

Framework Adjustment 4 to the Atlantic Herring FMP

Lori Steele, NEFMC Staff, Herring PDT Chair

April 2-3, 2014 Herring AP/OS Meeting

Framework 4 Background

- Developed by the Council to address disapproved elements of Amendment 5:
 - *Dealer Weighing/Reporting Requirements*
 - *Measures to Address Net Slippage*
- Disapproved elements related to observer coverage requirements and industry-funded monitoring to be addressed in NMFS-led omnibus amendment

Framework 4 Goals/Objectives

1. Create a cost-effective and administratively feasible program for accurate and timely records of catch of all species in the Atlantic herring fishery
2. Develop a program providing catch/bycatch information that will foster support by the industry and others, i.e., well-designed, credible program
3. Design a robust program for adaptive management
4. Determine if at-sea sampling provides bycatch estimates similar to dockside monitoring

Dealer Weighing Provisions

Section 2.1, p. 6

Framework 4 Alternatives (Jan 2014 Council)

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
- Specify weights for most commonly-used containers

Dealer Alternative 2

One or more of the following options:

- A. Vessel operators required to validate information reported through Fish-on-Line
- B. VTRs and dealer reports required to be submitted within 24 hours of trip/purchase
- C. Fish holds on limited access herring vessels required to be empty before leaving the dock when declared into the herring fishery*

**ASMFC is considering this requirement in an upcoming Addendum to Interstate Herring FMP.*

Dealer Alternative 3

Third-Party Catch Verification (Vessel Level)

- Vessels required to certify capacity of fish holds and provide information to NMFS
- Vessels retain customized measuring stick (weighted) on board
- NMFS-approved observer dips stick at first point of landing to estimate weight of total catch on board
- Volumetric conversion for pounds of Atlantic herring (see Appendix I)

Dealer Alternative 4

One or more of the following options:

- A. Standardized Weight for Herring Box
(1,869 pounds)
- B. Standard Method for Estimating Weight
(All Containers)
- C. Standardized Method for Estimating Weight
of Transport Vehicles
 - Dealers required to certify/mark capacity of transport vehicles, provide information to NMFS
 - Volumetric conversion to pounds of Atlantic herring (see Appendix I)

Dealer Alternative 4

A. Standardized Weight for Herring Box



RIFT35 STACKED

NILKAMAL INSULATED FISH TOTES Atlantic Style: (Commercial Grade) <i>All Tare Weights & Dimensions are approximate</i>								
All Nilkamal Fish Totes have solid PUR "Foam Core Insulation" and mix & stack with or without a lid with the competition.								
<i>Some stack variations occur; check with HADCO</i>								
Model #	Size	US Gallons	Capacity Full	Out Dimensions <i>includes lid</i>	In Dimensions	Tare Weight	TL	COMMENTS
RIFT310	10.5 Cube	80 Gal.	600 lbs / 270 kg	36" X 28" X 28"	34" x 26" x 23"	70 lbs. with lid	117 / 40'HC	Atlantic day boat size
RIFT25	25 Cube	198 Gal.	1500 lbs / 680 kg	48" X 43" X 38"	44" x 38" x 27"	175 lbs. with lid	57 / 40'HC	Atlantic standard
RIFT35	35 Cube	260 Gal.	2200 lbs / 1015 kg	48" X 43" X 50"	44" x 38" x 40"	229 lbs. with lid	40 / 40'HC	Atlantic tall box
RIFT1000	35 Cube	260 Gal.	2000+ lbs / 908 kg	58.5" X 46.5" X 38"	55" x 43" x 29"	218 lbs / 100 kgs	47 / 40'HC	Pacific long box

Appendix I

SEAPRO INCORPORATED

Manufacturer of Fish Meal and Fish Oil

ROCKLAND, MAINE 04841

Phone Rockland 594-7100 or Camden 236-3810

HERRING MEASURE — CONVERSION CHART

2200 # memo to

2 BARRELS = 1 Hoghead

Bushels	Hogsheads	Tons
17.5	1	.6125
35.0	2	1.2250
52.5	3	1.8375
70.0	4	2.4500
87.5	5	3.0625
105.0	6	3.6750
122.5	7	4.2875
140.0	8	4.9000
157.5	9	5.5125

1 BUSHEL = 70#

1.7 CASES Hoghead

1290 LBS

1225 LBS

Potential Applicability of Flow Scales, Hopper Scales, Truck Scales, and Volumetric Measurement in the Atlantic Herring Fishery

1752.5	99	60.6375
1750.0	100	61.2500

DATA

- 1 Bushel Herring—70#
 - 1 Cubic Foot Herring—56.2#
 - 1.244 Cubic Feet Herring—1 Bushel = 70 lbs.
 - 21.77 Cubic Feet Herring—1 Hoghead
 - 28.56 Bushels Herring—1 Ton
 - 1225#—1 Hoghead
 - 17½ Bushels—1 Hoghead
- 27 cu. ft. = 1 cu. yd.*

SEAPRO INCORPORATED
Rockland Maine

162.8 gals = 1 Hoghead

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.

Clarification of Am5 Measures

Amendment 5: All fish must be pumped aboard the vessel and made available for sampling and inspection by an observer prior to being discarded.

1. Do these regulations apply to operational discards on midwater trawl vessels?

See Options for Operational Discards (Midwater Trawl)

2. Do these regulations apply to instances of gear damage?

If “no,” then release from gear damage would fall under “mechanical failure” exemption.

3. Do these regulations apply to fish that fall out/off gear?

Staff Recommendation: No, this catch would not be subject to slippage measures.

Operational Discards

Do the full sampling requirements apply to operational discards on midwater trawl vessels when not fishing in a year-round groundfish closed area?

A. No.

Operational discards prohibited on midwater trawl vessels in year-round groundfish closed areas only

B. Yes.

Operational discards prohibited on midwater trawl vessels in all areas when carrying an observer.

Slippage – No Action Alternative

Amendment 5 Measures to Address Slippage

- 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
- Measures to improve sampling, including visual access to codend

Slippage Alternatives 2-5

Apply to All Alternatives:

- Released Catch Affidavit required for all slippage events
- Trip termination option for all other observed slippage events (slippage not due to safety, mechanical, dogfish)
- Options to apply to all limited access herring vessels (A/B/C) or Category A/B only
- Requirement for VMS notification of slippage events

Slippage Alternative 2

Move-Along Statistical Area

Section 2.2.2.2, p. 18

- Vacate Statistical Area for remainder of trip for slippage from safety, mechanical, dogfish
- Any exemptions to move-along rule?
(safety, mechanical, and/or dogfish)
- Trip termination option for all other observed slippage events
- Apply to A/B/C permit holders or A/B only?

Slippage Alternative 3

Move-Along Management Area

Section 2.2.2.3, p. 20

**Midwater trawl and bottom trawl vessels only*

- Vacate Management Area for remainder of trip for slippage from safety, mechanical, dogfish
- Any exemptions to move-along rule?
(safety, mechanical, and/or dogfish)
- Trip termination option for all other observed slippage events
- Apply to A/B/C permit holders or A/B only?

Slippage Alternative 4

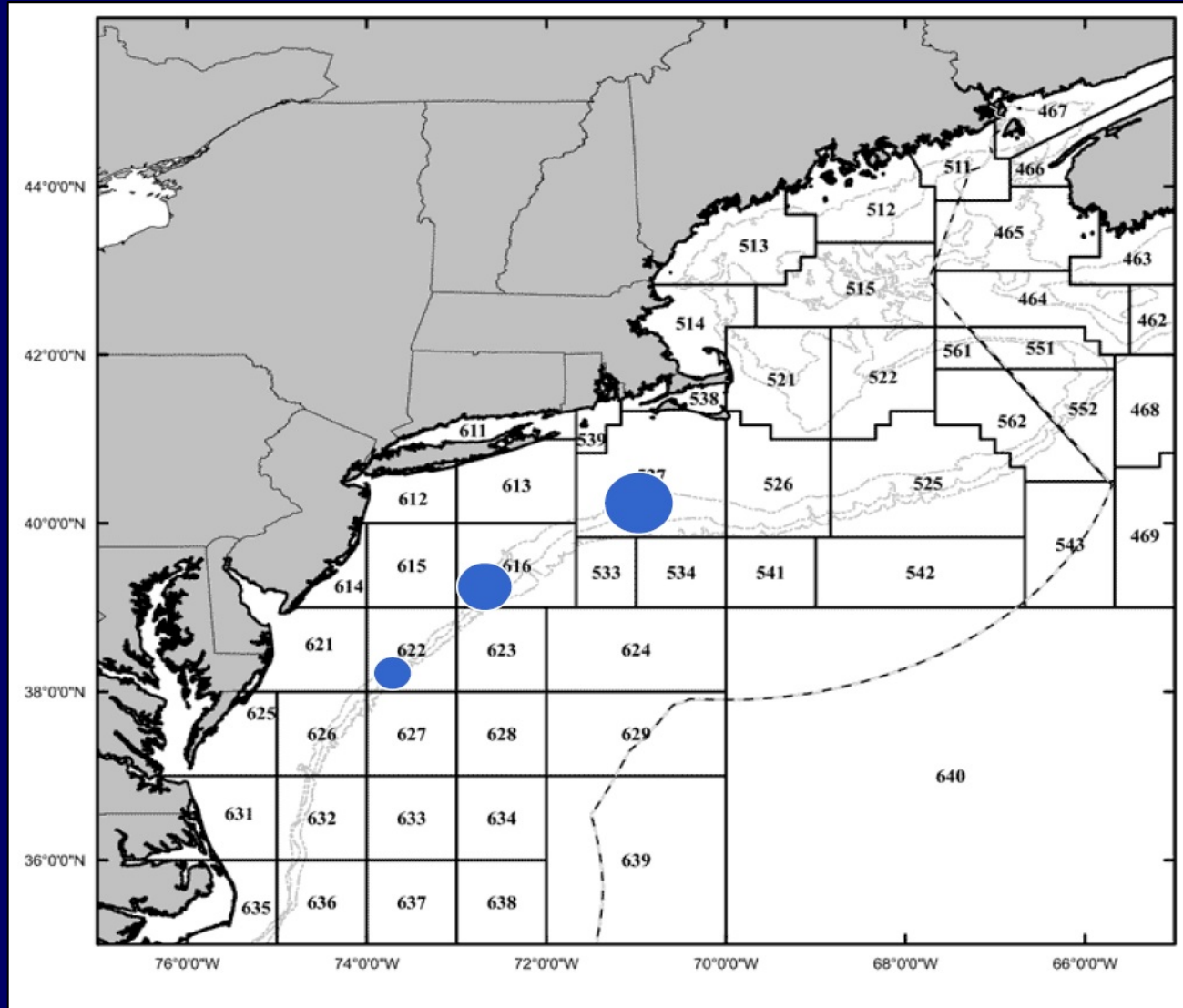
Move-Along Miles Away

Section 2.2.2.4, p. 22

- Move X miles for remainder of trip for slippage from safety, mechanical, dogfish
- Options 10, 15, 20 nm (creates a closed area)
- Any exemptions to move-along rule?
(safety, mechanical, and/or dogfish)
- Trip termination option for all other observed slippage events
- Apply to A/B/C permit holders or A/B only?

Slippage Alternative 4

Example “closed area” based on 10, 15, and 20 nm move-along rule



Slippage Alternative 5

No Move-Along Requirement

Section 2.2.2.5, p. 23

No additional consequences for slippage from safety, mechanical, dogfish

- Trip termination required for all other observed slippage events
- Apply to A/B/C permit holders or A/B only?

Consistent with Mid-Atlantic Council's Preferred Alternative in Framework 9 to the MSB FMP

NEFOP Slippage Data

Appendix II (Updated from Am 5 with 2012-2013 data)

2012-2013 Observer Data

- 1,126 purse seine/midwater trawl/bottom trawl hauls observed (20-30% coverage)
- 95 partial/full slippage events (8.4%)
- 343 operational discard events (30.5%)
- Avg. weight slippage – 8,230 pounds
- Avg. weight operational discards – 198 pounds

NEFOP Slippage Data

Appendix II (Updated from Am 5 with 2012-2013 data)

Purse Seine Vessels 2012-2013

- 29 slippage and 112 operational discards on 92 trips
- No slippage observed due to safety, mechanical failure, or spiny dogfish
- Slippage due primarily to vessel capacity filled and not enough fish to pump
- Slippage due to no market value larger amounts

NEFOP Slippage Data

Appendix II (Updated from Am 5 with 2012-2013 data)

Midwater Trawl Vessels 2012-2013

- 64 slippage and 231 operational discards on 348 trips (27 slippage events on tows that started or ended in CAI)
- No slippage observed due to safety or mechanical failure; 29% of fish slipped on events due to dogfish
- One very large event from gear damage
- Slippage due primarily to not enough fish to pump and vessel capacity filled

NEFOP Slippage Data

Appendix II (Updated from Am 5 with 2012-2013 data)

Small Mesh Bottom Trawl Vessels 2012-2013

- Two slippage and no operational discards on 53 trips
- No slippage observed due to safety, mechanical failure, or spiny dogfish
- Total estimated slipped catch 500 pounds

Herring PDT Comments

Dealer Weighing/Reporting Alternatives

- Dealer data (supplemented) are utilized for quota monitoring; VTR data are utilized for stock assessment; data sets are generally consistent, and no specific technical problem has been identified
- Alternatives may address perceptions, but not likely to improve the accuracy of catch data
- Unclear how some alternatives support Am5 catch monitoring goals/objectives

Herring PDT Comments

Dealer Weighing/Reporting Alternatives

- Third-party verification of catch may provide a cross-check but won't replace other data sources
- Significant concerns about increasing requirements/responsibilities for observers
- Unclear whether conversion could introduce new error and/or reduce accuracy
- Potential for error with conversion of total volume to Atlantic herring weight
- Alternatives do not address species-specific component of catch weighing/reporting

Herring PDT Comments

Measures to Address Net Slippage

- Current measures (Amendment 5, 3/17/14) should significantly reduce slippage
- If the number of events or reasons for slippage increase or change significantly, this would serve as a red flag to revisit Am5 slippage provisions
- *PDT supports proposed requirement for VMS notification of slippage events to enhance effectiveness and enforceability of Am5 measures*

Herring PDT Comments

Measures to Address Net Slippage

- Alternatives not likely to affect slippage due to vessel capacity full (one of the primary reasons for slippage), as vessels are likely to end the trip regardless
- If additional consequences are adopted, the same consequences should apply to all allowable slippage events (no exemptions)
- Move-along rules for statistical areas and management areas will have differential impacts

Impacts of Fw4 Alternatives

Section 4.0, p. 49

Dealer Weighing/Reporting Alternatives

- Appendix I provides some information about costs for certifying vessels, etc.
- Extremely difficult to predict impacts of dealer alternatives and measures to address slippage on herring vessels, dealers, processors

See also NMFS APSD Comments on Dealer Alternatives in March 31, 2014 Council staff memo

Impacts of Fw4 Alternatives

Section 4.0, p. 49

Measures to Address Net Slippage

- Extremely difficult to predict impacts of measures to address net slippage
- Differential impacts: move-along X miles is only alternative that applies a consistent consequence to all vessels

Category A/B/C vs. A/B Only

- Appendix II – midwater trawl and purse seine vessels slip catch (not bottom trawl)
- A/B addresses vast majority of fishery

Framework 4 Timeline

- Herring Committee January 14, 2014
- NEFMC January 28-30, 2014
(Initial Fw4 Meeting)
- Herring Advisory Panel February 13, 2014
- Herring PDT March 6, 2014
- Herring AP and Committee April 2-3, 2014
- NEFMC April 22-24, 2014
(Final Fw4 Meeting)
- Submission/Implementation ASAP (1/1/15)