

Framework Adjustment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

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Framework 4 Background

- Initiated by the Council (Nov 2013) to address disapproved elements of Amendment 5 related to dealer weighing provisions and measures to address net slippage
- Disapproved elements related to observer coverage and industry-funded monitoring to be addressed in NMFS-led omnibus amendment

Dealer Weighing Provisions

Disapproved (Am 5)

Dealers required to accurately weigh all fish and document how composition of mixed catch is estimated for every submission

- Without standards, not likely to affect dealer behavior or improve accuracy of reporting; no way to evaluate sufficiency of information submitted
- NS7 (costs/duplication) and PRA (utility must outweigh burden)

Dealer Weighing Provisions

Non-Preferred (Am 5)

- 2A – Dealers required to accurately weigh all fish and annually document how composition of mixed catch is estimated
- 2C – Dealers required to obtain vessel representative confirmation of SAFIS transactions weekly using Fish On Line;
Also VTR and dealer reports would be due within 24 hours of landing/purchase

Dealer Weighing Provisions

Framework 4 Alternatives – Council Recs

Reconsider Am 5 Alternatives 2A, 2B, 2C with more specific industry weighing/handling standards

- Objective – improve accuracy of catch information in the herring fishery
- Seek input from Herring AP and industry
- Require processors to use scales
- Specify weights for most commonly-used containers

Measures to Address Net Slippage

Definition of Slippage (Amendment 5)

Unobserved catch, i.e., catch that is discarded prior to being observed, sorted, sampled, and/or brought on board the fishing vessel.

Slippage can include the release of fish from a codend or seine prior to completion of pumping or the release of an entire catch or bag while the catch is still in the water.

- Does not include operational discards
- Does not include at-sea discards that occur after catch is brought on board and sorted

Measures to Address Net Slippage

Definition of Operational Discards (Amendment 5)

Fish that cannot be pumped and that remain in the net at the end of pumping operations

- Observer protocols include documenting fish that remain in the net in a discard log before they are released, and existing regulations require vessel operators to assist the observer in this process.
- Amendment 5 regulations intended to enhance observer's ability to document operational discards.

Measures to Address Net Slippage

*Approved (Am 5) *Option 3**

- Full sampling when observer on-board
- Slippage prohibited *except* (1) safety (2) mechanical failure (3) dogfish
- If slippage occurs, Released Catch Affidavit
- 100% coverage and no operational discards in year-round groundfish closed areas and requirement to leave area for remainder of trip if slippage occurs (CAI provisions)
- Measures to improve sampling, including visual access to codend (p.9)

Measures to Address Net Slippage

Dis-approved (Am 5)

Threshold of 10 observed slippage events by gear type and area, after which trip termination would be required. Slippage events that are caused by spiny dogfish (3) would not be counted towards the trip termination thresholds.

- Data does not support proposed threshold (NS2)
- Inconsistent sanction, may impact safety decisions (APA and NS10)

Measures to Address Net Slippage

Framework 4 Alternatives – Council Recs

Move-Along alternatives for observed slippage events:

- Alternatives to move statistical area, management area, or X miles away (10, 15, 20 nm?)
- Options for exemptions to move-along rules (safety, mechanical failure, and/or dogfish)

Measures to Address Net Slippage

Framework 4 Alternatives – Council Recs

Move-Along alternatives for observed slippage events:

- Options to prohibit operational discards (midwater trawl, bottom trawl)
- Trip termination option for non-allowable slippage events
- Apply to all limited access herring vessels (A/B/C) or Category A/B only

Mid-Atlantic Council Actions

- Am14 to the MSB FMP included similar measures for the mackerel fishery, also disapproved
- No action currently scheduled to address disapproved dealer weighing provisions
- Fw 9 to the MSB FMP under development to address disapproved slippage provisions (see Fw 4 Discussion Document for options considered in MSB Fw 9)

Measures to Address Net Slippage

Framework 9 to MSB FMP – MA Council Recs

Alternative 2

- No additional consequence for observed slippage events due to safety, mechanical failure, spiny dogfish
- Trip termination for observed non-exempted slippage events
- Slippage notification through VMS

Framework 4 Timeline

- January 14, 2014 Herring Committee/
January 22, 2014 Herring AP Meetings
- January 28-30, 2014 NEFMC
(Initial Fw4 Meeting)
- Herring PDT/AP/Committee
(February-March 2014)
- April 2014 NEFMC (Final Fw4 Meeting)
- Fw4 Submission and Implementation
ASAP