

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Enforcement

I. STATUS

- The Enforcement Committee met with advisors on October 20, 2011. The committee voted to develop a panel to replace, rather than eliminate, the tarp rule, under the gear stowage regulations (648.23). The Committee will sponsor a one-day workshop on November 29, 2011, with fishing advisors and JEAs, at the Coast Guard training center on Cape Cod, to review the entire “not available for immediate use” section, including but not limited to the tarp rule, and develop the appropriate panel replacement for the tarp.
- Concerning skate identification at sea and on the dock, the skate ID guide should specify whether the maximum size listed for each species is the length or the width. The committee also made several other recommendations with respect to skate identification (see the report).
- The committee saw no safety or enforcement problems resulting from incidental limits in the whiting fishery, because red hake, the trigger species, is not worth much and is difficult to get rid of.
- The committee will prepare an enforcement and safety analysis for herring amendment 5 at its next meeting, in February 2012 in Portland, ME.
- The committee is concerned that there was not adequate time to comment on proposed Vessel Replacement and Upgrade provisions (76FR193, pages 61661-61663, published October 5, 2011), because comments are due on December 5, 2011.
- The committee reiterates its concern that, if limited access and limited access general category scallop vessels are allowed to declare trips inside the demarcation line (section 4.2.4 of draft Scallop Framework 23), then the same provision for all vessels now required to use VMS and declare from port (under the Monkfish, Red Crab, Herring, Surfclam/Ocean Quahog, and Northeast Multispecies FMPs) be changed as well, unless there are specific reasons it must be different in another fishery. The committee strongly recommends consistency for regulations in all FMPs.
- The committee decided to include an agenda item at its next meeting to request that General Counsel Northeast provide an advisor for all enforcement committee meetings.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Consider the committee’s request that the skate ID guide be changed to specify whether the maximum size listed for each species is the length or the width.

III. INFORMATION

1. Report of the October 20, 2011 meeting
2. Gear stowage (includes FR section 648.23)
3. Skate ID Guide
4. Vessel and gear markings-HMS (FR, comments due December 5, 2011)