

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING REGULATIONS AND EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT UPDATE

At the June 2014 Council meeting in Garden Grove, California, the Council recommended that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implement four Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications for a minimum of two years. In May 2015, NMFS issued six different EFPs to a total of 36 vessels under four umbrella projects. The umbrella projects were: whiting midwater trawl (at sea and shorebased), non-whiting midwater trawl, bottom trawl, and fixed gear. Under this agenda item, NMFS will provide an update regarding the status of participation in each fishery, video review and data management statistics, implementation challenges relative to the Council's regulatory intent, and possible solutions to problems encountered (Agenda Item H.4.b, NMFS Report).

At the September 2014 Council meeting in Spokane, Washington, the Council selected their final preferred alternatives for an electronic monitoring (EM) program for both whiting and non-whiting fisheries. At the time of approval, the Council chose to move forward with development of regulations for the whiting fishery with the intent to finalize them at the November 2015 Council meeting so that they could be implemented by January 2016; the implementation date for EM in non-whiting fisheries was to be considered further at the March 2015 Council meeting. In addition, the Council requested that NMFS provide information from the EFPs at the September 2015 and November 2015 Council meetings to verify or adjust draft regulations reflecting the Council's policy decisions prior to formal transmittal of the proposed rules and associated decision documents.

In addition to an update on EFP results, NMFS will provide an update on the development of draft regulations implementing the Council's policy decisions for the whiting EM program (Agenda Item H.4.b, NMFS Report). The Council is scheduled to review and deem the draft EM regulations for the whiting fishery in November 2015.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Consider preliminary results of EFPs.**
- 2. Consider comments from NMFS regarding the development of draft regulations.**
- 3. Discuss any substance or process issues to deeming proposed regulations for electronic monitoring in the whiting fishery at the November 2015 Council meeting.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item H.4.a, NMFS Report: Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits Update and NMFS Recommendations for the Whiting Regulatory Amendment.

Agenda Order:

- H.4 Electronic Monitoring Regulations and Exempted Fishing Permit Update Brett Wiedoff
  - a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Consider Preliminary Results of EFPs Relative to Council Action and Implications for Development of Proposed Regulations for Electronic Monitoring in the Whiting Fishery

PFMC  
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