

**DRAFT AMENDMENT 4  
TO THE  
ATLANTIC HERRING  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Catch Monitoring:  
Summary Tables for Reference**

**Provided by NMFS Regional Office Staff**

**June 4/5, 2009**

**Herring Committee Meeting**

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## Atlantic Herring Catch Monitoring and Reporting Program

### Monitoring and Reporting Program Component

**Regulatory Definitions/Requirements**  
 Revise/develop definitions and requirements to improve reporting compliance, ensure accuracy and completeness of data, and improve consistency between databases

### Developed Program Elements for Consideration

Existing regulatory definitions are as follows:

Section 648.2 **Atlantic herring processor** means a person who receives unprocessed Atlantic herring from a fishing vessel issued a Federal Atlantic herring permit or from an Atlantic herring dealer for the purposes of processing; or the owner or operator of a fishing vessel that processes Atlantic herring; or an Atlantic herring dealer who purchases Atlantic herring from a fishing vessel with a Federal Atlantic herring permit for resale as bait.

Section 648.2 **Dealer** means any person who receives, for a commercial purpose (other than solely for transport on land), from the owner or operator of a vessel issued a valid permit under this part, any species of fish, the harvest of which is managed by this part, unless otherwise exempted in this part.

Section 648.2 **Processing, or to process, with respect to the Atlantic herring fishery**, means the preparation of Atlantic herring to render it suitable for human consumption, bait, commercial uses, industrial uses, or long-term storage, including but not limited to cooking, canning, roe extraction, smoking, salting, drying, freezing, or rendering into meat or oil.

Section 648.2 **Transfer** means to begin to remove, to remove, to pass over the rail, or to otherwise take away fish from any vessel and move them to another vessel.

**Reporting Requirements**  
 Revise reporting requirements to improve reporting compliance and the accuracy and timeliness of quota monitoring information

Require limited access (and open access) permit holders to submit IVR reports on a trip-by-trip basis (within 6 or 24 hours of offloading)

Require limited access (and open access) permit holders to report VTR serial number via IVR

Require open access permit holders with Transfer at Sea LOAs to submit IVR reports a trip-by-trip basis (as well as negative IVR reports)

Require limited access (and open access) permit holders would to IVR reports weekly, but with a deadline of Monday midnight

Require limited access (and open access) permit holders to submit VTR reports weekly

### Undeveloped Program Elements for Consideration

Revising the regulatory definition of “transfer at sea” for the purposes of the Atlantic herring fishery to clarify provisions related to each vessel engaged in the operation.

Revising some of the existing regulatory definitions to clarify which vessels are authorized to engage in certain herring-related activities and what reporting requirements may apply to these vessels.

Establishing a new herring carrier/dealer permit that would be required for carrier vessels that sell Atlantic herring to any entity.

This option would require the addition of a regulatory definition of “Atlantic herring carrier/dealer” in Section 648.2 (Definitions).

The permit would require compliance with federal dealer reporting requirements at any time the vessel is in possession of a (new) carrier/dealer LOA. A “dealer identifier” would have to be developed for carrier/dealers for the purposes of reporting.

This measure would also require the establishment of two LOAs for carrier vessels: one for vessels that

Are additional revisions to reporting requirements necessary?

## Atlantic Herring Catch Monitoring and Reporting Program (continued)

Monitoring and Reporting Program Component	Developed Program Elements for Consideration	Undeveloped Program Elements for Consideration
<p><b>VMS Requirements</b> Revise VMS requirements to make them consistent with other FMPS</p>	<p>Eliminate VMS "power down" exemption for limited access herring vessels</p>	<p>Are additional revisions to VMS requirements necessary?</p>
<p><b>Transfer At Sea Requirements</b> Revise requirements to improve the accuracy and timeliness of quota monitoring information</p>	<p>Restrict transfers at sea to limited access permit holders with no possession restriction (i.e., Category A and B)</p> <p>Restrict transfers at sea to between herring permit holders (i.e., limited access and open access)</p> <p>Restrict transfers at sea for bait as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Allow transfers only up to certain poundage level;</li> <li>· Allow transfers between limited access permit holders (i.e., Categories A, B, and C) only;</li> <li>· Allow transfers between vessels with Transfer LOAs only; and/or</li> <li>· Require copies of bait receipts.</li> </ul>	<p>Are additional revisions to transfer at sea requirements necessary?</p>
<p><b>Notification Requirements</b> Revise requirements to improve placement of observers, compliance with reporting requirements, and the accuracy and timeliness of quota monitoring information</p>	<p>Require all limited access permit holders, intending to land more than 2,000 lb of herring, to provide notification as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Declare a herring trip in VMS via VMS;</li> <li>· Phone the observer program before departing port (minimum of 18 hours); and</li> <li>· Contact OLE via VMS at least 6 hours before returning to port.</li> </ul>	<p>Are additional revisions to notification requirements necessary?</p>
<p><b>Observer Requirements</b> Revise observer requirements to promote observer safety and ensure the accuracy of observer data</p>	<p>Require vessel to provide observer with safe sampling station</p> <p>Require vessel to provide observer with assistance in obtaining basket samples and sorting discards</p> <p>Require closed codends to be brought on board whenever possible for observer to open and inspect</p> <p>Require vessel to provide accurate details to observer why the codend was only partially pumped and then dumped</p> <p>Require vessel to provide observer notice when pumping is ending</p> <p>Require larger vessels or each pair trawl vessel to carry an observer</p> <p>Require additional communication between observers on pair trawl vessels</p> <p>Require a flow scale on a processing vessel if there is no other method to estimate catch</p>	<p>Are additional revisions to observer requirements necessary?</p>

## Atlantic Herring Catch Monitoring Program Alternatives

Catch Monitoring Alternative	Maximized Retention (MR)	At-Sea Monitoring	Dockside Monitoring (DM)	Additional Components
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alternative 1</b></p>	<p>Require vessels to land 99.5% of catch</p> <p>Prohibit ESA and MMPA species from being landed</p>	<p>Achieve observer coverage consistent with a 20% bycatch CV for herring, river herring, and haddock</p>	<p>Require limited access permit holders (Category A, B, and C) to have fish holds and trucks certified</p> <p>Hold/truck certifications provided to DM vendor</p> <p>Accurately estimate catch/bycatch in herring fishery (20% CV for river herring and 30% CV for herring and haddock)</p> <p>Confirm the accuracy of self-reporting of herring landings</p> <p>NMFS establish and manage sampling plan executed by DM vendor</p> <p>Require limited access permit holders (Category A, B, and C) to contact DM prior to landing</p> <p>DM vendor certified by NMFS</p>	<p>Eliminate RSA and replace it with a DM set-aside</p> <p>Establish a DM set-aside</p> <p>Require electronic reporting (based on study fleet) for Category A and B vessels</p> <p>Revise reporting (IVR and VTR) and transfer at sea requirements</p> <p>Establish pilot program for electronic monitoring (based on Archipelago program)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alternative 2</b></p>	<p>Does not include provisions for maximized retention</p>	<p>Increase observer coverage to achieve 30% bycatch CV from SBRM</p> <p>Achieve monitoring coverage consistent with a 20% bycatch CV for herring fishery (at-sea and dockside monitoring combined to achieve CV)</p> <p>Revise observer requirements to promote observer safety and ensure the accuracy of observer data</p>	<p>Volumetric catch estimation for as close to 100% of offloads as possible</p> <p>Volumetric data cross checked with observer and VTR data</p> <p>Achieve monitoring coverage consistent with a 20% bycatch CV for herring fishery (at-sea and dockside monitoring combined to achieve CV)</p> <p>Standard catch sampling program at first point of landing or production</p>	<p>Develop method to estimate slipped codends</p> <p>Encourage electronic reporting (based on study fleet) for information on slipped codends and effort</p> <p>Develop code of conduct to improve working relationship between industry and observer program, including pre-season meetings and data (estimates of weight, species composition) from slipped codends</p>

## Atlantic Herring Catch Monitoring Program Alternatives

Catch Monitoring Alternative	Maximized Retention (MR)	At-Sea Monitoring	Dockside Monitoring (DM)	Additional Components
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alternative 3</b></p>	<p>Require vessels to land 99.5% of catch</p> <p>Prohibit ESA and MMPA species from being landed</p> <p>Require electronic monitoring to verify compliance with MR</p> <p>Unpermitted landings allowed through omnibus amendment or EFP</p> <p>Codend handling requirements and slippage cap would apply when slippage occurred</p> <p>Modify maximized retention to allow discarding via chute (discards monitored by electronic monitoring)</p>	<p>Does not include provisions for catch sampling by observers</p>	<p>Independent volumetric catch estimate or weights from scales</p> <p>100% monitoring of all vessels for a census of all landing events</p> <p>Standardize existing state programs then allow states to be DM vendors</p> <p>Phase-in NMFS observers and allow NMFS to be DM vendor</p> <p>Allow for additional DM vendors</p>	<p>CMCP details vessel compliance with monitoring requirements</p> <p>CMCPs approved by NMFS</p> <p>Electronic monitoring vendor would handle field service and analysis</p> <p>Centralized analysis and reporting procedures for at-sea, dockside, and quota monitoring</p> <p>Possible funding sources are ME or MA dockside programs, MSRA appropriation, quota set-aside program, landings surcharge, industry funding</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Alternative 4</b></p>	<p>Does not include provisions for maximized retention</p>	<p>Improve monitoring of herring size composition and bycatch</p> <p>Ensure coverage of offshore Mid-Atlantic fishery (January - March and April - June) to monitor bycatch events (shad, river herring, striped bass) and slippage</p> <p>Ensure coverage of inshore areas off Gloucester and New Hampshire (especially during October and November) to monitor bycatch events (river herring, shad)</p>	<p>Improve monitoring of herring size composition and bycatch</p>	<p>Improve accuracy of quota monitoring on real-time basis</p> <p>Industry working group to consider industry-funded observer program</p> <p>Adequate catch monitoring for haddock bycatch cap</p> <p>Identify bycatch by gear type</p>

## Atlantic Herring Catch Monitoring Program Alternatives

Catch Monitoring Alternative	Maximized Retention (MR)	At-Sea Monitoring	Dockside Monitoring (DM)	Additional Components
<p><b>Questions</b></p>	<p>Funding sources?</p> <p>Unpermitted landings allowed through an omnibus amendment?</p> <p>Disposal of unpermitted catch at offload locations?</p> <p>Can unpermitted catch be donated to food banks?</p> <p>Do codend handling requirements and a slippage cap address safety concerns?</p> <p>Require MR unless there are safety concerns related to the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Mechanical failure;</li> <li>· Dogfish; and</li> <li>· Test tows.</li> </ul>	<p>Funding sources?</p> <p>Could vessels have choices (observers or MR/electronic monitoring) to achieve monitoring requirements?</p>	<p>Funding sources?</p> <p>Can one sampling design monitor both landings verification and bycatch?</p>	<p>Are CMCPs appropriate for the herring fishery?</p> <p>Is a quota set-aside an appropriate source of funding for monitoring?</p> <p>Are pilot programs a viable way to evaluate new monitoring programs?</p>