



NOAA
FISHERIES

Sustainable
Fisheries

Northeast Region Pilot Program

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Northeast Region EM Pilot

- Multi-year project by Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Archipelago Marine Research, Ltd.
- Testing EM in the NE groundfish catch share fishery
 - Quasi-full retention
 - Mix of vessel sizes, gears, and fishing activities
 - At-sea coverage (~30%) estimates total discards
 - New England Council approved EM concept
 - Some industry interested for cost-savings

Northeast Region EM Pilot

- Year 1 – Built capacity, initial comparison of observer vs. EM
- Year 2 – Explored methods to estimate weight and ID species
- Results:
 - Length/weight regressions show promise
 - Need to improve data quality, some species ID
- Next steps
 - Expand experiments
 - Develop operational methods
 - Implementation