

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Enforcement

I. STATUS

The Enforcement Committee met on September 10, 2010 to discuss marking fixed fishing gear and other business. The committee developed standard minimum requirements for fixed fishing gear in the EEZ. The goal is to develop universal marking requirements to make it easier for fishermen to avoid and enforcement to check fixed gear.

Under Other business, the committee discussed a scallop request to allow VMS to be shut down. If the Council wishes the committee to make a recommendation in this regard, or to develop an enforcement analysis of scallop FW 22, the enforcement committee then may discuss this at its next meeting.

NOAA is seeking comment on a draft penalty policy. General Counsel Northeast has advised that the enforcement committee review and comment, and then present recommendations to the full Council for approval. The committee should schedule a meeting in early December to comment.

The Council was advised that NOAA will consult it with respect to its Enforcement Priority Setting Process before December 31, 2010. If the Council receives the formal request in time, the Enforcement committee could develop a recommendation for the Council at its next meeting.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Consider the Enforcement Committee recommendations about gear marking in light of earlier decisions about Council priorities.

III. INFORMATION

1. Report from the September 10, 2010 Enforcement committee meeting
2. Chart 1 describing the minimum standard configuration
3. Chart 2 diagraming the minimum standard configuration
4. Chart 3 showing current EEZ and MA state fixed gear marking requirements