

WCR-Pacific Fishery Management Council Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan April 2016 Update.

Introduction

Last January, NMFS WCR and PFMC established the Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan-RETIP for West Coast Fisheries (See attached). This plan addresses the use of Electronic Technology (ET) in the Council FMP fisheries. ET includes vessel monitoring systems (VMS), other vessel movement monitoring (VMM) technology, electronic logbooks (EL), video cameras for observer-type electronic monitoring (EM), electronic fish ticket (EFT) systems and other technologies that provide EM or electronic reporting (ER).

West Coast Region has four FMPs: Salmon, Highly Migratory Species, Coastal Pelagic Species, and Pacific Groundfish. In the development of the RETIP, all FMPS were reviewed to identify fisheries where adoption of additional electronic technologies would be appropriate for achieving data needs. The Plan includes electronic fish tickets for all FMP fisheries, electronic logbooks for some fisheries, and use of electronic monitoring for some fisheries. The attached table is an attempt to provide an overview of the WCR/PFMC ET activities by stage of implementation.

FY2015 FMP Activities

Groundfish: In April 2015, NMFS WCR approved four applications for exempted fishing permits (EFPs) to test the use of electronic monitoring (EM) in the Pacific coast groundfish fishery. The EFPs allow participating vessels to use EM in place of human observers to meet requirements for 100-percent observer coverage in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program. NMFS issued EFPs to a total of 37 vessels, of which 22 are whiting midwater trawl, 8 are bottom trawl, and 7 are fixed gear (pots). Of these, 33 vessels have fished under the EFP since May and data from these EFPs is entering the Catch Shares accounting system. The Pacific Fishery Management Council recommended these EFPs for approval to inform the development of regulations for an EM program for the groundfish fishery.

The Council reviewed the results of the 2015 whiting EFPs in November 2015 and the bottom trawl and fixed gear EFPs in March 2016. The Council recommended that all the EM EFPs be extended through 2018 to provide additional time for data collection on bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl trips to inform regulations for those sectors. The Council selected its final preferred alternative for whiting in November and is scheduled to select its final preferred alternative for fixed gear, and deem regulations for both, at its April 2016 meeting. Regulations for whiting and fixed gear are scheduled to be implemented January 1, 2017.

HMS: At its September 2015 meeting, the Council adopted as a preferred alternative to maintain the 30% target observer coverage level at a minimum and/or require EM (for the purpose of catch and bycatch accounting) in the drift gillnet fishery. The goal is to achieve 100% monitoring by 2018 through the use of on-board observers and/or EM.

FY 2016 NMFS Regulatory Activities

The following WCR rulemakings are underway or being considered:

1. Electronic Monitoring of Groundfish Shoreside trawl and fixed gear, and of Mothership whiting trawlers
2. Electronic Fish Tickets –Groundfish Sablefish fixed gear tier and daily trip limit fisheries
3. Electronic Flow scale monitoring-Groundfish Mothership and Catcher Processors
4. Vessel Movement Monitoring in HMS and Groundfish Fisheries.
5. Potential approval of 2017-18 commercial jig fishing EFP application that may use EM

FY 2016 Council Activities

1. November 2015 Electronic Monitoring Whiting FPA; Vessel Movement Monitoring PPA
2. March 2016 Commercial Jig EFP review; Electronic Monitoring EFP update, Ecocast Presentation
3. April 2016: Deeming Electronic Monitoring whiting and FPA/Deeming Fixed Gear groundfish, ET Plan update
4. June/November 2016: Swordfish Management & Monitoring Plan
5. November 2016: Electronic Monitoring Bottom Trawl EFP update and FPA, Swordfish Management & Monitoring Plan, ET Plan update

Other Update Information

FY2015 RFP Awards (National Fish and Wildlife-NFWF; Saltonstall-Kennedy-SK; Fisheries Information System/National Observer Program-FIS/NOP)

Number of Awards: A total of six Electronic Technologies Projects were awarded--totaling \$761,000 in federal funds.

1. Integrating Electronic Monitoring into the West Coast Groundfish Fleet (CA, OR, WA): Midwaters Trawlers Cooperative; NFWF EMR Award: (\$271,710)
2. Assessing Cost-effectiveness of Electronic Monitoring in the West Coast Groundfish Fishery (CA): Buccaneer Fishing NFWF Fisheries Innovation Fund Award: (\$111,750)
3. Operationalizing Electronic Monitoring in the West Coast Groundfish Catch Share Program-California Risk Pool Project, FIS/NOP (\$174,180)-complements Buccaneer Fishing award.
4. ~~Use of Electronic Monitoring (EM) to achieve full accountability and cost effective implementation of EM in the West Coast Swordfish Drift Gillnet (DGN) Fishery: SK. (\$329,288) (Awarded but not utilized).~~
5. Washington Commercial Fisheries Database Redesign and Electronic Fish Ticket Expansion Phase II: WDFW, FIS/NOP (\$154,085)
6. Testing Recreational Electronic Data Capture: Phase Two: WDFW, FIS/NOP (\$120,600)

FY2016 RFP Awards (National Fish and Wildlife-NFWF; Saltonstall-Kennedy-SK; Fisheries Information System/National Observer Program-FIS/NOP)

(Only FIS/NOP Awards are known at this time)

1. Development and testing of effective discard methods for accurate accountability in the West Coast IFQ Fishery for bottom trawl vessels equipped with Electronic Monitoring (EM): Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (\$250,000)
2. Electronic At-Sea Data Entry for the Commercial Small-Boat Fleet: NWFSC (\$59,000)
3. Expanding the Albacore Troll Electronic Logbook Application: SWFSC (\$26,000)
4. WDFW Biological Data System Redevelopment: WDFW (\$104,000)

Overview of WCR/PFMC Regional Electronic Technology Implementation Plan By Stage of Implementation - April 2016

Key to Table 1. Stages of Implementation-From Plan to Implementation

- P Listed in Regional Electronic Technology Implementation **Plan** - Listed as potential need
- E In **Exploration** either via Exempted Fishing Permit or Research (Industry/NMFS) - From building prototype, Beta testing, to sorting out implementation issues
- R In **Regulatory Process** Specific Council Discussion/Analyses/regulations - From Council has taken specific action to NMFS preparing/publishing regs
- I **Implemented** - Data is actually flowing into the system and being used for management

Table 1. Implementation Status of Electronic Technology

FMP/sector	Vessel Monitoring System	Vessel Movement Monitoring System	Fishermen Logbook	Landing Fish Ticket	Electronic Monitoring
Groundfish FMP					
TIQ					
*Non-whiting trawler	I	R	E	I	E/R
*Mothership whiting trawler	I	R	E	I	E/R
*Shoreside whiting trawler	I	R	E	I	E/R
*fixed gear	I	R		I	E/R
Sablefish					
*Fixed gear Tier (TIQ)	I	R	E	R	
*Fixed gear Daily Trip Limit	I	R	E	R	
Open Access					
*all gears	I	R		P	
At-sea Processors (Catcher Processors/Motherships)					R-Flow Scale Monitoring
Highly Migratory FMP					
*Purse Seine				P	
*Drift Gillnet	I	R	P	P	E
*Harpoon fishery for swordfish				P	
*Deep Set Pelagic Longline fishery	I			P	
*Surface Hook and Line (troll/bait)			E	P	
Coastal Pelagic FMP					
Sardine/anchovy/squid					
*Purse Seine			P-Sardines	P/E	
Salmon FMP					
*Troll				P	

Note: There are some related Non-FMP activities:

Tribal -E fish ticket, State Port sampling tools, NWFSC observer logbook Oregon Recreational, Fishery camera project, Charter boat E-logbook

