



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

April 13, 2023

Eric Reid  
Chairman  
New England Fishery Management Council  
50 Water Street Mill 2  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Eric:

In fishing year 2023, individual electronic monitoring (EM) video footage review rates will be calculated for each audit model EM vessel. The review rates will be based on each vessel's 2022 performance, where possible. Vessels that did not participate in audit-model EM in fishing year 2022, audit model EM vessels that have insufficient data to calculate a vessel-specific video review rate, and all maximized retention EM vessels will have video reviewed from 50 percent of their trips in 2023. We will notify sectors and their monitoring providers of each vessel's individual EM video footage review rate after May 1, 2023, but prior to making the initial selection of trips to review.

Vessels enrolled in the audit-model EM program are required to use EM on 100 percent of trips; only a subset of these trips are selected for review to compare the discards seen on the video footage against the discards reported by the vessel operator on the vessel trip report. The audit model provides necessary confidence in the catch data for catch accounting. Our video review rate determination is based on an analysis of past performance completed by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office's Analysis and Program Support Division to provide a reasonable expectation of achieving a 30-percent coefficient of variation (CV30), or better, precision level across groundfish species. Based on the results of the analysis, the minimum review rate required to achieve a CV30 across groundfish species in fishing year 2020 was 35 percent of sector trips. Individual audit model EM vessels will have their 2023 review rate set at the level that would have resulted in 35 percent of the vessel's trips passing video review in 2022. For example, a vessel assigned a 35-percent review rate in 2022 that achieved a 30-percent review rate will be assigned a 41-percent review rate in 2023 with the expectation of achieving 35 percent realized coverage.

Analyses included in Amendment 23 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan documented that using a CV30 was an insufficient basis for determining the necessary at-sea monitoring coverage target, without modification, because observer bias resulted in observed trips not being representative of unobserved trips. However, in the audit model EM program, cameras are on and catch handling protocols are followed on 100 percent of groundfish trips. Selection of trips for review occurs after a trip ends and the vessel operator has submitted the required data elements, which minimizes, or eliminates, the potential for observer bias effects on audit model EM vessels.



We plan to conduct a new analysis with additional data prior to the 2024 fishing year to evaluate a possible change to the minimum review rate for 2024. We used a CV30 standard to select video review rates for fishing years 2022 and 2023, but we may employ a different approach in future fishing years based on additional data collected. We plan to continue calculating vessel-specific video footage review rates for audit model EM vessels and we will use data from 2023 to calculate each audit model EM vessel's 2024 review rate. Separately, we intend to do further work to identify the percentage of MREM trips that should be reviewed to ensure compliance with program requirements (e.g., catch handling). Therefore, the video footage review rates may change in future years based on the analysis of additional data.

We will continue to reimburse 100 percent of sector at-sea monitoring costs, including EM. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will continue to administer the reimbursement program for fishing year 2023.

If you have further questions about the fishing year 2023 audit model EM video review rate, please contact Peter Christopher, Supervisory Policy Analyst, at (978) 281-9288.

Sincerely,



Michael Pentony  
Regional Administrator