

Summary of Groundfish FY22 Changes to NOAA's Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS)

Target Coverage Level

The FY22 target observer coverage level for sector groundfish trips subject to At-Sea Monitoring coverage is 99%. This 99% is a combination of NMFS-funded NEFOP coverage and industry-funded ASM coverage. Individual vessels may choose to elect ASM or EM coverage. This target applies to each sector as a whole.

Notification Selection

Vessels should expect nearly every trip to be selected for coverage in the PTNS, but a vessel may still receive a waiver if an observer is not available to cover the trip.

Coverage Calculations

New to FY22, NEFOP Limited trips, or observed gillnet trips focusing on marine mammal interactions, will now count towards the 99% monitoring requirement.

Exemption Notifications

ASM-exemptions, such as the current Framework 55 exemption from ASM coverage for extra-large mesh gillnet trips fishing in Southern New England or Inshore Georges Bank broadstock areas, is now a specific 'Exemption' dropdown in the PTNS. The exemption options will only be available for trips fishing the general characteristics of the exemption, so not all vessels will see options other than 'NONE' in the new 'Exemption' field. Another exemption for vessels fishing exclusively west of the 71° 30' 00" longitudinal line will become available after Amendment 23 is implemented.

Maximized Retention Electronic Monitoring (MREM)

The Maximized Retention Electronic Monitoring (MREM) program will become operational with the implementation of Amendment 23. When that happens, the MREM program will be captured differently in the PTNS. More details on the PTNS piece will be provided closer to the implementation date. The regional office will provide updates on the timing of Amendment 23 implementation and MREM program details.

For the full PTNS Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions document, please refer to the 'Help' tab of the PTNS website: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/PTNS/>

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