

Northeast Fisheries Science Center Technical Memorandum 453

2026 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Annual Discard Report with Observer Sea Day Allocation by Fleet and Trip Selection System

October 2026

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Editorial Notes

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AA: access area
ASM: At-Sea Monitoring Program
CI: confidence interval
CV: coefficient of variation
DAS: days-at-sea
EFP: Exempted Fishing Permit
EM: electronic monitoring
EPU: Ecological Production Unit
ESA: Endangered Species Act
FMRD: Fishery Monitoring and Research Division
FMP: fishery management plan
FY: fiscal year
GEN: general category
GB: Georges Bank
HER: FMP and VMS plan code for Atlantic herring
IFM: industry-funded monitoring
IFS: Industry Funded Scallop
IFQ: individual fishing quota
LAGC: limited access general category
lg: large mesh
LIM: limited access category
MA: Mid-Atlantic
MAFMC: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
MMPA: Marine Mammal Protection Act
MPC: minimum pilot coverage
NE: New England
NEFMC: New England Fishery Management Council
NEFOP: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
NEFSC: Northeast Fisheries Science Center
NGOM: Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area
NMFS: National Marine Fisheries Service
NMS: FMP and VMS plan code for Northeast Multispecies
NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OPEN: nonaccess area
PTNS: Pre-Trip Notification System
SBRM: Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology
SE: standard error of the estimate
sm: small mesh
TDD: turtle deflector dredges
VTR: Vessel Trip Report
xlg: extra-large mesh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains a compilation of information that meets the 2026 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) annual discard report requirements. For fish and invertebrate species groups, several of the required annual discard report elements (discards and precision by fleet) can be found in McAfee (2026), along with a description of the data sources, methods, results, and discussion. Similarly, for sea turtles, further information can be found in Murray (2012, 2023) and Precoda and Murray (2024). In addition, this report also describes the methods used to identify and apportion the observer sea days among selection systems, presents the numbers of sea days by fleet and selection system, and outlines the expected observer coverage by fleet. The values inform the initial SBRM coverage settings within the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) at the start of a sampling program and will be adjusted as needed to optimize sea day accomplishments.

The sea days needed to monitor the 15 SBRM species groups (14 fish/invertebrate species groups and 1 sea turtle species) for April 2026 through March 2027 are based on July 2024 through June 2025 data. Of the 5,416 sea days, 4,350 sea days are needed for agency-funded fleets, and 1,066 sea days are needed for Industry-Funded Scallop (IFS) fleets.

The total Northeast Fisheries Science Center Fishery Monitoring and Research Division funds from fiscal year (FY) 2026 and carryover days or obligated but not spent funds from FY2025 are estimated to provide support for 3,230 days (2,687 prioritized days + 543 non-prioritized days) for April 2026 through March 2027. Based upon the 2026 observer set-aside compensation rate analysis for the IFS Program, industry funding is available for 1,188 days. Hence, 4,418 (3,230 + 1,188) days are available for observer coverage for April 2026 through March 2027.

Within the agency-funded fleets and prioritization-applicable funding, a funding shortfall of 1,663 (4,350 – 2,687) days is expected. The 2026 funding shortfall triggers the SBRM prioritization process; the penultimate approach is utilized with a portion of the agency funds. Practical limitations prevent the observer program from covering 20 sea days associated with 3 fleets. These 20 sea days have been reallocated to the last fleet affected by the prioritization process.

Of the 4,418 sea days, 3,875 are allocated to assess the amount and type of bycatch of fish, invertebrates, sea turtles, and marine mammals in the region. Of the 3,875 days, 2,687 agency-funded, prioritized sea days are split between selection systems, and 1,188 IFS sea days are allocated to the PTNS. Based on Vessel Trip Report (VTR) activity from July 2024 through June 2025, 2,307 agency-funded, prioritized sea days are apportioned to the Sea Day Schedule, and 380 sea days are apportioned to the PTNS. Of the 4,418 sea days, 543 non-prioritized sea days are allocated for protected species monitoring. Of the 543 sea days, 350 are assigned for Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)-funded observer coverage with 78 of those sea days assigned to PTNS and 272 assigned to the Sea Day Schedule. Eighty-seven MMPA days are not assigned as they are intended for analysis. An additional 106 Office of Protected Resource-funded, non-prioritized sea days are assigned to the Sea Day Schedule.

INTRODUCTION

The Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Omnibus Amendment was implemented in February 2008 (NEFMC et al. 2007; NMFS 2008) to address the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to include standardized bycatch reporting methodology in all of the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) federal fishery management plans (FMPs). A revised SBRM Omnibus Amendment was approved in March 2015, and a final rule was implemented in July 2015 (NEFMC et al. 2015).

The SBRM amendment requires an annual discard report using information obtained from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's (NEFSC) Fishery Monitoring and Research Division (FMRD) observer programs (Northeast Fisheries Observer Program [NEFOP] and Industry-Funded Scallop [IFS] Program) for 14 federally managed species groups and sea turtles (Table 1) in the waters of the northeastern United States. Specifically, the SBRM annual discard report requirements include:

> …summaries of the trips observed, fishing modes in the relevant time period, funding issues and other related issues and developments, and projections of coverage across fisheries for the upcoming time period. More detailed information would be provided in tables and figures that addressed: The number of observer trips and sea days scheduled that were accomplished for each fishing mode and quarter, as well as the number of trips and sea days of industry activity; the kept weight from unobserved quarters and statistical areas summarized by fishing mode; the amount kept and estimated discards of each species by fishing mode; and the relationship between sample size and precision for relevant fishing modes. (NEFMC et al. 2015).

Each year, discard estimates and variability are derived by using observer data from the previous year to inform observer coverage needs for the upcoming year. For fish and invertebrate species groups, several of the required annual discard report elements (discards and precision by fleet) can be found in McAfee (2026), along with a description of the data sources, methods, results, and discussion. Similarly, for sea turtles, further information can be found in Murray (2012, 2023) and Precoda and Murray (2024). This report describes the sea days needed to monitor the 15 SBRM species groups (14 fish/invertebrate species groups and 1 sea turtle species; Table 1), funding available for observer coverage, and the numbers of sea days allocated by fleet[1] (where a fleet represents gear type, access area, trip category, region, and mesh group combinations) for April 2026 through March 2027. Thus, this document, together with McAfee (2026), Murray (2023), and Precoda and Murray (2024), compose the information needed to meet the 2026 SBRM annual discard report requirements. In addition to these requirements, this report incorporates detailed information about the allocation of observer sea days between 2 trip selection and deployment systems.

[1] Fleets are synonymous with "fishing modes."

SUMMARY OF OBSERVER COVERAGE

A total of 1,009 trips (3,670 days) were observed from July 2024 through June 2025. When these trips were stratified by fleet and quarter, some trips were partitioned between fleets resulting in 1,064 trips (3,811 days). See Tables 2 and 3 in McAfee (2026) for a summary of the number of observed trips and industry Vessel Trip Report (VTR) trips by fleet and calendar quarter, and a summary of the number of observed sea days and industry sea days by fleet and calendar quarter, respectively. Sixty-one fleets were uniquely identified in the July 2024 through June 2025 data. One new fleet, Mid-Atlantic (MA) large mesh midwater trawl (Row 43) was added to the analysis this year, and 4 fleets were not present in last year's analysis but had been included in one or more previous SBRM analyses: New England (NE) small mesh haddock separator trawl (Row 15), MA small mesh midwater trawl (Row 42), MA fyke net (Row 54), and MA large mesh beam trawl (Row 56).

A spatial and temporal analysis of the kept weight of all species (i.e., any species retained during the trip) from statistical areas and calendar quarter was conducted. Over all fleets, 60.9% of kept weight of all species occurred in statistical areas and calendar quarters that had observer coverage. For a summary of the percentage of kept weight with observer coverage by fleet from July 2024 through June 2025, see Table 4 in McAfee (2026).

SUMMARY OF DISCARD ESTIMATES

For fish/invertebrate species, the total catch, kept, and estimated discards (in live weight) and their associated coefficient of variation (CV) were derived for fleets by using data collected from July 2024 through June 2025 (McAfee 2026). Based upon that discard estimation analysis, an estimated 50,629 mt (111,617,059 lb) of federally regulated species were discarded (Table 2). Fleet stratification abbreviations used in this report are described in Appendix Table 1. For summaries by fleet and SBRM species group and summaries by fleet and individual species that compose these 14 species groups, see Tables 5A and 5B in McAfee (2026). The most recent average annual estimates of sea turtle interactions and CVs in U.S. commercial fisheries are listed in Table 3. Methods to estimate sea day needs for the different gear types can be found in either Murray (2023) or Precoda and Murray (2024).

SUMMARY OF SEA DAYS NEEDED

For fish/invertebrate species groups, the number of sea days needed to achieve a 30% CV of total discards for each species group was derived for 61 fleets by using data collected from July 2024 through June 2025 (McAfee 2026). Based on that sample size analysis, a total of 6,228 sea days would be needed for the 14 fish and invertebrate species groups. Table 4 presents the number

of sea days needed for each of the 14 species groups, number of pilot coverage[2] days, and number of minimum pilot days. Table 4 and Step 1 in Table 5 present the sea days needed by fleet. The number of sea days needed for fish/invertebrate species groups is further adjusted as described below.

In the McAfee (2026) analysis, 17 "erroneous" fleets were identified by FMRD subject matter experts that resulted from either VTR misreporting the gear type used, fishing outside the regulations (by using smaller mesh size than allowed), or inconsistent gear codes between data collection systems (e.g., other otter trawl, other pots and traps, other dredge, Ruhle trawl, shrimp trawl, midwater trawl, floating trap, beach haul seine, fyke net, and beam trawl). Additionally, 4 fleets were marked as "not applicable" because they reflect exempted fishing permit activity (Row 15) or activity in scallop access areas (Rows 33 and 35–36) that will not exist in the April 2026 through March 2027 deployment year. The 812 sea days associated with these 21 fleets (composed of 4,255 VTR trips for July 2024 through June 2025) have been set to 0 (Table 5, Step 2, gray and tan shaded cells). When this adjustment is made, 5,416 days total are needed to monitor 14 fish/invertebrate species groups in 40 fleets (Table 5, Step 2).

The analysis of sea turtle bycatch in MA bottom trawl gear from 2019–2023 was used to project sea day monitoring needs for turtles in 2026 (Precoda and Murray 2024). Interaction rates for each turtle species were estimated with stratified ratio estimators, where rates were stratified by Ecological Production Unit (EPU; Georges Bank [GB] and MA), latitude zone, season, and depth. In the combined GB and MA EPU, a total of 273 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*, CV = 0.20, 95% confidence interval [CI] = 182-408), 37 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*, CV = 0.54, 95% CI = 13-108), and 33 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*, CV = 0.58, 95% CI = 8-112) turtle interactions were estimated to have occurred in bottom trawl gear over the 5-year period (Table 3). Before estimating observer coverage needs for future fishing years, the probability of encountering each turtle species in either the GB or MA EPU was estimated by using results of this analysis. This process was recommended for sea turtles to prevent SBRM sea day needs in some fleets from being driven by species with a low probability of encounter with the fishing gear (Hogan et al. 2019). As a result, monitoring levels were not estimated for any turtle species because there was <50% probability of observing 5 or more turtles over 800 trips in a year. Therefore, sea days to monitor turtles were set to 0 (Table 5, Step 3), and needed sea days will be driven by other species groups instead of turtles for the 7 affected MA trawl fleets (Rows 5–6, 9–11, and 18–19).

The analysis to determine sea day needs for turtles in gillnet fleets was informed by Murray (2023), which includes the Gulf of Maine, GB, and MA EPUs. Over 800 trips, there was only a 10% estimated probability of observing 5 or more loggerhead turtles and even lower probabilities for green, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback turtles (Murray 2023). Since the 10% estimated

[2] Pilot coverage is the minimum level of observer coverage necessary to acquire bycatch information with which to calculate variance estimates that can then be used to further define the level of sampling needed (NMFS 2004).

probability of observing 5 or more loggerhead turtles is lower than the established 50% threshold required by SBRM, sea days to monitor turtles were set to 0 (Table 5, Step 3), and needed sea days will be driven by other species groups instead of turtles for the 6 affected gillnet fleets (Rows 25-30). Estimates of sea day needs for turtles in gillnet and trawl gears are revised approximately every 5 years when new bycatch estimates are published for a particular gear type.

Similar to 2025, coverage needs for turtles on vessels using scallop dredge gear in the MA were not estimated. Since May 2013, the use of turtle deflector dredges (TDDs) with chain mats have been required on scallop dredges in times and areas where loggerhead turtles are known to be most common. These modifications are intended to reduce those interactions in which animals are landed or observed from the deck, although other "unobservable" interactions may still be occurring (i.e., those in which animals escape from the gear or come in contact with the gear but are not captured and brought to the surface where they can be observed; Warden and Murray 2011). Observer coverage levels in the MA scallop dredge fleets in 2026 will be driven by other species groups, so some level of coverage will exist to monitor the effectiveness of TDDs and chain mats in reducing observable interactions and to help monitor turtle interactions outside of gear-regulated times and areas.

The numbers of sea days needed to achieve a 30% CV associated with the Gulf of Maine, GB, and MA turtle gear types and fish/invertebrate fleets are given below and in Table 5, Steps 2 and 3. Sea day needs in this document refer to all turtle species ("TURS").

Turtle Gear Types and Fish/Invertebrate Fleets	Sea Days Needed	
	TURS	Fish/Invertebrate Species Groups
MA Otter Trawl, MA Scallop Trawl, MA Twin Trawl, and MA Other Otter Trawl (Rows 5–6, 9–11, and 18–19)	0	2,423
MA and NE Gillnet (Rows 25–30)	0	198

The numbers of sea days needed for the combined fish/invertebrate and TURS species groups were derived as follows:

- If the sum of the sea days needed for fish/invertebrate species groups of the corresponding fish/invertebrate fleets exceeded the sea days needed for the turtle gear type, then the sea days needed for fish/invertebrate was used. To support the penultimate prioritization approach,[3] the sea days needed for TURS are apportioned to the corresponding fish/invertebrate fleets by using the proportion of fish/invertebrate sea days within the turtle gear type (Table 5, Step 4).

[3] See section 6.6.2.3 of the revised SBRM Omnibus Amendment (NEFMC et al. 2015) for a detailed description of the penultimate cell approach.

- If the number of sea days needed for TURS for the gear type exceeded the sum of the sea days needed for fish/invertebrate groups of the corresponding fish/invertebrate fleets, then the difference between the sea days needed for TURS and fish was distributed according to the proportion of VTR sea days corresponding to fish/invertebrate fleets and added to the days needed for fish/invertebrate groups, by fleet (Table 5, Step 4). The number of VTR sea days by fleet is taken from Table 3 in McAfee (2026) and reflects industry activity from July 2024 through June 2025.

A total of 5,416 sea days is needed for fish/invertebrates (COMBINED; Table 5, Step 5) for April 2026 through March 2027. Of the 5,416 sea days, 4,350 sea days are needed for agency-funded fleets (i.e., funded by National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]), and 1,066 sea days are needed for IFS fleets (Table 5, Step 6).

SUMMARY OF FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR APRIL 2026 THROUGH MARCH 2027

The funds available to the NEFSC's FMRD in fiscal year (FY) 2026 are estimated to provide support for 1,494 days. In addition, 186 unachieved days are carried over (i.e., bought ahead) from FY2025 funds[4] and 1,550 prioritized days from obligated but not spent FY2025 funds after all carryover days were purchased are included. A total of 3,230 (1,494 + 186 + 1,550) agency-funded days are available for April 2026 through March 2027. Based upon an observer set-aside compensation rate analysis for the IFS Program, industry funding for 1,188 days for scallop fleets is available. Hence, 4,418 (3,230 + 1,188) days are available for observer coverage for April 2026 through March 2027.

Below is a summary of the 2 funding source categories: agency-funded and industry-funded. Within the agency-funded category, 4 subcategories exist: National Observer Program, Regional Observers, Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and Office of Protected Resources (OPR).

- **Agency-funded**: The funding sources for the 3,230 agency-funded sea days include: National Observer Program (547 days); Regional Observers (590 days); and FY2025 obligated prioritized days (1,550 days) that were carried over/bought ahead. These combined sources fund the sea days for prioritization (2,687 days; Table 5, Step 7).[5] In addition, funding from the MMPA (357 days), the FY2025 unachieved carryover/bought ahead MMPA days (80 days), and the FY2025 unachieved

[4] The best estimate of the FY2025 carryover days is 186 days (80 MMPA, and 106 OPR carryover days).
[5] Individual funding sources for agency-funded, prioritized sea days described in text are rounded to the nearest sea day equivalent, which may cause their sum to differ from the aggregate sea day total in Table 5, Step 7.

carryover/bought ahead OPR days (106 days) to collectively fund the sea days to monitor protected species (543 additional days; Table 5, Step 7) is available.

- 543 agency-funded days are applicable to protected species[6] (marine mammals, sea turtles, ESA-listed fish species) only.
  - 350 MMPA days are associated with trips having a sampling protocol (NEFOP Limited) that is specific to protected species and is not applicable for non-ESA-listed fish and invertebrates. Owing to the extra demands of monitoring protected species, information on finfish and shellfish discards is not collected on these trips. However, these days will provide observer coverage for sea turtles and ESA-listed fish species above that which is allocated for all species.
  - Funding equivalent to 87 days will be in support of observer data analysis.
  - 106 days are associated with OPR funding to monitor MA Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) interactions. These trips follow the same sampling protocol as MMPA trips.

- 2,687 (3,230 – 543) agency-funded days are applicable for all species.
  - 2,687 days are subject to the prioritization process across all fleets. The prioritization approach is described in the next section and given in Table 6.
  - No sea days have been set aside to support discovery days to address emerging questions of scientific and management interest as the year progresses.

- A single provider for NEFOP sea days exists, and consequently, the projected costs (i.e., at-sea costs based on realized costs in FY2026) are confidential. An estimated rate for shoreside infrastructure that includes fixed and variable costs for operations, training, and data processing is $600/day.

- **Industry-funded**: The number of industry-funded sea days available for scallop fleets is determined by taking 1% of the total acceptable biological catch/annual catch limit set for the year. The IFS Program provides vessels with additional landings to help defray the costs of carrying an observer (i.e., the compensation rate). The sale of the additional scallops allocated to each boat supplies the funding for the at-sea costs of observer coverage. Based upon projected landings and expected prices, the IFS

[6] In this document, "protected species" refers to marine mammals, sea turtles, and ESA-listed fish.

Program generates funds in support of discard monitoring of the scallop fleets. A compensation rate analysis was undertaken to support observer coverage of the 9 IFS fleets (Rows 9 and 33–40).

For the 2026 scallop fishing year (April 2026 through March 2027), limited access vessels fishing in open areas while carrying an observer will be charged 0.8 days-at-sea (DAS) for each DAS fished. The limited access general category (LAGC) individual fishing quota (IFQ) fleet is allocated a total of 939,315 lb, and the open area possession limit is 600 lb. The observer compensation rate for LAGC IFQ vessels is 200 lb/trip. The overall Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area (NGOM) total allowable catch for 2026 is 482,753 lb with a trip possession limit of 200 lb/day. The observer compensation rate for the NGOM is 125 lb/day and is only open to LAGC IFQ and LAGC NGOM permitted vessels in 2026 along with limited research set-aside compensation fishing. No open scallop access areas exist in the 2026 scallop fishing year, therefore these fleets (Rows 33, 35, and 36) were marked as "not applicable" and no sea days were allocated for these fleets.

- Based upon the compensation rate analysis and proposed Framework 40 allocations, a total of 1,188 sea days can be funded: 1,129 days for Open Areas, and 59 days in the NGOM (Table 7).
    - The industry-funded schedule runs from April through March.
    - Bulletins[7] describing the 2026 set-aside compensation rate calculations[8] and scallop management measures (Framework 40) are available online.
- Of the 1,129 days for the Open Areas, 79 days are available for LAGC fleets (Table 7, Rows 9, 37, and 38) and 1,050 days for Limited Access fleets (Table 7, Rows 39–40).
- Coverage of the 9 fleets depends on industry activity among these fleets for April 2026 through March 2027.
- **Projected costs:** the average cost to industry for the at-sea portion is $814/day for IFS fleets. Additional agency funds are needed for training and certification of observers and data processing.

[7] See GARFO Framework 40 announcement.
[8] See GARFO website for compensation rate calculations.

Below is a summary of sea days based on the agency budget and the compensation rate analysis by funding source for April 2026 through March 2027.

Funding Source	Sea Days
Agency-funded applicable to all species (prioritized days)	2,687
Agency-funded applicable to protected species only (non-prioritized days)	543
Industry-funded scallop total applicable to all species	1,188
Total	**4,418**

PRIORITIZATION TRIGGER AND DETAILS OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEA DAYS TO FLEETS

Within the agency-funded fleets and prioritization-applicable funding, a funding shortfall of 1,663 (4,350 – 2,687) days is expected (Table 5). The 2026 funding shortfall triggers the SBRM prioritization approach; the prioritization approach is utilized with a portion of the agency funds. The following describes the steps taken to allocate the 4,418 funded sea days (Tables 5–7):

Step 1. Derive the number of sea days needed for the 14 fish/invertebrate species groups (Table 5; the importance filter has been applied; see McAfee [2026] for the methods used in the sample size analyses).

Step 2. Apply the sea day adjustments to 17 "erroneous" fleets (Rows 13, 17–24, 42–45, 54, 56, and 58–59) and 4 "not applicable" fleets (Rows 15, 33, and 35–36). A total of 5,416 days is needed for fish/invertebrate species groups across 40 fleets (34 agency-funded fleets and 6 IFS fleets; Table 5).

Step 3. Derive the number of sea days needed for TURS (Table 5; see Murray [2012, 2023] and Precoda and Murray [2024] for the methods used in sample size analyses).

Zero sea days are needed annually to monitor TURS interactions with 30% precision across gillnet fleets (Murray 2023) and bottom trawl fleets operating in the MA EPU (Precoda and Murray 2024).

Step 4. To integrate the monitoring needs of fish/invertebrates and TURS and to support the penultimate prioritization approach, derive the number of sea days needed for TURS for each of the fish/invertebrate fleets associated with the turtle gear types (Table 5).

a. Summarize the number of VTR sea days corresponding to each fish/invertebrate fleet (see Table 3 in McAfee [2026]). The VTR sea days associated with the 21 "erroneous" and "not applicable" fleets are given but not used (Table 5, Step 4a).

b. Derive the percentage of VTR sea days for each fish/invertebrate fleet within the turtle gear type. For each fish/invertebrate fleet associated with the turtle gear type, divide the VTR sea days by the sum of the VTR sea days for the gear type.
c. Derive the percentage of sea days needed for fish/invertebrate for each fish/invertebrate fleet within the turtle gear type. For each fish/invertebrate fleet associated with a turtle gear type, divide the adjusted sea days (Step 2) by the sum of the sea days for the gear type.
d. Derive the number of additional sea days needed for TURS.

   If the number of sea days needed for TURS is less than or equal to the sum of the sea days needed for the fish/invertebrate fleets associated with the turtle gear type, then no additional sea days are needed to monitor TURS. The additional sea days for TURS are set to 0 for fish/invertebrate fleets.

   If the number of sea days needed for TURS is greater than the sum of the sea days needed for the fish/invertebrate fleets associated with the turtle gear type, then derive the difference between the sea days needed for TURS and the sum of the sea days needed for fish/invertebrates. For each turtle gear type, multiply the difference between the number of sea days needed by the percentage of VTR sea days for each fish/invertebrate fleet within the turtle gear type. These days represent the number of additional days needed to monitor TURS in the fish/invertebrate fleets.

e. Derive the number of sea days needed for TURS by fish/invertebrate fleets.

   If the number of sea days needed for TURS is less than or equal to the sum of the sea days needed for the fish/invertebrate fleets associated with the turtle gear type, then multiply the sea days needed for TURS by the percentage of sea days needed for fish for each fish/invertebrate fleet within the turtle gear type (Step 4c).

   If the number of sea days needed for TURS is greater than the sum of the sea days needed for the fish/invertebrate fleets associated with the turtle gear type, then add the sea days needed for fish/invertebrates (Step 2) and the additional days needed for TURS (Step 4d) for each fish/invertebrate fleet.

Step 5. Derive the number of sea days needed for fish/invertebrates and TURS COMBINED; select the larger of the 2 numbers of sea days (i.e., adjusted sea days needed for the 14 fish/invertebrate species groups [Step 2] and sea days needed for TURS [Step 4e]) within the fleet.

A total of 5,416 days is needed to achieve a 30% CV on the discards of the 15 species groups in 2026 (Table 5).

Step 6. Partition fleets into funding source categories and sum the number of sea days needed by funding source.

There were 4,350 days and 1,066 days needed to achieve a 30% CV for the 15 species groups for agency-funded and IFS fleets, respectively (Table 5).

Step 7. Obtain funded sea days by funding source category. For agency-funded sea days, calculate the number of sea days applicable to the prioritization process (prioritized versus non-prioritized days).

There are 2,687 agency-funded days applicable to the prioritization process (Table 5).

Step 8. Evaluate needed sea days versus funded sea days for each funding category, and calculate shortfall or surplus sea days associated with the prioritization process.

A funding shortfall of 1,663 days is expected for agency-funded fleets (Table 5).

Step 9. Apply the penultimate approach algorithm to allocate sea days to fleets for agency-funded days that are applicable to the prioritization process.

As described in the revised SBRM Omnibus Amendment (NEFMC et al. 2015), the number of agency-funded sea days applicable to the prioritization process is assigned to each fleet (fishing mode) after sequentially removing the sea days needed for the species group/fleet with the highest sea day difference between adjacent species groups within a fleet until the sea day shortfall is removed.

The following describes the steps taken to assign the agency-funded sea days applicable to the prioritization process by using the penultimate approach (Table 6).

Step 9.1. For each agency-funded fleet where sea days are needed, list the sea days needed for the 15 species groups (fish/invertebrates and TURS) in descending order within a fleet (Table 6). The minimum pilot days (Table 4) serve as the minimum sea days needed for fleets.

Step 9.2. Calculate the differences in sea days between adjacent species groups within each agency-funded fleet (Table 6).

Step 9.3. Within the resulting matrix of sea day differences (Step 9.2), identify the largest difference and remove the sea days associated with the species group accounting for this difference (Table 6).

Repeat this process for the next largest difference, with the constraint that the differences are taken in penultimate order (from left to right in the matrix) within a fleet, until the cumulative reduction of sea days equals the sea day shortfall (Step 8). If the reduction in sea days by using the next largest (penultimate) value is greater than the shortfall, reduce the number of sea days only enough to remove the shortfall. If a tie in sea day differences between adjacent species groups (e.g., 2 fleets with the same sea day difference) exists, then select the fleet with the largest penultimate sea days first to break the tie[9].

The 2026 sea day shortfall is 1,663 days.

- The 965 days (Monkfish [*Lophius americanus*]; MONK; Tables 4, 5, and 6, Row 6) associated with the largest sea day difference (556 days) between adjacent species groups is removed first (Table 6). The penultimate value in Row 6 is associated with Fluke-Scup-Black sea bass (*Paralichthys dentatus, Stenotomus chrysops, Centropristis striata*; FSB; 409 days; Tables 4 and 6).

- The 833 days (spiny dogfish [*Squalus acanthias*]; DOG; Tables 4, 5, and 6, Row 7) associated with the second largest sea day difference (459 days) between adjacent species groups is removed next (Table 6). The penultimate value in Row 7 is associated with the skate complex (Rajidae; SKATE; 374 days; Tables 4 and 6).

- The 1,412 days (SKATE; Tables 4, 5, and 6, Row 5) associated with the third largest sea day difference (255 days) between adjacent species groups is removed next (Table 6). The penultimate value in Row 5 is associated with DOG (1,157 days; Tables 4 and 6).

- Removing the 1,157 days (DOG; Tables 4, 5, and 6, Row 5) associated with the fourth largest sea day difference (434 days) between adjacent species groups would remove more sea days than needed to reach the shortfall amount of 1,663 (Table 6). Thus, only 393 of the 434 sea day difference

[9] The SBRM Amendment does not describe how to handle ties. This approach was selected because it has the potential to affect the fewest number of species groups compared to other approaches of dealing with ties.

between adjacent species groups (1,157 days for DOG and 723 days for FSB) are needed (Table 6). The penultimate value for Row 5 becomes 764 (1,157 – 393) days for DOG.

Step 9.4. After the removal of sea days within a fleet (Step 9.3), the remaining highest sea days (i.e., the penultimate or the value farthest to the left in Step 9.1) becomes the PRIORITIZED sea days required for that fleet.

The 2,687 prioritized sea days provide observer coverage to all 34 agency-funded fleets that were not identified as "erroneous" or "not applicable" in Step 2. Thirty-one of these fleets did not have their sea days reduced under the prioritization process, while 3 fleets (Rows 5–7) were allocated fewer sea days than what is needed to achieve a 30% CV. The prioritized sea days for Rows 5–7 become 764, 409, and 374, respectively (Table 6).

Step 9.5. Identify fleets that cannot be covered by the observer program this year. In 2026, practical limitations prevent the observer program from covering 3 fleets (Table 7, rose-shaded cells, MA purse seine [Row 31], MA small mesh beam trawl [Row 55], and NE large mesh Scottish seine [Row 57]). The observer program currently has no sampling protocols in place for these fleets and will need time to create new trainings, logs, and/or databases to support sampling in these fleets. The observer program is unlikely to make significant changes to the observer databases or observer manuals this year. The 20 prioritized sea days associated with the 3 fleets have been reallocated to the MA small mesh otter trawl fleet (Row 5), the last fleet affected by the prioritization process, which now has 784 (764+ 20) days. The 3 fleets with practical limitations have 0 days (Table 7). After reallocating days from the 3 fleets with practical limitations:

- The MA small mesh otter trawl (Row 5) is expected to exceed a 30% CV for SKATE and DOG.
- The MA large mesh otter trawl (Row 6) is expected to exceed a 30% CV for MONK.
- The NE small mesh otter trawl (Row 7) is expected to exceed a 30% CV for DOG.

Step 10. Allocate agency-funded, non-prioritized sea days.

There are 543 agency-funded days that are not applicable to the prioritization process (non-prioritized MMPA and OPR days; Table 7).

Of the 437 MMPA sea days, 350 MMPA days, all assumed to have limited sampling protocols, are allocated to a row designated as "MMPA coverage" and will be associated with the MA and NE gillnet fleets (Table 7, Rows 25–30). The funding equivalent of 87 MMPA sea days are assigned to a row designated as "MMPA analysis." The 106 OPR days, all assumed to have limited sampling protocols, are allocated to a row designated "OPR coverage" and will be associated with MA large and extra-large mesh gillnet fleets (Rows 26–27).

Step 11. Allocate IFS days. The sea days for the IFS fleets are assigned to trips via the PTNS. The sea day coverage for IFS fleets will depend on industry activity from April 2026 through March 2027 and will be capped as described above. Because of differences in stratification between the SBRM and scallop compensation rate analyses, the 1,188 IFS sea days have not been allocated to individual fish/invertebrate fleets but rather to groups of fish/invertebrate fleets that correspond to the stratification used in the compensation rate analysis: MA Access Area fleets (Rows 33 and 35; Table 7); Open Areas fleets (Rows 9, 37, and 38 for Limited Access General Category fleets and Rows 39 and 40 for Limited Access; Table 7); and NE Access Area fleets (Rows 34 and 36; Table 7). The NGOM fleet has been grouped with the NE Access Area fleets.

IFS sea days are expected to meet or exceed the SBRM required sea days for each fleet group corresponding to the stratification used in the compensation rate analysis (Table 7).

Step 12. The sea days allocated for April 2026 through March 2027 (TOTAL) is the sum of the prioritized days (Step 9.5), non-prioritized days (Step 10), and IFS days (Step 11). A total of 4,418 days is allocated across 40 fleets (Table 7).

The agency-funded fleets with * or ** (Table 7) indicate that all or some of the observer coverage will be assigned via the PTNS (Palmer et al. 2013). This designation means all or some of the observer coverage within each of these fleets will depend upon industry activity for April 2026 through March 2027. The PTNS sea days for agency-funded fleets will be proportionally allocated based initially on previous year's industry activity and then adjusted to correspond to current year's activity.

All other fleets will have sea days assigned to fishing trips via the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule. The prioritized sea days on the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule are provided by fleet. A matrix of VTR trip percentages by quarter and state within a fleet based on July 2024 through June 2025 data is provided as information on previous industry activity patterns. This information does not replace the third-party provider's local knowledge of current industry activity.

TRIP SELECTION SYSTEMS

Approved observer service provider companies, under federal contract with FMRD, hire and deploy observers in accordance with FMRD protocols to achieve the annual SBRM sea day allocation. The observer program uses 2 systems to select commercial fishing trips in the Greater Atlantic region (Maine to North Carolina) for observer coverage: (1) the PTNS and (2) the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule, which has selection protocols that include selection by phone, email, letter, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) message, or in person at the docks (dock intercept). These selection systems support 3 sampling designs (NEFOP,[10] NEFOP Limited,[11] and IFS;[12] Figure 1). The observer sea days are apportioned to the appropriate trip selection system based on the proportion of trips within the fleet that have FMP pre-trip notification requirements. The PTNS serves as the notification and observer deployment system for 3 FMPs (Northeast Multispecies [NMS; groundfish], Atlantic herring [HER; *Clupea harengus*], and Atlantic sea scallop [IFS; *Placopecten magellanicus*]). When there is no pre-trip notification requirement, the Sea Day Schedule is used.

Identification of Fishing Trips

Commercial fishing trips in the VTR dataset and associated with FMPs that have pre-trip notification requirements are identified by using the VTR database, the PERMIT database, and the VMS declaration codes in the Allocation Management System database. The operational criteria used to identify VTR trips with pre-trip notification requirements are:

- Atlantic Sea Scallop FMP's PTNS requirements:
    - Trips using either scallop trawl or scallop dredge (VTR gear codes "OTC," "DRS," "DTC," "DSC," and "DTS")
- NMS FMP's PTNS requirements:
    - Trips using bottom trawl, longline, handline, fish pot, or gillnet gear, and
        - VMS plan code of "NMS"; or

[10] Agency-funded, prioritized sea days use NEFOP sampling design.
[11] Agency-funded, non-prioritized sea days (including MMPA and OPR days) use NEFOP Limited sampling design.
[12] Industry-funded sea days use IFS Program sampling design.

        - VMS plan code of "MNK" and a non-suppressed multispecies charge[13]; or
        - VMS plan code of "MNK" and program code indicating a Sector or Common Pool trip.
    - Common Pool trips fishing under a Limited Access handline permit category ("HA") and Common Pool trips fishing under a small vessel exemption permit category ("C") are not subject to pre-trip notification requirements; these trips are excluded.

- HER FMP's PTNS requirements
    - Vessel has a herring permit category of "A," "B," or "C," and trip has a VMS plan code of "HER" or "H" in program code.
    - Vessel has a herring permit category of "E" and trip has a VMS plan code of "HER" or "H" in program code.
    - Vessel has a herring permit category of "D" fished with midwater trawl gear (either VMS gear type of "M" [midwater trawl], or VTR gear code "OTM" [midwater trawl], or VTR gear code "PTM" [paired midwater trawl]) and VTR area code in statistical areas (460s, 510s, 520s, 540s, 560s).
    - Vessel has a herring permit category of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "E," and the trip has a VMS plan code of "HER" and a VMS program code of "CAR" (carrier), or vessel has an active Letter of Authorization (exemption type like "%HERRING CARRIER%").

For the Atlantic sea scallop FMP, all Limited Access and Limited Access General Category scallop trips are required to use PTNS. However, for the NMS and HER FMPs, trips with pre-trip notification requirements are identified as described above.

Partitioning Agency-Funded (Prioritized) and IFS Sea Days Among Selection Systems

Table 8 presents the number of sea days allocated in a fleet or fleet group for April 2026 through March 2027 (Column A; taken from Step 12, Table 7), the associated number of observed trips (Column B), and the number of VTR days and trips (Columns C and D, respectively) from July 2024 through June 2025 (see Tables 2 and 3 in McAfee [2026]). The allocated sea days and trips can be translated into expected observer coverage (Columns E and F, respectively) by

[13] When a vessel declares a monkfish trip and also holds a NMS permit, it is also charged as a multispecies trip and is subject to At-Sea Monitoring. When that vessel's multispecies "days-at-sea" balance runs out, the multispecies charge gets suppressed, and it is a "monkfish only" trip that is not subject to At-Sea Monitoring.

dividing the sea days (or trips) by the VTR sea days (or trips). The expected observer coverage percentages are provided for perspective only; they are not used for setting SBRM coverage in the current year. The expected observer coverage is historically based on the previous year's data because future activity is unknown; therefore, the expected observer percentages are conditional.

The scallop FMP pre-trip notification requirement applies to trips using scallop trawl and scallop dredge gear, a distinct set of fleets that apply only to the IFS Program. Therefore, all IFS sea days are assigned to trips via the PTNS (Table 9, Columns A and I, Rows 9 and 33–40). For the rest of the fleets (Tables 8 and 9, Rows 1–8, 10–32, and 41–61) with and without FMP pre-trip notification requirements (NMS and HER FMPs), the following steps are taken to apportion the allocated sea days (Table 9, Column A) among the PTNS (Table 9, Columns J and K for NMS FMP and HER FMP, respectively) and the Sea Day Schedule (Table 9, Column L).

- Derive the fraction of VTR activity that requires pre-trip notification within each fleet.
    - For each fleet, divide the number of VTR trips with the FMP-specific PTNS requirements (not shown in table) by the total VTR trips in the fleet (Table 8, Column D).

      For example, if there are 40 VTR trips and 10 of these trips are subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in a fleet, then the fraction of VTR activity subject to PTNS requirements is 0.25 (10/40 = 0.25).

    - In Table 9, the fraction of VTR activity subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements is given in Column G, and the fraction of VTR activity subject to the HER FMP is given in Column H.

- Derive the allocated observer sea days to be assigned by the selection system associated with each specific FMP with pre-trip notification requirements.

    - Multiply the fraction of VTR activity subject to the FMP-specific PTNS requirements (Table 9, Column G for NMS FMP and Column H for HER FMP) by the total number of allocated sea days within each fleet (Table 9, Column A), and round to whole days. The remaining sea days in the fleet are assigned to the Sea Day Schedule (Table 9, Column L).

      *For example, if there are 32 allocated sea days and the fraction of VTR activity subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification is 0.25 in a fleet, then 8 (32 * 0.25) sea days, rounded to whole days, would be apportioned to the PTNS. The remaining 24 (32 - 8) sea days would be apportioned to the Sea Day Schedule.*

Table 9 presents the number of sea days allocated in each fleet or fleet group (Column A), the fraction of VTR activity subject to the NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirement (Column G), the fraction of VTR activity subject to the HER FMP pre-trip notification requirement (Column H), and the number of sea days for April 2026 through March 2027, by fleet and trip selection system (Columns I, J, K, and L). Throughout the year, small adjustments to the sea days between the PTNS and the Sea Day Schedule may be necessary to reflect current activity within a fleet. The IFS sea days assigned to the PTNS system are given in Column I. Sea days apportioned to the PTNS that will be assigned to fleets with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements are given in Column J; sea days apportioned to the PTNS that will be assigned to fleets with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements are given in Column K. Sea days apportioned to the Sea Day Schedule are given in Column L.[14] A total of 1,188 industry-funded sea days will be assigned to selected IFS trips via the PTNS system; 380 agency-funded, prioritized sea days will be assigned to selected trips via the PTNS (349 sea days in fleets with NMS FMP PTNS requirements and 31 sea days in fleets with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements). A total of 2,307 agency-funded, prioritized sea days will be assigned to selected trips via the Sea Day Schedule (Table 9). As mentioned above, the PTNS sea days will be assigned to trips with pre-trip notification requirements.

The numbers of sea days apportioned to the PTNS can be translated into percentages of observer coverage, referred to as "expected" observer coverage because future realized VTR effort is unknown. Expected observer coverage (in terms of percentages) is calculated by using VTR effort in the previous year. However, as mentioned previously, the expected and realized observer coverage is not used to track sea day accomplishments because percent coverage may lead to over or under sampling of SBRM requirements. The actual amount of coverage each fleet will receive is unknown at the start of the sampling period. For each fleet that contains trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements, the expected coverage of trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column M) is derived by dividing the apportioned PTNS sea days for NMS FMP (Table 9, Column J) by the product of the VTR activity from July 2024 through June 2025 (Table 8, Column C) and the fraction of VTR activity subject to pre-trip notification requirements for NMS FMP (Table 9, Column G). All expected levels are conditional upon VTR activity. See the Appendix for step through calculations for 3 selected fleets.

These same steps are taken for the HER FMP. The expected coverage of trips with pre-trip notification requirements for HER FMP (Table 9, Column N) is derived by dividing the apportioned PTNS sea days for HER FMP (Table 9, Column K) by the product of the VTR activity

[14] If the sea days apportioned to the PTNS or the Sea Day Schedule (Table 9, Column J-L) are fewer than the mean trip length for the fleet, then those sea days are reassigned to a different trip selection system. Sea days from Row 2 were reassigned from NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP to the Sea Day Schedule, sea days from Row 14 were reassigned from the Sea Day Schedule to NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP, and sea days from Row 32 were reassigned from NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP to the Sea Day Schedule.

(Table 8, Column C) and the fraction of VTR activity subject to pre-trip notification requirements for the HER FMP (Table 9, Column H).

The calculations of expected coverage are made at the fleet level and not designed to specify the contribution of sea days for FMP-specific industry-funded monitoring (IFM) combined targets, which apply to only a subcomponent of fleets and a subcomponent of trips with FMP-specific pre-trip notification requirements. Once a sampling program is underway, coverage rates are monitored and adjusted as needed to optimize sea day accomplishments.

Partitioning Agency-Funded (Non-Prioritized) Sea Days Among Selection Systems

The MMPA sea days are allocated specifically for marine mammal bycatch estimates similarly to Rossman (2007). Of the 437 MMPA days, 78 sea days are assigned to the PTNS and 272 sea days are assigned to the Sea Day Schedule, while 87 days for analysis are unassigned. The 78 PTNS assigned sea days will be deployed on declared NE groundfish large and extra-large gillnet trips,[15] and the 272 Sea Day Schedule sea days will be assigned to the remaining gillnet fleets (Table 10). The fraction of industry activity subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements during the SBRM year is used to apportion the 78 PTNS assigned MMPA sea days among the gillnet fleets (stratified by mesh size groups). The expected observer coverage for these fleets is derived by dividing the apportioned MMPA sea days in the fleet by industry activity in the previous SBRM year. Of the 272 MMPA Sea Day Schedule sea days, 245 days are apportioned among gillnet fleets in the MA region and 27 sea days are apportioned among the NE region based on previous gillnet industry activity. Of the 245 MA sea days, 170 are allocated to the state of Virginia stratified by geographical area and water body. Another 25 days are allocated to North Carolina stratified by geographical area, mesh size, water body, and distance from shore. The remaining 50 days tasked to the MA are allocated to New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland and are stratified by mesh size. In the NE region, the remaining 27 days are apportioned among gillnet fleets stratified by mesh size groups. Table 10 presents the MMPA observer sea days allocated to the gillnet fleets by selection system for April 2026 through March 2027. The expected observer coverage for gillnet fisheries that have NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements by fleet (Table 10) are used to inform the initial MMPA coverage rate settings within PTNS at the start of a sampling program. The actual amount of MMPA coverage each fleet will receive is unknown at the start of the sampling period and is conditional upon industry activity. Once a sampling program is under way, coverage rates are monitored and adjusted as needed to optimize sea day

[15] PTNS-deployed MMPA sea days cover declared groundfish trips fishing in the NE region, regardless of port of departure.

accomplishments. MMPA sea days do not contribute toward SBRM coverage requirements because of differences in sampling protocols.

This year, 106 sea days were funded via carry over through NMFS OPR to monitor Bottlenose dolphin interactions in MA gillnet fleets. No days were set aside for analysis. The 106 sea days will be assigned to the sea day schedule from April 2026 through March 2027 (Table 11). Because of the nature of the coverage, the NEFOP Limited sampling design will be utilized and OPR sea days will not contribute toward SBRM or FMP-specific coverage requirements because of the differences in sampling protocols.

Selection System Operational Notes

- Sea days may be translated into an expected observer coverage rate by dividing the number of observer sea days by the VTR activity. If the future VTR activity increases or decreases, this change would not alter the SBRM sampling requirements. However, the expected observer coverage rate will change. Because future VTR activity is unknown, the previous year's VTR activity is used as an estimate of future activity. The expected PTNS observer coverage by fleet (Table 9) is used as a starting point (initial seed) for PTNS and will be adjusted throughout the year to achieve the required number of sea days. The realized observer coverage (sea days divided by realized activity) may differ from the expected observer coverage while still meeting the sampling requirements because the VTR activity changed.

- Throughout the year small adjustments to the sea days between the PTNS and the Sea Day Schedule may be necessary if VTR activity subject to pre-trip notification requirement changes from what was projected in this document. Large shifts in sea days between selection systems are not desirable. It is not possible to quantify a trigger for each potential scenario; however, the best operational guidance is to monitor the current industry activity on a monthly interval and make small shifts if necessary to meet required sea days for a given fleet. Shifts in sea days within PTNS between SBRM and other FMP-specific IFM programs will not occur unless shifting is necessary to support timely certification of trainees.

- With the NEFMC's IFM Omnibus Amendment to 6 FMPs, the potential exists for additional FMP-specific IFM requirements in the future. Any future IFM targets should be independent of SBRM requirements (not a combination of realized IFM percentage and SBRM sea day sampling requirements) because the interaction effects among monitoring programs are highly complex, unpredictable, and challenging to operationally support.

DISCUSSION

The sample size analysis conducted by McAfee (2026) derived the expected CV of the discard estimates for various species groups over a range of sample sizes for each of the species groups that were not filtered out by the importance filter (see Table 7 and Figure 3 in McAfee [2026]). Deriving the expected CV assumes the variance of the discard estimate is constant over a range of sample sizes (number of trips). The results of the fish/invertebrate sample size analysis influence the outcome of the prioritization process from year to year depending on available funding, the rank order of sea days needed by species group, and the sea day differences between adjacent species groups within each fleet. All of these factors (both within and between fleets) dictate the outcome of the penultimate approach algorithm and ultimately determine which fleets have fewer sea days allocated to them in order to address the funding shortfall. The funding shortfall in 2026 triggered the prioritization process, which reduced the sea days needed in 3 trawl fleets (Rows 5–7) between 44% and 58%. The MA small mesh otter trawl fleet (Row 5) underwent the largest reduction from 1,412 to 784 sea days. Despite this reduction and the lower number of initial sea days needed this year (1,412 sea days) than last year (3,565 sea days), the 784 prioritized sea days for this fleet were higher compared to last year's 389 sea days because the fleet received smaller sea day reductions during this year's prioritization process. Specific sea days needed to monitor turtles in trawl and gillnet gears were set to 0 again this year because the results from the most recent turtle analyses (Murray 2023; Precoda and Murray 2024) did not meet the threshold required to allocate sea days for turtle monitoring. Consequently, sea day needs for these fleets were driven by other SBRM species groups. No sea days were allocated to 3 IFS access area fleets classified as "not applicable" due to the lack of open scallop access areas from April 2026 through March 2027, which precludes the existence of these fleets in the upcoming year.

At-Sea Monitoring (ASM) coverage associated with the NMS (groundfish) FMP is used for compliance monitoring of Annual Catch Entitlements and is not used to meet SBRM sea day requirements. To reduce potential bias within SBRM, data associated with ASM were not used in the 2026 fish/invertebrate analyses (McAfee 2026) because these trips may have different goals/objectives and/or different stratification/sea day allocations than the other NEFOP and IFS trips. Data collected from electronic monitoring (EM) programs, which serve as an alternative to ASM, were not included, but NEFOP data collected from vessels participating in EM programs were used in the analyses. This approach follows the 2018 SBRM Fishery Management Action Team recommendation to exclude individual FMP compliance monitoring trips from future annual discard estimation, precision, and sample size analyses for fish/invertebrate species groups (Hogan et al. 2019).

The SBRM analyses use final data and are predicated upon accurately reported and audited data. The information reported on the VTR is especially important because it is used to define fleets, any errors or inaccuracies in reporting can contribute to the propagation of "erroneous" fleets that don't reflect the true fleet structure. Accurate VTR reporting as well as maintaining gear

code consistency between fishery-dependent data collection systems (Observer, VTR, and Commercial Fisheries databases) are critical for ensuring correct SBRM fleet alignment.

As a practical matter, fleets with low trip activity within a quarter or overall are very difficult to identify and cover unless they have a pre-trip notification requirement. Attempts to assign observers can be inefficient since the probability of randomly finding such trips at a specific port or time period will be very low. Data availability and resolution can make identifying fishing effort more challenging, which can be more pronounced in the MMPA and OPR fleets because of their finer stratifications. While some of the challenges may be overcome with outreach, vessel selection letters, and other operational efforts, some fleets may fall below practical detection limits, and thus some of the sea days associated with low trip activity fleets may not be accomplished.

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Table 1. A list of the 14 fish and invertebrate species groups and 1 species of sea turtle (in bold), with species group abbreviations in parentheses and scientific names in italics. The species that compose these groups correspond to the 13 federal fishery management plans implemented in the waters off the northeastern United States.

Species/Group	Scientific Name
ATLANTIC HERRING (HERR)	*Clupea harengus*
ATLANTIC SALMON (SAL)	*Salmo salar*
BLUEFISH (BLUE)	*Pomatomus saltatrix*
FLUKE - SCUP - BLACK SEA BASS (FSB)	
Black sea bass	*Centropristis striata*
Fluke	*Paralichthys dentatus*
Scup	*Stenotomus chrysops*
LARGE MESH GROUNDFISH (GFL)	
Acadian redfish	*Sebastes fasciatus*
American plaice	*Hippoglossoides platessoides*
Atlantic cod	*Gadus morhua*
Atlantic halibut	*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*
Atlantic wolffish	*Anarhichas lupus*
Haddock	*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*
Ocean pout	*Zoarces americanus*
Pollock	*Pollachius virens*
White hake	*Urophycis tenuis*
Windowpane flounder	*Scophthalmus aquosus*
Winter flounder	*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*
Witch flounder	*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*
Yellowtail flounder	*Limanda ferruginea*
MONKFISH (MONK)	*Lophius americanus*
RED DEEPSEA CRAB (RCRAB)	*Chaceon quinquedens*
SEA SCALLOP (SCAL)	*Placopecten magellanicus*
SKATE COMPLEX[16] (SKATE)	Rajidae
Barndoor skate	*Dipturus laevis*
Clearnose skate	*Raja eglanteria*
Little skate	*Leucoraja erinacea*
Rosette skate	*Leucoraja garmani*
Smooth skate	*Malacoraja senta*
Thorny skate	*Amblyraja radiata*
Winter skate	*Leucoraja ocellata*
SMALL MESH GROUNDFISH[17] (GFS)	
Offshore hake	*Merluccius albidus*
Red hake	*Urophycis chuss*
Silver hake	*Merluccius bilinearis*
SPINY DOGFISH (DOG)	*Squalus acanthias*
SQUID[18] - BUTTERFISH - MACKEREL (SBM)	
Atlantic chub mackerel	*Scomber colias*
Atlantic mackerel	*Scomber scombrus*
Butterfish	*Peprilus triacanthus*
Longfin inshore squid	*Doryteuthis (Amerigo) pealeii*
Northern shortfin squid	*Illex illecebrosus*
SURFCLAM - OCEAN QUAHOG[19] (SCOQ)	
Surfclam	*Spisula solidissima*
Ocean quahog	*Arctica islandica*
TILEFISH[20] (TILE)	
Blueline tilefish	*Caulolatilus microps*
Golden tilefish	*Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*
LOGGERHEAD TURTLE (TURS)	*Caretta caretta*

[16] Skate complex is composed of 7 species as well as skate, unknown, and little/winter mixed skate. Individual species are not summarized separately.
[17] Mixed silver and offshore hake are included in this species group.
[18] Squid, unclassified is included in this species group. Longfin inshore squid and northern shortfin squid are also known as Loligo squid and Illex squid, respectively.
[19] In this analysis, surfclams and ocean quahogs compose the species group and are not reported separately.
[20] Tilefish, unclassified is included in this species group.

Table 2. Total catch (live lb), Vessel Trip Report landings (kept; live lb), estimated discards (live lb), associated coefficient of variation (CV), and standard error (SE) of the estimated discards (live lb) for 14 Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) species groups combined, by fleet, based on July 2024 through June 2025 data. Dark shading indicates fleets not considered or with no observed trips in the annual analysis. These CVs were not used in the annual sample size analysis. Blank CV indicates either no discards or discards equaling 0. See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations; "P" indicates fleets with "pilot" designation. Taken from Table 5C in McAfee (2026).

Species: 14 SBRM SPECIES GROUPS COMBINED

Fleet						Total	Kept	Discarded	CV	SE	Pilot
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh Group						
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	1,944,742	1,698,448	246,294	0.443	109,099	
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	680,904	612,664	68,241	1.094	74,659	
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	289,653	222,524	67,129	0.448	30,084	
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	1,002,590	1,000,595	1,995	1.722	3,435	
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	36,824,797	28,427,641	8,397,156	0.288	2,416,540	
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	22,086,343	10,928,633	11,157,710	0.215	2,403,031	
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	57,338,045	43,467,643	13,870,402	0.133	1,844,707	
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	65,359,296	50,850,570	14,508,726	0.11	1,591,646	
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg	54,097	46,458	7,639	0.271	2,072	P
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	1,736,096	1,291,744	444,353	0.508	225,919	
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	173,310	82,817	90,492	0.804	72,723	P
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3,615,543	3,011,112	604,431	0.241	145,798	
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	815,143	815,143				P
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	27,812	27,812				P
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	11	11				P
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	694,812	694,812				P
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	44,106	44,106				P
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	2,564,568	2,564,568				P
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	110,562	110,562				P
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0				P
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	3,839,164	3,827,579	11,585	0.965	11,178	
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	1,615,506	1,537,984	77,523	0.743	57,563	
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	2,249,268	2,196,177	53,091	0.328	17,417	
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	252	252				P
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	2,408,833	1,971,793	437,040	0.454	198,219	
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	16,993,438	16,032,624	960,814	0.248	237,964	
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0				P
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	8,729,048	8,729,003	45	1.129	51	
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	49,228	49,228				P
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	10,850,447	7,989,294	2,861,153	0.113	322,531	
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all	9,453,585	7,079,760	2,373,825	0.205	486,679	P
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all	76,605,966	56,686,876	19,919,090	0.229	4,561,287	
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	3,179,871	2,417,392	762,480	0.084	64,063	P

Fleet						Total	Kept	Discarded	CV	SE	Pilot
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh Group						
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all	8,118,273	6,415,773	1,702,500	0.173	295,226	
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	12,935,503	9,909,839	3,025,664	0.115	347,568	P
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all	103,470,436	81,605,014	21,865,421	0.117	2,554,039	
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	8,004,879	8,004,720	159	0.379	60	
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	1,960	1,960				P
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0				P
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	1,222,181	915,157	307,024	0.14	42,982	
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	822,208	576,934	245,274	0.348	85,431	
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	7,630	5,158	2,472	0.805	1,990	
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	2,195	1,987	208	0.996	207	
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	89,170	23,388	65,782	0.324	21,317	
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	5,203,082	174,031	5,029,051	0.584	2,937,501	
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	3,930,229	2,969,901	960,328	0.192	184,228	
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	12,190	12,190				P
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	226,926	226,926				P
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	392,715	392,715				P
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	166,259,571	165,213,591	1,045,981	0.612	639,915	
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	89,476,748	89,125,300	351,448	0.611	214,606	
Confidential fleets						2,714,750	2,620,213	94,538	0	2	
Other minor fleets						251,887	251,887				
					Total	734,479,568	622,862,508	111,617,059	0.066	7,399,699	

Table 3. The most recent average annual estimates and 5-year pooled estimates of sea turtle (Loggerhead [*Caretta caretta*], Kemp's ridley [*Lepidochelys kempii*], Leatherback [*Dermochelys coriacea*], and Green [*Chelonia mydas*]) interactions and their associated coefficient of variation (CV) in U.S. commercial fisheries.

Fishery	Average Annual Estimate	5-Year Estimate	CV	Years Included	Species*	Reference
Bottom trawl, for fish and scallops (Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank combined)	55	273	0.20	01 Jan 2019 - 31 Dec 2023	Loggerhead	Precoda and Murray 2024
Bottom trawl, for fish and scallops (Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank combined)	7	37	0.54	01 Jan 2019 - 31 Dec 2023	Kemp's ridley	Precoda and Murray 2024
Bottom trawl, for fish and scallops (Mid-Atlantic and Georges Bank combined)	7	33	0.58	01 Jan 2019 - 31 Dec 2023	Leatherback	Precoda and Murray 2024
Sink Gillnet (Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, and Georges Bank combined)	28	142	0.89	01 Jan 2017 - 31 Dec 2021	Loggerhead	Murray 2023
Sink Gillnet (Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, and Georges Bank combined)	18	91	0.62	01 Jan 2017 - 31 Dec 2021	Kemp's ridley	Murray 2023
Sink Gillnet (Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, and Georges Bank combined)	5	26	0.98	01 Jan 2017 - 31 Dec 2021	Leatherback	Murray 2023
Sink Gillnet (Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, and Georges Bank combined)	10	49	1.01	01 Jan 2017 - 31 Dec 2021	Green	Murray 2023
Sink Gillnet (Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Maine, and Georges Bank combined)	6	32	0.59	01 Jan 2017 - 31 Dec 2021	Unidentified hard-shelled	Murray 2023

* Sea day monitoring needs for green, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback turtles in sink gillnet gear were not projected because of the low encounter rate of these species.

Table 4. The number of sea days needed to achieve a 30% coefficient of variation of the discard estimate for each of the 14 fish and invertebrate species groups, the number of pilot sea days, the number of minimum pilot sea days, and the maximum number of sea days needed for each fleet (2026 Sea Days Needed) for fish and invertebrate species groups based on July 2024 through June 2025 data. Bold red font indicates basis for fleet sea days. See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations; "P" indicates fleets with "pilot" designation. Species group abbreviations are given in Table 1. Taken from Table 6B in McAfee (2026).

Fleet						BLUE	HERR	SAL	RCRAB	SCAL	SBM	MONK	GFL	GFS	SKATE	DOG	FSB	SCOQ	TILE	Pilot Days	Min Pilot Days	2026 Sea Days Needed	Pilot
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh Group																		
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	**72**	72	
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	**13**	13	
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	**13**	13	
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	**13**	13	
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	0	0	0	473	0	0	685	1,412	1,157	723	0	0	122	29	1,412	
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0	0	0	0	0	965	0	0	103	166	409	0	0	126	37	965	
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0	0	0	0	233	0	266	297	374	833	299	0	0	138	38	833	
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	94	267	116	204	255	0	0	265	36	267	
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	**6**	6	6	P
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	**34**	34	
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	**6**	6	6	P
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	**63**	63	
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	**34**	34	34	P
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	**20**	20	20	P
15	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	sm	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	**30**	30	30	P
16	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	**18**	18	18	P
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	**45**	45	45	P
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	**26**	26	26	P
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	**17**	17	17	P
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	**52**	52	52	P
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	**9**	9	9	P
22	Haul Seine, Beach	OPEN	all	NE	all	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	**3**	3	3	P
23	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	MA	all	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	**70**	70	70	P
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	**26**	12	26	P
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	**12**	12	
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	**14**	14	
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	**10**	10	
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	**3**	3	3	P
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**69**	0	0	0	28	23	69	
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	0	0	**90**	0	0	0	0	62	20	90	
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	**12**	12	12	P
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	**10**	10	
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	**15**	15	15	P
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	0	0	0	0	**29**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	121	21	29	
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	**102**	102	102	P

Fleet						BLUE	HERR	SAL	RCRAB	SCAL	SBM	MONK	GFL	GFS	SKATE	DOG	FSB	SCOQ	TILE	Pilot Days	Min Pilot Days	2026 Sea Days Needed	Pilot
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh Group																		
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all	0	0	0	0	151	0	165	0	59	**232**	0	0	0	0	151	112	232	
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	**37**	34	37	P
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	**36**	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	93	21	36	
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	**108**	108	108	P
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all	0	0	0	0	**850**	0	237	429	278	317	551	721	0	0	197	113	850	
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	**27**	27	
42	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	sm	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	**39**	39	39	P
43	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	lg	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	**7**	7	7	P
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	**16**	16	16	P
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	**27**	13	27	P
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	25	**14**	14	
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	**9**	9	
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	**12**	12	
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	**9**	9	
50	Pots and Traps, Hagfish	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	**92**	92	
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	**17**	17	
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	99	0	0	0	109	**115**	0	0	0	0	0	446	13	115	
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	**37**	37	
54	Fyke Net, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	**15**	15	15	P
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	**3**	3	3	P
56	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	**20**	20	20	P
57	Scottish Seine	OPEN	all	NE	lg	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	**5**	5	5	P
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	**16**	16	16	P
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	**11**	11	11	P
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	73	**34**	34	
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	**27**	27	
					Totals	**798**	**798**	**798**	**913**	**1,828**	**1,504**	**2,398**	**1,696**	**2,499**	**3,477**	**3,778**	**3,208**	**798**	**798**	**3,308**	**1,762**	**6,228**	

Table 5. The number of sea days needed to monitor fish/invertebrates (FISH), turtles (TURS), and combined species groups (COMBINED) by fleet (Steps 1 through 5); the number of funded sea days for April 2026 through March 2027 (Steps 6 and 7); and the differences between needed and funded days (Step 8). See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations. MMPA= Marine Mammal Protection Act; OPR = Office of Protected Resources.

	Fleet					Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4a	Step 4b	Step 4c	Step 4d	Step 4e	Step 5
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	2026 Sea Days Needed for FISH	2026 Sea Days Needed for FISH **ADJUSTED**	2026 Sea Days Needed for TURS	Vessel Trip Report Sea Days	% Vessel Trip Report Sea Days	% Sea Days Needed for FISH	Additional Sea Days Needed for TURS	TURS Sea Days by FISH fleet	2026 Sea Days Needed COMBINED
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	72	72		1,245					72
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	13		397					13
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	13	13		2,496					13
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	13		1,929					13
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	1,412	1,412	0	6,111	0.481	0.583	0	0	1,412
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	965	965		6,318	0.498	0.398	0	0	965
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	833	833		6,886					833
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	267	267		13,273					267
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg	6	6		48	0.004	0.002	0	0	6
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	34	34		183	0.014	0.014	0	0	34
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6	6		35	0.003	0.002	0	0	6
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	63	63		309					63
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	34	0		96					0
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	20	20		32					20
15	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	sm	30	0		30					0
16	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	18	18		34					18
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	45	0		326					0
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	26	0		229	0.000	0.000	0	0	0
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	17	0		33	0.000	0.000	0	0	0
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	52	0		355					0
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	9	0		121					0
22	Haul Seine, Beach	OPEN	all	NE	all	3	0		5					0
23	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	MA	all	70	0		148					0
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	26	0		1,175					0
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	12	12	0	1,636	0.223	0.061	0	0	12
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	14	14		1,022	0.139	0.071	0	0	14
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	10	10		502	0.068	0.051	0	0	10
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3	3		26	0.004	0.015	0	0	3
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	69	69		1,030	0.140	0.348	0	0	69
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	90	90		3,120	0.425	0.455	0	0	90
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12		256					12
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	10	10		1,731					10
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	15	0		38					0
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	29	29		5,671					29
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all	102	0		1,169					0
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all	232	0		7,189					0
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	37	37		1,436					37
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all	36	36		4,653					36
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	108	108		1,579					108

	Fleet					Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4a	Step 4b	Step 4c	Step 4d	Step 4e	Step 5
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	2026 Sea Days Needed for FISH	2026 Sea Days Needed for FISH **ADJUSTED**	2026 Sea Days Needed for TURS	Vessel Trip Report Sea Days	% Vessel Trip Report Sea Days	% Sea Days Needed for FISH	Additional Sea Days Needed for TURS	TURS Sea Days by FISH fleet	2026 Sea Days Needed COMBINED
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all	850	850		9,282					850
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	27	27		170					27
42	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	sm	39	0		104					0
43	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	lg	7	0		12					0
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	16	0		140					0
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	0		1,312					0
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	14	14		1,104					14
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9		938					9
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12		368					12
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9		841					9
50	Pots and Traps, Hagfish	OPEN	all	NE	all	92	92		187					92
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	17	17		1,201					17
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	115	115		122,346					115
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	37	37		969					37
54	Fyke Net, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	15	0		15					0
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	3	3		23					3
56	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	20	0		26					0
57	Scottish Seine	OPEN	all	NE	lg	5	5		18					5
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	16	0		255					0
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	11	0		147					0
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	34	34		3,648					34
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	27		2,371					27
					Total	**6,228**	**5,416**	**0**	**218,349**					**5,416**

Step 6	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Needed)		**4,813**	**4,350**						**4,350**
	Industry Fleets (Sea Days Needed)		**1,415**	**1,066**						**1,066**
Step 7	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Funded)				Prioritized					**2,687**
	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Funded)				Non-prioritized (MMPA and OPR)					**543**
	Industry Fleets (Sea Days Funded)									**1,188**
Step 8	Agency Fleet Difference				SHORTFALL					**-1,663**
	Industry Fleet Difference				SURPLUS					**122**
	Turtle Gear Types	MA Trawl	2,466	2,423	0	12,695	-2,423	0	0	2,423
		MA Gillnet	198	198	0	7,336	-198	0	0	198
							Difference between taxa			

KEY: Agency-funded fleets	
Fleets identified as "erroneous"	Industry-funded fleets
Steps used in sea day allocation	
Fleets identified as "not applicable"	

Table 6. The 2026 sea days needed (COMBINED; Step 5) and the information used in the penultimate approach to prioritize sea days to fleets for agency-funded days that are applicable to the prioritization process (Steps 9.1 through 9.5). See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations. NEFOP = Northeast Fisheries Observer Program.

	Fleet					Step 5	Step 9.1							Step 9.2						Step 9.3		Step 9.4	Step 9.5
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	2026 Sea Days Needed COMBINED	Penultimate sea days needed for the 15 species groups, in descending order with minimum pilot coverage as fleet minimum							Sea day differences between adjacent species groups within a row (red font values used in Step 9.3)						Sea day differences (descending)	Cumulative reduction of sea days	2026 Sea Days PRIORITIZED (Penultimate)	2026 Sea Days PRIORITIZED (Penultimate)
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	72	72							0						556	556	72	72
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	13							0						459	1,015	13	13
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	13	13							0						255	1,270	13	13
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	13							0						393 of 434	1,663	13	13
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	1,412	1,157	723	685	473	29			255	434	38	212	444				764	784
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	965	409	166	103	37				556	243	63	66					409	409
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	833	374	299	297	266	233	38		459	75	2	31	33	195			374	374
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	267	255	204	116	116	94	36		12	51	88	0	22	58			267	267
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg	6																	0
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	34	34							0								34	34
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6	6							0								6	6
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	63	63							0								63	63
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0							0								0	0
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	20	20							0								20	20
15	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0							0								0	0
16	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	18	18							0								18	18
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0							0								0	0
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0							0								0	0
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0							0								0	0
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0							0								0	0
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	0							0								0	0
22	Haul Seine, Beach	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0							0								0	0
23	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0							0								0	0
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0							0								0	0
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	12	12							0								12	12
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	14	14							0								14	14
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	10	10							0								10	10
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3	3							0								3	3
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	69	23							46								69	69
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	90	81	20						9	61							90	90
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12							0								12	0
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	10	10							0								10	10
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	0																	
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	29																	
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all	0																	
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all	0																	
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	37																	
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all	36																	
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	108																	
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all	850																	

	Fleet					Step 5	Step 9.1							Step 9.2							Step 9.3		Step 9.4	Step 9.5
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	2026 Sea Days Needed COMBINED	Penultimate sea days needed for the 15 species groups, in descending order with minimum pilot coverage as fleet minimum							Sea day differences between adjacent species groups within a row (red font values used in Step 9.3)							Sea day differences (descending)	Cumulative reduction of sea days	2026 Sea Days PRIORITIZED (Penultimate)	2026 Sea Days PRIORITIZED (Penultimate)
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	27	27							0									27	27
42	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0							0									0	0
43	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0							0									0	0
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0							0									0	0
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0							0									0	0
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	14	14							0									14	14
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9							0									9	9
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12							0									12	12
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9							0									9	9
50	Pots and Traps, Hagfish	OPEN	all	NE	all	92	92							0									92	92
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	17	17							0									17	17
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	115	109	99	13					6	10	86							115	115
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	37	37							0									37	37
54	Fyke Net, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0							0									0	0
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	3	3							0									3	0
56	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0							0									0	0
57	Scottish Seine	OPEN	all	NE	lg	5	5							0									5	0
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0							0									0	0
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0							0									0	0
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	34	34							0									34	34
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	27							0									27	27
					Total	**5,416**																	**2,687**	**2,687**

Step 6	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Needed)	**4,350**	
	Industry Fleets (Sea Days Needed)	**1,066**	
Step 7	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Funded)	**2,687**	**Prioritized days**
	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Funded)	**543**	**Non-prioritized days**
	Industry Fleets (Sea Days Funded)	**1,188**	**Industry-funded scallop days**
Step 8	Agency Fleet Difference	**-1,663**	
	Industry Fleet Difference	**122**	
	Turtle Gear Types MA Trawl	2,423	
	MA Gillnet	198	

KEY: Agency-funded fleets	
Fleets identified as "erroneous"	Industry-funded fleets
Steps used in sea day allocation	Fleets with NEFOP limitation
Fleets identified as "not applicable"	Fleets with reduction in sea days

Table 7. The 2026 sea days needed to monitor the combined species groups (COMBINED), prioritized days (Step 9.5), non-prioritized days (Step 10), industry-funded scallop days (Step 11), and observer sea days allocated for April 2026 through March 2027 (Step 12) by fleet. Note: * indicates all coverage is dependent on industry activity (assigned via the Pre-Trip Notification System); ** indicates some coverage is dependent on industry activity (assigned via the Pre-Trip Notification System); *** indicates coverage for protected species bycatch. See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations. NEFOP = Northeast Fisheries Observer Program; MMPA= Marine Mammal Protection Act; OPR = Office of Protected Resources.

	Fleet					Step 5	Step 9.5	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12	
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	2026 Sea Days Needed COMBINED	2026 Sea Days PRIORITIZED (Penultimate)	2026 Sea Days non-prioritized	2026 Sea Days Industry-funded Scallop	Sea Days Allocated for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)	Comments
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	72	72			72	Fish stock assessment support
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	13			13	Fish stock assessment support
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	13	13			13	Fish stock assessment support
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	13			13	Fish stock assessment support
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	1,412	784			784	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	965	409			409	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support **
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	833	374			374	Fish stock assessment support **
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	267	267			267	Fish stock assessment support **
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg	6	0			0	Industry-funded scallop * (see Row 37)
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	34	34			34	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6	6			6	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	63	63			63	Fish stock assessment support
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	20	20			20	Fish stock assessment support *
15	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0			0	Fleet removed (not applicable)
16	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	18	18			18	Fish stock assessment support *
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
22	Haul Seine, Beach	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
23	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	12	12			12	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	14	14			14	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	10	10			10	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3	3			3	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	69	69			69	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support**
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	90	90			90	Fish stock assessment and turtle bycatch support**
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	0			0	Fleet removed (NEFOP limitation)
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	10	10			10	Fish stock assessment support
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	0				0	Fleet removed (not applicable; Rows 33 & 35)
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	29			59	59	Industry-funded scallop * (Rows 34 & 36)
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all	0				0	Fleet removed (not applicable; see Row 33)
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all	0				0	Fleet removed (not applicable; see Row 34)
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	37			79	79	Industry-funded scallop * (Rows 9, 37, & 38)

	Fleet					Step 5	Step 9.5	Step 10	Step 11	Step 12	
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	2026 Sea Days Needed COMBINED	2026 Sea Days PRIORITIZED (Penultimate)	2026 Sea Days non-prioritized	2026 Sea Days Industry-funded Scallop	Sea Days Allocated for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)	Comments
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all	36				0	Industry-funded scallop * (see Row 37)
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	108			1,050	1,050	Industry-funded scallop * (Rows 39 & 40)
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all	850				0	Industry-funded scallop * (see Row 39)
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	27	27			27	Fish stock assessment support *
42	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
43	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	14	14			14	Fish stock assessment support
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9			9	Fish stock assessment support
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12			12	Fish stock assessment support
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9			9	Fish stock assessment support
50	Pots and Traps, Hagfish	OPEN	all	NE	all	92	92			92	Fish stock assessment support
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	17	17			17	Fish stock assessment support
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	115	115			115	Fish stock assessment support
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	37	37			37	Fish stock assessment support
54	Fyke Net, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0			0	Fish stock assessment support
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	3	0			0	Fleet removed (NEFOP limitation)
56	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
57	Scottish Seine	OPEN	all	NE	lg	5	0			0	Fleet removed (NEFOP limitation)
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0			0	Fleet removed (erroneous fleet)
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	34	34			34	Fish stock assessment support
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	27			27	Fish stock assessment support
	MMPA coverage							350		350	Coverage associated with Rows 25-30***
	MMPA analysis							87		87	Observer data analysis support
	OPR coverage							106		106	Coverage associated with Rows 26-27***
					Total	**5,416**	**2,687**	**543**	**1,188**	**4,418**	

Step 6	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Needed)		**4,350**
	Industry Fleets (Sea Days Needed)		**1,066**
Step 7	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Funded)		**2,687**
	Agency Fleets (Sea Days Funded)		**543**
	Industry Fleets (Sea Days Funded)		**1,188**
Step 8	Agency Fleet Difference		**-1,663**
	Industry Fleet Difference		**122**
	Turtle Gear Types	MA Trawl	2,423
		MA Gillnet	198

Prioritized days	**2,687**
Non-prioritized days	**543**
Industry-funded scallop days	**1,188**

KEY: Agency-funded fleets	
Fleets identified as "erroneous"	Industry-funded fleets
Steps used in sea day allocation	Fleets with NEFOP limitation
Fleets identified as "not applicable"	Fleets with reduction in sea days

Table 8. The 2026 allocated observer sea days for April 2026 through March 2027, the Vessel Trip Report (VTR) activity (in days and trips) from July 2024 through June 2025 (taken from McAfee [2026]) expressed as 2026 SBRM year activity (in trips and days), and the expected observer coverage if VTR activity remains the same. The expected values are conditional upon industry activity. Purple-shaded rows indicate industry-funded scallop fleets. See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations. MMPA= Marine Mammal Protection Act; OPR = Office of Protected Resources.

	Fleet					A	B	C	D	E = A/C	F = B/D
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	**Sea Days Allocated for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)**	Trips for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)	2026 SBRM Vessel Trip Report (DAYS)	2026 SBRM Vessel Trip Report (TRIPS)	Expected % Coverage (DAYS)	Expected % Coverage (TRIPS)
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	72	12	1,245	271	5.8%	4.4%
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	12	397	390	3.3%	3.1%
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	13	12	2,496	2,313	0.5%	0.5%
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	12	1,929	1,880	0.7%	0.6%
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	784	353	6,111	2,750	12.8%	12.8%
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	409	141	6,318	2,174	6.5%	6.5%
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	374	129	6,886	2,372	5.4%	5.4%
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	267	95	13,273	4,723	2.0%	2.0%
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg			48	26		
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	34	12	183	97	18.6%	12.4%
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6	3	35	18	17.1%	16.7%
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	63	9	309	43	20.4%	20.9%
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0	96	17	0.0%	0.0%
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	20	3	32	6	62.5%	50.0%
15	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0	30	3	0.0%	0.0%
16	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	18	3	34	5	52.9%	60.0%
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	326	72	0.0%	0.0%
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	229	133	0.0%	0.0%
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0	33	15	0.0%	0.0%
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0	355	86	0.0%	0.0%
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	0	121	95	0.0%	0.0%
22	Haul Seine, Beach	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	5	5	0.0%	0.0%
23	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	148	25	0.0%	0.0%
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	1,175	1,172	0.0%	0.0%
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	12	12	1,636	1,586	0.7%	0.8%
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	14	12	1,022	980	1.4%	1.2%
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	10	9	502	460	2.0%	2.0%
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3	3	26	25	11.5%	12.0%
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	69	44	1,030	646	6.7%	6.8%
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	90	65	3,120	2,252	2.9%	2.9%
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	256	255	0.0%	0.0%
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	10	9	1,731	1,579	0.6%	0.6%
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	0	0	38	14	0.0%	0.0%

	Fleet					A	B	C	D	E = A/C	F = B/D
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	**Sea Days Allocated for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)**	Trips for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)	2026 SBRM Vessel Trip Report (DAYS)	2026 SBRM Vessel Trip Report (TRIPS)	Expected % Coverage (DAYS)	Expected % Coverage (TRIPS)
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	59	41	5,671	3,927	0.5%	0.9%
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all			1,169	134		
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all			7,189	777		
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	79	38	1,436	517	1.3%	1.1%
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all			4,653	2,909		
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	1,050	109	1,579	165	9.7%	9.7%
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all			9,282	954		
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	27	6	170	39	15.9%	15.4%
42	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	104	27	0.0%	0.0%
43	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0	12	5	0.0%	0.0%
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	140	101	0.0%	0.0%
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	1,312	1,267	0.0%	0.0%
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	14	12	1,104	1,061	1.3%	1.1%
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9	938	887	1.0%	1.0%
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	12	368	365	3.3%	3.3%
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	9	841	837	1.1%	1.1%
50	Pots and Traps, Hagfish	OPEN	all	NE	all	92	6	187	12	49.2%	50.0%
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	17	12	1,201	922	1.4%	1.3%
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	115	106	122,346	113,513	0.1%	0.1%
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	37	12	969	365	3.8%	3.3%
54	Fyke Net, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0	15	3	0.0%	0.0%
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0	23	22	0.0%	0.0%
56	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0	26	4	0.0%	0.0%
57	Scottish Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	18	10	0.0%	0.0%
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0	255	186	0.0%	0.0%
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0	147	114	0.0%	0.0%
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	34	12	3,648	1,300	0.9%	0.9%
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	12	2,371	1,103	1.1%	1.1%
	MMPA coverage (see Table 10)					350					
	MMPA analysis					87					
	OPR coverage (see Table 11)					106					
	TOTAL					**4,418**					

Table 9. The 2026 allocated observer sea days for April 2026 through March 2027; the fraction of industry activity from July 2024 through June 2025 expressed in 2026 fraction of effort that had Northeast Multispecies (NMS) fisheries management plan (FMP) and Atlantic herring (HER) FMP pre-trip notification requirements; the allocated observer sea days by fleet and trip selection system; and the expected observer coverage if industry activity remains the same. The expected values are conditional upon industry activity. Column A is taken from Table 8. Purple shading identifies industry-funded scallop; green shading identifies Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) for NMS FMP; pink shading identifies PTNS for HER FMP. See Appendix Table 1 for fleet stratification abbreviations. NEFOP = Northeast Fisheries Observer Program; MMPA= Marine Mammal Protection Act; OPR = Office of Protected Resources; SBRM = Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology.

						A	G	H	I	J = A*G	K = A*H	L = A-(J+K)	M = J/(C*G)	N = K/(C*H)
	Fleet								Allocated observer sea days for April 2026 to March 2027 by TRIP SELECTION SYSTEM				Expected coverage (%) by SBRM NEFOP PTNS	
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	**Sea Days Allocated for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)**	2026 Fraction of activity subject to NMS FMP PTNS requirements	2026 Fraction of activity subject to HERR FMP PTNS Requirements	2026 IFS Sea Days **PTNS**	2026 SBRM Sea Days **NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP**	2026 SBRM Sea Days **NEFOP PTNS for HERR FMP**	2026 SBRM Sea Days **NEFOP Sea Day Schedule**	2026 SBRM Sea Day % NEFOP **PTNS for NMS FMP**	2026 SBRM Sea Day % **NEFOP PTNS for HERR FMP**
1	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	MA	all	72	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	72	0.0%	0.0%
2	Longline, Bottom	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	0.100	0.000	0	0	0	13	0.0%	0.0%
3	Hand Line	OPEN	all	MA	all	13	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	13	0.0%	0.0%
4	Hand Line	OPEN	all	NE	all	13	0.010	0.000	0	0	0	13	0.0%	0.0%
5	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	784	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	784	0.0%	0.0%
6	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	409	0.046	0.000	0	19	0	390	6.5%	0.0%
7	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	sm	374	0.000	0.010	0	0	4	370	0.0%	6.0%
8	Otter Trawl	OPEN	all	NE	lg	267	0.630	0.000	0	168	0	99	2.0%	0.0%
9	Otter Trawl, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	lg		0.000	0.000		0	0	0	0	0
10	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	sm	34	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	34	0.0%	0.0%
11	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	MA	lg	6	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	6	0.0%	0.0%
12	Otter Trawl, Twin	OPEN	all	NE	sm	63	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	63	0.0%	0.0%
13	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
14	Otter Trawl, Ruhle	OPEN	all	NE	lg	20	0.833	0.000	0	20	0	0	75.0%	0.0%
15	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
16	Otter Trawl, Haddock Separator	OPEN	all	NE	lg	18	1.000	0.000	0	18	0	0	52.9%	0.0%
17	Otter Trawl, Shrimp	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
18	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
19	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
20	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
21	Otter Trawl, Other	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
22	Haul Seine, Beach	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
23	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
24	Floating Trap	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
25	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	sm	12	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	12	0.0%	0.0%
26	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	lg	14	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	14	0.0%	0.0%
27	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	MA	xlg	10	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	10	0.0%	0.0%
28	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	sm	3	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	3	0.0%	0.0%
29	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	lg	69	0.861	0.000	0	59	0	10	6.7%	0.0%
30	Gillnet, Sink, Anchor, Drift	OPEN	all	NE	xlg	90	0.727	0.000	0	65	0	25	2.9%	0.0%
31	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%

						A	G	H	I	J = A*G	K = A*H	L = A-(J+K)	M = J/(C*G)	N = K/(C*H)
	Fleet								Allocated observer sea days for April 2026 to March 2027 by TRIP SELECTION SYSTEM				Expected coverage (%) by SBRM NEFOP PTNS	
Row	Gear Type	Access Area	Trip Category	Region	Mesh	**Sea Days Allocated for April 2026 - March 2027 (TOTAL)**	2026 Fraction of activity subject to NMS FMP PTNS requirements	2026 Fraction of activity subject to HERR FMP PTNS Requirements	2026 IFS Sea Days **PTNS**	2026 SBRM Sea Days **NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP**	2026 SBRM Sea Days **NEFOP PTNS for HERR FMP**	2026 SBRM Sea Days **NEFOP Sea Day Schedule**	2026 SBRM Sea Day % NEFOP **PTNS for NMS FMP**	2026 SBRM Sea Day % **NEFOP PTNS for HERR FMP**
32	Purse Seine	OPEN	all	NE	all	10	0.000	0.067	0	0	0	10	0.0%	0.0%
33	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	MA	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Dredge, Scallop	AA	GEN	NE	all	59	0.000	0.000	59	0	0	0	0	0
35	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	MA	all		0.000	0.000		0	0	0	0	0
36	Dredge, Scallop	AA	LIM	NE	all		0.000	0.000		0	0	0	0	0
37	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	MA	all	79	0.000	0.000	79	0	0	0	0	0
38	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	GEN	NE	all		0.000	0.000		0	0	0	0	0
39	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	MA	all	1,050	0.000	0.000	1,050	0	0	0	0	0
40	Dredge, Scallop	OPEN	LIM	NE	all		0.000	0.000		0	0	0	0	0
41	Trawl, Midwater	all	all	NE	sm	27	0.000	1.000	0	0	27	0	0.0%	15.9%
42	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
43	Trawl, Midwater	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
44	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
45	Pots and Traps, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
46	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	MA	all	14	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	14	0.0%	0.0%
47	Pots and Traps, Fish	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	9	0.0%	0.0%
48	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	MA	all	12	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	12	0.0%	0.0%
49	Pots and Traps, Conch	OPEN	all	NE	all	9	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	9	0.0%	0.0%
50	Pots and Traps, Hagfish	OPEN	all	NE	all	92	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	92	0.0%	0.0%
51	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	MA	all	17	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	17	0.0%	0.0%
52	Pots and Traps, Lobster	OPEN	all	NE	all	115	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	115	0.0%	0.0%
53	Pots and Traps, Crab	OPEN	all	NE	all	37	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	37	0.0%	0.0%
54	Fyke Net, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
55	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	sm	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
56	Beam Trawl	OPEN	all	MA	lg	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
57	Scottish Seine	OPEN	all	NE	lg	0	1.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
58	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	MA	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
59	Dredge, Other	OPEN	all	NE	all	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
60	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	MA	all	34	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	34	0.0%	0.0%
61	Dredge, Ocean Quahog/Surfclam	OPEN	all	NE	all	27	0.000	0.000	0	0	0	27	0.0%	0.0%
	MMPA coverage (see Table 10)					350								
	MMPA analysis					87								
	OPR coverage (see Table 11)					106								
	TOTAL					**4,418**			**1,188**	**349**	**31**	**2,307**		

Table 10. The 2026 Marine Mammal Protection Act allocated observer sea days for gillnet fleets by selection system. Sea days apportioned to the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) and the Sea Day Schedule will be assigned for April 2026 through March 2027. The expected observer coverage, if industry activity remains the same, is given for PTNS allocated sea days. The expected values are conditional upon industry activity. See Appendix Table 2 for mesh size abbreviations.

Selection Source	Gear	Mesh	State	Geographical Area	Trip Characteristics	Sea days	Expected Coverage
PTNS	Gillnet	LG	Any	New England		23	8%
PTNS	Gillnet	XLG	Any	New England		55	4%
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	XLG	Any	New England		27	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	LG	NJ, DE, MD	Mid-Atlantic	Ocean 0-200nm	33	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	XLG	NJ, DE, MD	Mid-Atlantic	Ocean 0-200nm	17	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	Accomack County	Ocean	57	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	City of Hampton	Bay	54	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	James City	Bay	4	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	Mathews County	Bay	17	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	Northampton County	Bay	24	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	Poquoson County	Bay	4	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	City of Virginia Beach	Bay	4	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	Any	VA	Accomack County	Bay	6	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	SM	NC	Dare County	Ocean 3-200nm	5	
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	SM	NC	Dare County	Ocean 0-3nm	20	
					Total	**350**	

Table 11. The 2026 Marine Mammal Protection Act Office of Protected Resources (OPR) allocated observer sea days for gillnet fleets by selection system. All Sea days are apportioned to Sea Day Schedule (SDS) and will be assigned for April 2026 through March 2027. See Appendix Table 2 for mesh size abbreviations.

Selection Source	Gear	Mesh	State	Geographical Area	Trip Characteristics	Sea days
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	LG/XLG	VA	Southern VA Counties	Bay or Ocean 0-3nm	48
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	LG/XLG	VA	Accomack County	Ocean 0-3nm	30
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	LG/XLG	MD	Maryland	Ocean 0-3nm	14
Sea Day Schedule	Gillnet	LG/XLG	DE	Delaware Bay	Bay or Ocean 0-3nm	14
					Total	**106**

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<tr><td>Funding Category</td><td colspan="5">NMFS</td><td>INDUSTRY</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sampling Design</td><td colspan="2">SBRM</td><td colspan="3">MMPA / OPR</td><td>IFS</td></tr>
<tr><td>Observer Program/ Protocols</td><td colspan="2">NEFOP</td><td colspan="3">NEFOP Limited</td><td>IFS</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Selection System</td><td rowspan="2">Sea Day Schedule
2,307</td><td colspan="2">PTNS</td><td rowspan="2">Sea Day Schedule
272 MMPA sea days</td><td rowspan="2">Sea Day Schedule
106 OPR sea days</td><td rowspan="2">PTNS
78 MMPA sea days</td><td rowspan="2">PTNS
1,188</td></tr>
<tr><td>NMS FMP
349</td><td>HER FMP
31</td></tr>
</table>

Figure 1. Schematic of funding categories, sampling designs, observer programs, and trip selection systems used by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Fishery Monitoring and Research Division for the 2026 observer sea days allocated for April 2026 through March 2027. Note: not all allocated SBRM NEFOP PTNS sea days will contribute toward the industry-funded monitoring total combined target requirements. Funding equivalent to 87 MMPA sea days will be in support of observer data analysis. NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service; HER = Atlantic herring; NMS = Northeast Multispecies; FMP = fishery management plan; NEFOP = Northeast Fisheries Observer Program; MMPA= Marine Mammal Protection Act; OPR = Office of Protected Resources; IFS = Industry Funded Scallop; PTNS = Pre-Trip Notification System; SBRM = Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology.

APPENDIX

Step through calculations for 3 selected fleets in Tables 8 and 9:

1. New England (NE) large mesh otter trawl fleet (Row 8) for April 2026 through March 2027

   How many observer sea days in this fleet (Row 8) are apportioned to each selection system?

267 days	Total number of Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observer sea days for this fleet (Table 8, Column A, Row 8) is a variance-based estimate of sample size.
13,273 days	Number of Vessel Trip Report (VTR) days in this fleet (Table 8, Column C, Row 8) is taken from McAfee (2026).
0.630	Fraction of industry activity with Northeast Multispecies (NMS) fishery management plan (FMP) pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column G, Row 8) is derived by dividing the number of trips subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (not shown in this table) by the number of trips in this fleet (Table 8, Column D, Row 8).
0.000	Fraction of industry activity with Atlantic herring (HER) pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column H, Row 8) is derived by dividing the number of trips subject to the HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (not shown in this table) by the number of trips in this fleet (Table 8, Column D, Row 8).
0 days	Number of Industry-Funded Scallop (IFS) observer sea days for the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) is taken from Table 8, Column A, Row 8 (IFS sea day for PTNS, Table 9, Column I, Row 8). This fleet is not an IFS fleet; trips in this fleet did not use a scallop trawl or scallop dredge.
168 days	(267 * 0.630) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet apportioned to the PTNS for trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements, rounded to whole days (SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP; Table 9, Column J, Row 8) is

derived by the product of the total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 8) and the fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column G, Row 8).

0 days — (267 * 0.000) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet apportioned to the PTNS for trips with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements, rounded to whole days (SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP; Table 9, Column K, Row 8) is derived by the product of the total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 8) and fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column H, Row 8).

99 days — (267 – (168 + 0)) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days apportioned to the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule selection protocol system for this fleet (SBRM NEFOP for NEFOP Sea Day Schedule; Table 9, Column L, Row 8) is derived by the sum of SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP (Table 9, Column J, Row 8) and SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP (Table 9, Column K, Row 8) subtracted from the of total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days for this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 8).

What is the expected observer coverage percentage provided by SBRM NEFOP PTNS sea days in this fleet?

Future industry activity (for the fleet, the fleet's subcomponents, and total industry activity) is unknown, so past activity is used (July 2024 through June 2025, taken from the SBRM analysis). The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days is a conditional value based on the assumption that future effort will be the same as past effort.

This expected observer coverage represents an approximate percentage of SBRM NEFOP sea days that will contribute toward the NMS FMP total combined monitoring requirements. This estimate does not account for the portion of declared trips with Exempted Fishing Permits (EFP) and/or FMP monitoring exemptions.

2.0% — (168 / (13,273 * 0.630)*100) The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP PTNS observer sea days for trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirement in this fleet (Table 9, Column M, Row 8) is derived by dividing the SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP observer sea days (Table 9, Column J, Row 8) by the product of the VTR effort (Table 8, Column C,

Row 8) and the fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column G, Row 8). To represent as a percentage, multiply by 100.

0% (0 / (13,273 * 0.000)*100) The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP PTNS observer sea days for trips with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirement in this fleet (Table 9, Column N, Row 8) is derived by dividing the SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP observer sea days (Table 9, Column K, Row 8) by the product of the VTR effort (Table 8, Column C, Row 8) and the fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column H, Row 8). To represent as a percentage, multiply by 100.

2. NE small mesh Otter trawl fleet (Row 7) for April 2026 through March 2027

How many observer sea days in this fleet (Row 7) are apportioned to each selection system?

374 days Total number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days for this fleet (Table 8, Column A, Row 7) is a variance-based estimate of sample size.

6,886 days Number of VTR days in this fleet (Table 8, Column C, Row 7) is taken from McAfee (2026).

0.000 Fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column G, Row 7) is derived by dividing the number of trips subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (not shown in this table) by the number of trips in this fleet (Table 8, Column D, Row 7).

0.010 Fraction of industry activity with HER pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column H, Row 7) is derived by dividing the number of trips subject to the HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (not shown in this table) by the number of trips in this fleet (Table 8, Column D, Row 7).

0 days Number of IFS observer sea days for the PTNS is taken from Table 8, Column A, Row 7 (IFS sea day for PTNS, Table 9, Column I, Row 7). This fleet is not an IFS fleet; trips in this fleet did not use a scallop trawl or scallop dredge.

0 days — (374 * 0.000) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet apportioned to the PTNS for trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements, rounded to whole days (SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP; Table 9, Column J, Row 7) is derived by the product of the total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 7) and the fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column G, Row 7).

4 days — (374 * 0.010) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet apportioned to the PTNS for trips with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements, rounded to whole days (SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP; Table 9, Column K, Row 7) is derived by the product of the total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 7) and the fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column H, Row 7).

370 days — (374 – (0 + 4)) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days apportioned to the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule selection protocol system for this fleet (SBRM NEFOP for NEFOP Sea Day Schedule; Table 9, Column L, Row 7) is derived by the sum of SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP (Table 9, Column J, Row 7) and SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP (Table 9, Column K, Row 7) subtracted from the of total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days for this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 7).

What is the expected observer coverage percentage provided by SBRM NEFOP PTNS sea days in this fleet?

Future industry activity (for the fleet, the fleet's subcomponents, and total industry activity) is unknown, so past activity is used (July 2024 through June 2025, taken from the SBRM analysis). The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days is a conditional value based on the assumption that future effort will be the same as past effort.

This expected observer coverage represents an approximate percentage of SBRM NEFOP sea days that will contribute toward the NMS FMP and HER FMP total combined monitoring requirements. This estimate does not account for the portion of declared trips with EFP's and/or FMP monitoring exemptions.

0% (0 / (6,886 * 0.000)*100) The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP PTNS observer sea days for trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirement in this fleet (Table 9, Column M, Row 7) is derived by dividing the SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP observer sea days (Table 9, Column J, Row 7) by the product of the VTR effort (Table 8, Column C, Row 7) and the fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column G, Row 7). To represent as a percentage, multiply by 100.

6.0% (4 / (6,886 * 0.010)*100) The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP PTNS observer sea days for trips with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirement in this fleet (Table 9, Column N, Row 7) is derived by dividing the SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP observer sea days (Table 9, Column K, Row 7) by the product of the VTR effort (Table 8, Column C, Row 7) and the fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column H, Row 7). To represent as a percentage, multiply by 100.

3. NE small mesh midwater trawl fleet (Row 41) for April 2026 through March 2027

How many observer sea days in this fleet (Row 41) are apportioned to each selection system?

27 days Total number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days for this fleet (Table 8, Column A, Row 41) is based on minimum pilot coverage.

170 days Number of VTR days in this fleet (Table 8, Column C, Row 41) is taken from McAfee (2026).

0.000 Fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column G, Row 41) is derived by dividing the number of trips subject to NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (not shown in this table) by the number of trips in this fleet (Table 8, Column D, Row 41).

1.000 Fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column H, Row 41) is derived by dividing the number of trips subject to the HER FMP

	pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (not shown in this table) by the number of trips in this fleet (Table 8, Column D, Row 41).
0 days	IFS observer sea days for the PTNS is taken from Table 8, Column A, Row 41 (IFS sea day for PTNS, Table 9, Column I, Row 41). This fleet is not an IFS fleet; trips in this fleet did not use a scallop trawl or scallop dredge
0 days	(27 * 0.000) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet apportioned to the PTNS for trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements, rounded to whole days (SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP; Table 9, Column J, Row 41) is derived by the product of the total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 41) and the fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column G, Row 41).
27 days	(27 * 1.000) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet apportioned to the PTNS for trips with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirement, rounded to whole days (SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP; Table 9, Column K, Row 41) is derived by the product of the total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days in this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 41) and the fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements in this fleet (Table 9, Column H, Row 41).
0 days	(27 – (0 + 27)) Number of SBRM NEFOP observer sea days apportioned to the NEFOP Sea Day Schedule selection protocol system for this fleet (SBRM NEFOP for NEFOP Sea Day Schedule; Table 9, Column L, Row 41) is derived by the sum of SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP (Table 9, Column J, Row 41) and SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP (Table 9, Column K, Row 41) subtracted from the of total SBRM NEFOP observer sea days for this fleet (Table 9, Column A, Row 41).

What is the expected observer coverage percentage provided by SBRM NEFOP PTNS sea days in this fleet?

Future industry activity (for the fleet, the fleet's subcomponents, and total industry activity) is unknown, so past activity is used (July 2024 through June 2025, taken from the SBRM analysis). The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP

observer sea days is a conditional value based on the assumption that future effort will be the same as past effort.

This expected observer coverage represents an approximate percentage of SBRM NEFOP sea days that will contribute toward the NMS FMP and HER FMP total combined monitoring requirements. This estimate does not account for the portion of declared trips with Exempted Fishing Permits and/or FMP monitoring exemptions.

0%	(0 / (170 * 0.000)*100) The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP PTNS observer sea days for trips with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirement in this fleet (Table 9, Column M, Row 41) is derived by dividing the SBRM NEFOP PTNS for NMS FMP observer sea days (Table 9, Column J, Row 41) by the product of the VTR effort (Table 8, Column C, Row 41) and the fraction of industry activity with NMS FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column G, Row 41). To represent as a percentage, multiply by 100.
15.9%	(27 / (170 * 1.000)*100) The expected percentage of SBRM NEFOP PTNS observer sea days for trips with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirement in this fleet (Table 9, Column N, Row 41) is derived by dividing the SBRM NEFOP PTNS for HER FMP observer sea days (Table 9, Column K, Row 41) by the product of the VTR effort (Table 8, Column C, Row 41) and the fraction of industry activity with HER FMP pre-trip notification requirements (Table 9, Column H, Row 41). To represent as a percentage, multiply by 100.

Appendix Table 1. Stratification abbreviations used for 2026 fleets.

Abbreviation	Definition
NE	New England ports (RI and northward)
MA	Mid-Atlantic ports (CT and southward)
Sm	Small mesh (less than 5.50 in)
Lg	Large mesh (from 5.50 to 7.99 in for gillnet; 5.50 in and greater for trawl)
Xlg	Extra-large mesh (8.00 in and greater for gillnet)
AA	Access
OPEN	Nonaccess area
GEN	General category
LIM	Limited access category

Appendix Table 2. Stratification abbreviations used for Marine Mammal Protection Act and Office of Protected Resources fleets in Table 10 and 11.

Abbreviation	Definition
Sm	Small mesh (less than 5.00 in.)
Lg*	Large mesh (from 5.00 to 7.99 in.)
Xlg	Extra-large mesh (8.00 in. and larger)

*Large mesh sea days allocated to New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland for Marine Mammal Protection Act coverage use the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology definition of 5.50 to 7.99 inches.

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