- Proposed rule published in November 2018 with the comment period ending December 2018
- Amendment approved on December 18, 2018
- Final rule is expected to publish soon

Omnibus Measures

- Amend Council FMPs to standardize future IFM programs
 - Process to develop and revise programs
 - Service provider requirements
 - Cost responsibilities
 - Process to prioritize programs for Federal funding
 - Establish monitoring set-asides
- Effective 30 days after final rule publishes

Herring Measures

- 50% IFM coverage target for at-sea monitoring (ASM) on vessels with Category A or B herring permits
- Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) + IFM = 50% coverage target
- Allow midwater trawl vessels to purchase observer coverage to access Groundfish Closed Areas
- Slippage requirements apply on trips with observers or ASMs
- Aligns coverage year with SBRM year
- Effective April 1, 2020

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)

- Exempt midwater trawl vessels from ASM requirement and allow them to use electronic monitoring (EM) and portside sampling (PS) to meet 50% coverage target
- NMFS working with interested midwater trawl vessels to develop terms and conditions of EFP
 - EM coverage on 100% of trips
 - EM review and PS coverage on 50% of trips
 - Slippage requirements apply on trips selected for PS
 - Allow vessels to switch gear (purse seine, bottom trawl)
 - Allow vessels to use EM/PS to access Groundfish Closed Areas
 - Allow vessels to discard fish (operational discards or after sorting)
- Beginning in April 2020

Implementing Herring IFM in 2020

- NMFS has sufficient funding to pay its administrative cost responsibilities to fully implement IFM in the herring fishery
- April 1 – March 31 coverage year
- Herring vessels will use the pre-trip notification system (PTNS) to notify NMFS to be considered for SBRM or IFM coverage
- Improved sampling stations for primary midwater trawl ports

Implementing Herring IFM in 2020

- EM coverage will be provided through a contract between NMFS and Saltwater
- NMFS will approve service providers for ASM, PS, and observer coverage in March/April
- Herring vessels will begin using PTNS in April to notify for coverage
- NMFS will train new monitors (ASM and PS) and observers in early April
- IFM coverage expected to begin in mid to late April

Outreach for Herring IFM in 2020

- IFM and PTNS information will be mailed to herring fishery participants
- Maine Fishermen's Forum
 - NMFS staff providing an update on IFM and a PTNS demonstration on March 6
 - NMFS and Saltwater staff available for questions
 - IFM and PTNS information sheets available
- IFM and PTNS information session in Gloucester on March 9
- NMFS staff will be doing outreach in ports during March and April

