

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON SABLEFISH ELECTRONIC TICKET REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the Situation Summary and Public Comments, and also received a briefing from federal and state law enforcement representatives on the Enforcement Consultants (EC).

The GMT recommends maintaining the 24 hour electronic ticket reporting requirement for the reasons presented by the EC in Agenda Item F.8.a. Supplemental EC Presentation, April 2017. The GMT believes changing the reporting requirement to the next business day could hinder the abilities of the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement and state Law Enforcement Agencies to properly enforce the fishery regulations.

Electronic fish ticket reporting has greatly improved the capability to monitor catch, by increasing the timeliness and accuracy of reporting, particularly for open access. Previously, the daily trip limit (DTL) fishery data would be estimated based on hard data (paper tickets), which could be delayed by weeks or months until the data was available for use, and soft data (reported landings by port samplers). Electronic fish tickets remove the delay and for that reason, the GMT feels keeping the 24 hour requirement is important to the continue the accurate and real-time tracking of landings against cumulative limits for the management of the sablefish DTL fishery.