

**Amendment 4 to the
Atlantic Herring FMP:
CATCH MONITORING
and
OTHER ELEMENTS**

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Amendment 4 - Issues

1. Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures (ACLs/AMs)
2. Catch Monitoring Program
3. Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch
4. Criteria for Midwater Trawl Access to Groundfish Closed Areas
5. Measures to Address Interactions with Mackerel Fishery

Timeline – Progress to Date

- Scoping April-June 2008
- Committee begins development of alternatives June-Oct 2008
- Council reviews progress on A4 Oct 2008; identifies additional action item Nov 2008
- Council requests stakeholder proposals on catch monitoring Dec 2008
- Committee reviews proposals, develops alternatives for ACLs/AMs and catch monitoring Dec '08-Feb '09
- Council reviews progress on A4, reviews proposals and provides guidance Feb 2009
- Committee continues to develop alternatives through June 2009

Catch Monitoring

- Goals/Objectives approved by Committee in December 2008 and Council in February 2009
- Three alternatives (in addition to no action) under development (one alternative eliminated by Herring Committee in June)
- Management Measures that Can Apply to Any Catch Monitoring Alternative
 - Measures to Improve Quota Monitoring, Enforcement, and Compliance
 - Measures to Address Transfers at Sea
 - Measures to Address Trip Declarations and Notification Requirements
 - Measures to Address At-Sea Monitoring

Catch Monitoring

Measures to Improve Monitoring/Reporting/Compliance

Section 3.3.1, p. 37

- New regulatory definitions (transfer at sea), new carrier/dealer permit
- Modifications to IVR reporting (trip-by-trip, link to VTRs, incorporation of more vessels)
- Weekly VTR reporting
- Eliminate VMS power-down provision
- Daily VMS herring catch reporting
- Outreach programs (recommended)

The range of alternatives proposed in this section appears to be complete at this time.

Catch Monitoring

Measures to Address Transfers at Sea

Section 3.3.2, p. 45

Mix-and-Match Options:

- Restrict to Category A/B vessels only
- Prohibit transfers to non-permitted vessels
- Establish transfer provisions for Category D (open access vessels)

Carrier vessels with LOA would be exempt from transfer restrictions.

The range of options proposed in this section appears to be complete at this time.

Catch Monitoring

Measures to Address Trip Declaration/Notifications

Section 3.3.3, p. 47

- Modify/Extend pre-trip call-in requirement to all limited access vessels on any trip that may harvest, possess, or land herring (includes additional notification mechanisms and shorter window of time)
- Extend pre-landing notification requirement (VMS) to all limited access vessels (on any trip with a pre-trip call-in)

The range of options proposed in this section appears to be complete at this time.

Catch Monitoring

Measures to Address At-Sea Monitoring

Section 3.3.4.2, p. 55

- Provide observer with safe sampling station (Observer safety, should apply to all fisheries)
- Provide reasonable assistance to observers (Observer safety, should apply to all fisheries)
- Provide accurate details to observer as to why a bag may be partially pumped and fish released
- Provide notice when pumping may be starting and ending (for sampling)
- *When observers are on trips involving more than one vessel, require observers on any vessel taking on fish where/when possible (June 2009)*

Catch Monitoring

Measures to Address At-Sea Monitoring (cont.)

Section 3.3.4.2, p. 55

- Require additional communication between pair trawlers if fish are being pumped to both vessels
- Require a flow scale on processing vessels
- All fish must be pumped aboard the boat so that the entire catch can be sampled by an observer (June Committee motion tabled)
- *Requirement to allow observers to view codend after pumping has ended (June 2009)*

Some of the measures proposed in this section require further discussion/development.

Catch Monitoring

Measures to Address At-Sea Monitoring (cont.)

Other Measures – p. 58

- *Determine and apply the minimum portion of a slipped catch that would be required to be pumped on board a vessel to ensure complete sampling*
- *Require vessel operators to complete an affidavit providing details on slippage events (every time slippage occurs and accompanied by photographs when an observer is on board)*

Some of the measures proposed in this section require further discussion/development.

Catch Monitoring

OBSERVER PROGRAM SAMPLING DESIGN

Section 3.3.4, p. 49

Proposed Approach:

- Based largely on SBRM methodology/approach
- Identifies priorities for sea sampling
- Sampling design intended to achieve a 30% CV on bycatch estimates for the stocks that are not overfished (herring, haddock) and 20% on the stocks of concern (river herring)

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 1

- Measures to Ensure Maximized Retention
- Measures to Standardize/Certify Volumetric Measurements
- Dockside Sampling Program and Dockside Sampling Set-Aside
- Electronic Reporting
- Measures That Can Apply to Any Alternative
- Measures to Address At-Sea Monitoring
- Video-Based Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 1 Outstanding Issues/Questions -

- Committee has not discussed in detail
- Maximized retention provisions not clear – outstanding questions, unresolved issues, enforcement/compliance, details still TBD
- Background information on certifying volumetric estimates but details still TBD
- Dockside sampling program well-developed but not yet reviewed by Committee, and funding source is unclear/uncertain
- Feasibility of electronic reporting not clear at this time (testing, administrative support)

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 2

- Committee Goals and Objectives
- As Close to 100% Catch Weighing/Certification as Practicable (through calibration of fish holds)
- Measures to Encourage the Use of New Technology (RSA used for study fleet/electronic reporting)
- Measures to Achieve 20% CV for bycatch estimates (SBRM observer coverage, dockside sampling program)
- Measures to Improve At-Sea Monitoring and Enhance Protocols for Estimating Slipped Catch

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 2 Outstanding Issues/Questions -

- Relatively straightforward alternative, not many details TBD, but Committee has not discussed in detail
- Background information on calibrating fish holds and dockside sampling program provided in Alt 1 – some details still TBD
- Requirement for NMFS to implement/administer SBRM observer coverage levels and dockside sampling program to obtain 20% CV for bycatch estimates – feasibility/support unclear

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 3

- Maximized retention with video-based electronic monitoring
- Options for slippage caps, prohibited species, and phased-in approaches
- Catch Monitoring and Control Programs developed by the industry and approved by Council/NMFS
- Target 100% dockside monitoring through independently-verified landings (incl. measures to verify weight and certify volumetric proxies)
- Additional options proposed June 2009

Catch Monitoring

Alternative 3 Outstanding Issues/Questions -

- More developed/detailed than other catch monitoring alternatives
- Maximized retention – some unresolved issues, some details still TBD
- Additional options proposed for max retention, utilization of vessel electronics, and CMCP measures (June 1, 2009 CHOIR Letter) – not yet incorporated into document
- Need to clarify details of CMCP requirements
- Multi-stakeholder funding approach needs more discussion

Catch Monitoring

Other Issues/Additional Alternatives?

- Many measures on the table at this time, and there may be other ways to combine them – some measures/options may be eliminated, some added, others modified
- Committee acknowledges that alternatives may change significantly through further discussion and development (Alternatives 1 and 2 in particular)
- Committee has not yet discussed costs/funding issues (cost analysis work in progress; funding sources unclear)

Other Issues

Measures to Address River Herring Bycatch (Section 5.0, p. 117)

- Work in progress – not much discussion at the Committee level yet
- Herring PDT began preliminary analysis of available observer data in 2008 to develop report/recommendations, but stopped to focus on ACL/AM and catch monitoring priorities (at the direction of the Council – third priority item)
- ASMFC May 27, 2009 request to Secretary for Emergency Action to monitor river herring bycatch

Other Issues

Measures to Establish Criteria for MWT Access to Groundfish Closed Areas (Section 6.0, p. 118)

- Work in progress – added as a priority by the Council in November 2008 (fourth priority February 2009)
- Herring Committee proposed general alternative to establish provisions for 100% coverage on vessels that exceed 1% bycatch threshold and penalties for second offense
- Herring Alliance Proposal – Committee agreed that HA measures for access to closed areas will be discussed further

Other Issues

Measures to Address Interactions with the Mackerel Fishery (Section 4.0, p. 95)

- Three alternatives under consideration to increase possession limit for open access permit holders in Areas 2/3 only
 - 25 mt
 - 25 mt and possession of a mackerel permit
 - 10,000 pounds
- Alternatives do not address potential problems associated with early closure of the Area 2 fishery

TIMELINE ISSUES

- Fishery specifications for 2010-2012 to be developed in 2009 with new stock assessment information (final decisions November 2009)
- 2010-2012 specifications must specify ABC for all three years (from SSC) and comply with ACL/AM requirements in 2011 and 2012
- ACL/AM provisions of Amendment 4 should be submitted no later than April/May 2010 to meet January 1, 2011 implementation
- Catch monitoring alternatives still under development, river herring measures not yet developed, groundfish closed area access measures need more work