

NMFS REQUEST FOR COUNCIL SUPPORT IN ADDING VESSELS TO THE  
ELECTRONIC MONITORING EFPS FOR 2016

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received inquiries from approximately eight vessels that are interested in joining the Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) next year, including approximately six bottom trawl, one longline, and one seine. NMFS is interested in working with these vessels and would like to add them to the EFP program next year. While we previously expressed concerns about the potential workload of the EFP program, we believe that adding these vessels would have minimal impact on staff workload and would provide needed information to support the Council's future decisions on EM programs for fixed gear and bottom trawl vessels. Bottom trawl gear continues to have low participation in the EFP and adding these vessels would increase the sample size. NMFS would like the Council's support in adding these vessels to the EFP.

PFMC  
11/14/15