

Amendment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP: PROGRESS UPDATE

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Amendment 4 - Issues

1. Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures (ACLs/AMs)
2. Catch Monitoring Program
3. Measures to Address Interactions with Mackerel Fishery
4. Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch
5. Criteria for Midwater Trawl Access to Groundfish Closed Areas

Timeline – Progress to Date

- Scoping April-June 2008
- Committee begins development of alternatives June-Oct 2008
- Council reviews progress on A4 Oct 2008; identifies additional action item Nov 2008
- Council requests stakeholder proposals on catch monitoring Dec 2008
- Committee reviews proposals, develops alternatives for ACLs/AMs and catch monitoring Dec 2008-Feb 2009
- Council reviews progress on A4, provides guidance Feb 2009 – need to resolve timeline issues (TRAC Assessment June 2009)

ACLs/AMs

Section 3.0, p. 38 A4 Discussion Document

- Measures are primarily process-related (specs)
- Management Area TACs will be sub-ACLs
- PDT will develop ABC and ACL/AM Discussion Document with recommendations
- SSC will review Discussion Documents, recommend ABC and comment on ACLs/AMs
- Council will be bound by ABC specification but may consider different options for ACLs
- AMs will be established in the amendment but can be modified through specs process
- Unresolved Issues – Bycatch, Final Guidelines (1/16/09)

ACLs/AMs

Section 3.0, p. 38 A4 Discussion Document

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (WORK IN PROGRESS)

EXISTING AMs

- In-Season Adjustments (Precautionary)
- 92% Closure (Precautionary)
- Framework Adjustment Process
(Precautionary/Consequential)

ADDITIONAL AMs?

- Closure at a lower percentage of the ACL
(Precautionary)
- Triggers for In-Season Adjustments (Precautionary)
- Days Out Provisions/Quota Splitting (Precautionary)
- Payback Provisions for Overages (Consequential)

Catch Monitoring

- Proposed Goals/Objectives approved by Herring Committee in December 2008
- Four alternatives (in addition to no action) recommended by Committee (details TBD)
- Measures That Can Apply to Any Alternative:
 - Improve Quota Monitoring, Reporting, and Compliance (Sec 2.3.1, p. 10)
 - Address Transfers at Sea (Sec 2.3.2, p. 18)
 - Eliminate Reporting Redundancies (Sec 2.3.3., p. 20)
 - Address At-Sea Monitoring (Sec 2.3.4, p. 23)
 - Still a work in progress, alternatives/options likely to be pared down and streamlined

Catch Monitoring

OBSERVER PROGRAM SAMPLING DESIGN

(p. 23-28 Amendment 4 Discussion Document)

Herring Committee Recommendation:

- Recommend to the Council to reconsider the recommendation for a 20% CV on Atlantic herring, river herring, and haddock, and instead recommend using a 30% CV on the stocks that are not overfished (herring, haddock) and 20% on the stocks of concern (river herring)

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 1 (Proposed)

- Measures to Ensure Maximized Retention
- Measures to Standardize/Certify Volumetric Measurements
- Portside Sampling Program Set-Aside (PSSA)
- Electronic Reporting
- Measures That Can Apply to Any Alternative
- Measures to Address At-Sea Monitoring
- Video-Based Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program

Catch Monitoring

- Alternative 2 (Proposed) – Industry Proposal submitted by Kelley, Drye & Warren 1/21/09
- Alternative 3 (Proposed) – CHOIR Proposal submitted December 2008
- Alternative 4 (Proposed) – MA DMF Proposal submitted December 2008
- Many details TBD, alternatives are frameworks/outlines, subject to change
- If adopted as alternatives, proposals will lose connection to stakeholders
- Wide range of management measures included in proposed alternatives

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 2 (Proposed)

- Kelley, Drye & Warren January 21, 2009
- Committee Goals and Objectives
- As Close to 100% Catch Weighing/Certification as Practicable
- Alternatives for Catch Weighing Programs
- Measures to Address Observer Coverage and Protocols for Estimating Slipped Catch
- Measures to Encourage the Use of New Technology
- Portside Sampling Program

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 3 (Proposed)

- CHOIR/CCCHFA
- Maximized retention with video-based electronic monitoring
- Catch Monitoring and Control Programs developed by the industry and approved by Council
- Target 100% shoreside monitoring through independently-verified landings (actual weights or certified volumetric proxies)
- Multi-stakeholder funding approach

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 4 (Proposed)

- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
- Supplement the SBRM baseline for river herring and groundfish, increase observer coverage
- Measures to improve shoreside monitoring and use weighmasters to account for landings pumped directly to trucks
- More research on electronic monitoring
- Industry working group to consider funding issues
- Measures to improve data accuracy

Other Issues

Measures to Address Interactions with the Mackerel Fishery (Section 4.0. p. 61)

- Three alternatives under consideration to increase possession limit for open access permit in Areas 2/3 only

Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch (Section 5.0, p. 83)

- Work in progress; Herring PDT analyzing available observer data and will develop report/recommendations

Other Issues

Measures to Establish Criteria for Midwater Trawl Access to Groundfish Closed Areas

- Work in progress – identified as a management priority by the Council in November 2008
- Herring OS developing alternative to establish provisions for 100% coverage on vessels that exceed 1% bycatch threshold and penalties for second offense
- Herring Alliance Proposal – OS agreed that HA measures for access to closed areas will be discussed further

TIMELINE ISSUES

- TRAC Assessment June 2009
(not December 2009)
- Fishery specifications for 2010-2012 should be developed in 2009 with new stock assessment information (available July 2009)
- ACL/AM provisions must be submitted no later than April/May 2010 to meet January 1, 2011 deadline
- 2010-2012 specifications must address ACL/AM requirements in 2011 and 2012
- Management actions should be prioritized to maximize efficiency and minimize redundancy