Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology - Overview

The Standardize Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) is the combination of sampling design, data collection procedures, and analyses used to allocate observer coverage in order to monitor commercial fishery discards and bycatch for a large number of species across numerous fleets. The SBRM provides a comprehensive structured approach for allocating of observer days that is based on the relative precision of the discard estimates and the relative importance of discards. The methods ensure that sea day allocations are not driven by imprecise estimates of small quantities of discards. The Population Dynamics Branch staff participated in the development of the SBRM.

In the northeast, there are resources to cover approximately 15,000 sea days in 2014. There are 14 FMPs species groups and one sea turtle species; there are approximately 56 fleets.

The Greater Atlantic region's SBRM Omnibus Amendment was implemented in 2008 and applied to all fisheries prosecuted in with waters off the northeast United States that were managed under federal fishery management plans. In 2011, the SBRM Omnibus amendment was vacated by the Court and remanded back to the National Marine Fisheries Service. The appellate court had found that NOAA Fisheries allowed itself too much discretion in setting the level of observer coverage in Northeast fisheries (*Oceana v. Locke et al.* Case No. 10–5299.). The implementation of the revised Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Omnibus Amendment is expected in 2015.

SBRM annual reports, 3-year Review Reports, and other source documents are given at
http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/SBRM/

SBRM Omnibus Amendment (two files: Amendment and Appendices)
http://www.nefmc.org/issues/sbrm/index.html

Federal Register Final Rule: SBRM Implementation
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-01-28/pdf/E8-1436.pdf

Analytic Component to the SBRM Omnibus Amendment: Sampling Design, and Estimation of Precision and Accuracy
http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/crd/crd0709/