

REGULATIONS FOR VESSEL MOVEMENT MONITORING

At the September 2014 Council meeting, under the omnibus groundfish workload prioritization on Agenda Item J.1, four management measures concepts designed to deal with vessel and gear movement issues were aggregated to be addressed under a single vessel movement monitoring (VMM) agenda item. This was placed in an Enforcement category because of the law enforcement emphasis of the management measures and to provide for the possibility that applicability might cross multiple Council fishery management plans. For example, there are closed areas in highly migratory species and salmon fisheries that might be better enforced by enhanced VMM technology (e.g. increased ping rate, Geofencing, bundled GPS track reporting in lieu of ping transmissions, or the addition of gear retrieval/deployment sensors).

The four management measure topics under this agenda item are:

1. Monitoring for Continuous Transit in the Groundfish Fishery
2. Removal of Derelict Crab Pots from Rockfish Conservation Areas
3. Fishery Declaration Enhancements
4. Movement of individual fishing quota Fishpot Gear Across Management Lines

During the November 2014 meeting, the Enforcement Consultants (EC) worked with advisory bodies to discuss their informational report with the goal of developing a strawman range of alternatives for Council consideration at its April 2015 meeting. On February 18, 2015 the EC conducted a meeting via webinar to further discuss and develop strawman alternatives that address the four topics under the VMM agenda item. Council staff incorporated the information into a public scoping document (Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1). That document includes a possible timeline for Council decision-making, draft purpose and need statements, preliminary analysis of the issues, and strawman alternatives.

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to consider the purpose and need for the management measures, select a reasonable range of alternatives, and provide guidance for further consideration and analysis. The Council is scheduled to adopt preliminary preferred alternatives at its September 2015 meeting, but has not yet scheduled when final preferred alternatives would be selected. A possible timeline for Council action and Secretarial review is as follows:

Council Meeting	Decision/Product
April 2015	Council adopts purpose and need statements and a range of alternatives for analysis
May-July 2015	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council staff develops analysis and draft document
September 2015	Council adopts preliminary preferred alternatives
November to January 1, 2017	Council adopts final preferred alternatives (meeting date TBD) with intent that Final Rules are effective Jan. 1, 2017

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt a purpose and need**
- 2. Adopt a range of alternatives for each management measure**
- 3. Provide guidance for further consideration and analysis**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1: Vessel Movement Monitoring Public Scoping Document.
2. Agenda Item I.1.b, HMSAS Report.
3. Agenda Item I.1.c, Public Comment: Athens Letter.

Agenda Order:

- I.1 Regulations for Vessel Movement Monitoring Brett Wiedoff
 - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - c. Public Comment
 - d. **Council Action:** Adopt a Range of Alternatives for Vessel Movement Monitoring Regulations in Council Area Commercial Fisheries

PFMC
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