

DOCUMENT # 2

Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Omnibus Amendment

Summary of Alternatives Under Consideration by the Councils

April 2007

SBRM Element	Alternatives Under Consideration			
1. Bycatch Reporting and Monitoring Mechanisms	Status quo		Implement electronic video monitoring	
2. Analytical Techniques and Allocation of Observers	<i>Status quo</i>	<i>"Bycatch variance method"</i>	"Bycatch variance method" w/ importance filter	Minimum percent observer coverage
3. SBRM Performance Standard	Status quo		Establish a CV standard	
4. SBRM Review/ Reporting Process	Status quo	Specify an SBRM review process	<i>Require semi-annual bycatch reports</i>	
5. Framework Adjustment Provisions	<i>Status quo</i>	<i>Framework adjustment</i>	<i>Frameworks and annual adjustments</i>	
6. Prioritization Process	<i>Status quo</i>		<i>Council consultation</i>	
7. Industry-Funded Observer Programs (<i>NEFMC only</i>)	<i>Status quo</i>	<i>Observer provider approval</i>	<i>Framework provisions</i>	

The above table presents the set of alternatives currently under consideration by the Councils for implementation in the Northeast Region SBRM. The cells shaded gray with bold font for elements 1-4 represent the Councils' preliminary preferred alternatives selected prior to seeking public comment on the draft amendment. The yellow-shaded cells in element 2 represent a slight change in how the alternatives are defined.¹ The yellow-shaded cells with italicized font for elements 4-7 represent new alternatives not previously considered by the Councils. These alternatives were developed either as a result of input received during the public hearing phase on the draft amendment (elements 5 and 6) or as a result of additional issues suggested by the New England Council to be included in the SBRM Amendment (elements 4 and 7).

¹ What had been defined as the "status quo" alternative in the public hearing draft of the amendment is now partitioned into the status quo (which equates to the methodology as described in Appendix A) and the "bycatch variance assignment method" (which equates to the methodology as described in Chapter 5). The functional differences are slight and feature primarily to highlight the changes in scope and applicability.