# Industry-Funded Monitoring (IFM)

## in the Atlantic Herring Fishery

NOAA FISHERIES

National Marine Fisheries Service

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

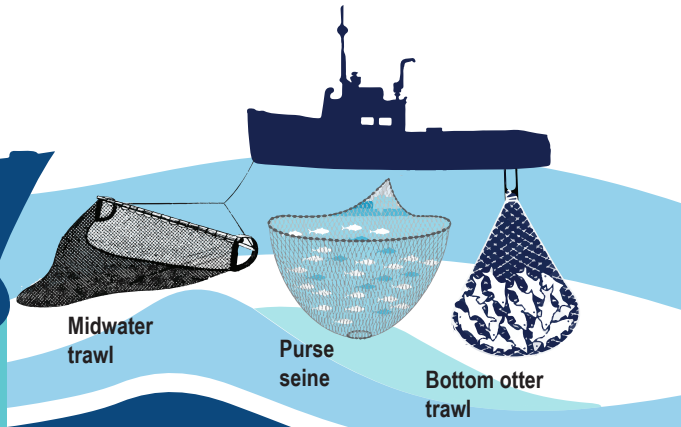
## What IFM Does

Establishes a **50% monitoring coverage target** for at-sea monitoring aboard vessels with **Category A or B herring permits** using midwater trawl, bottom trawl, or purse seine gear on declared herring trips. Coverage target is achieved using SBRM (NEFOP) plus IFM coverage.

## The Goal

Overall, our goal is to provide **increased accuracy in catch estimates**. Specific goals include:

- **Accurate estimates of catch (retained and discarded).**
- **Accurate catch estimates for incidental species with catch caps** (haddock and river herring/shad).
- **Affordable monitoring** for the herring fishery.




## How It Works

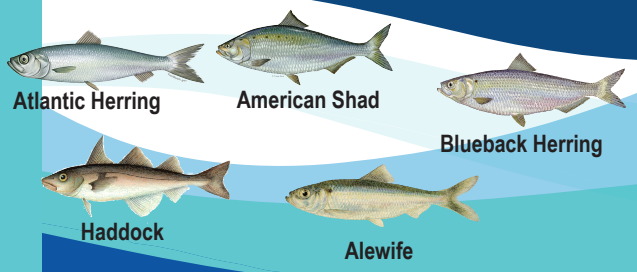
1. Vessels with a limited access (A, B, C) or open access E herring permit sailing on a declared herring or herring carrier trip must use the new notification system (PTNS) to be considered for SBRM (NEFOP) or IFM coverage. Vessels issued an open access D herring permit using midwater trawl gear on a declared herring trip in herring management areas 1A, 1B, or 3 must also notify.

2. If selected for IFM coverage, owners of vessels with A or B herring permits would be responsible for covering costs associated with those trips.

3. Waivers could be requested for certain trips, including wing vessel trips that do not carry any fish and trips that land less than 50 mt of herring.

4. Midwater trawl vessels could choose either at-sea monitoring or electronic monitoring with portside sampling to meet IFM requirements. They could also request to purchase observer coverage to fish in Groundfish Closed Areas.

## Affected Species




## SBRM (NEFOP)

- Establishes minimum number of NEFOP observer days to monitor bycatch confidently.
- Coverage based on discard variability and available federal funds.
- Funded by NOAA Fisheries.

## IFM

- Combined with SBRM (NEFOP) to achieve 50% monitoring coverage target.
- Coverage based on projected SBRM (NEFOP) coverage and available federal funds.
- NOAA Fisheries responsible for paying administrative costs; vessel owners responsible for paying sampling costs.

## IFM Timeline

**April 2018**
New England Council determined electronic monitoring /portside sampling is an adequate substitute for at-sea monitoring on mid-water trawl vessels.

**November 2018**
NOAA Fisheries published a proposed rule.

**December 2018**
NOAA Fisheries approved IFM amendment.

**Winter 2020**
NOAA Fisheries expects to publish a final rule.

**April 2020**
Implementation of IFM coverage in the herring fishery.

### For More Information

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January 2020