

ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

This informational briefing is preparatory to Agenda Item C.7 “Electronic Monitoring Program Development Including Preliminary Approval of Exempted Fishing Permits” that comes to the Council floor session on Monday, April 7. To facilitate consideration of the complexities of this agenda item in advance of the Council floor session, this briefing will present information on principle decision points and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) will provide a presentation that would otherwise have been presented on April 7. The PSMFC presentation will provide background information on current research findings and future work regarding electronic monitoring of some vessels in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Trawl Fishery.

At this informational briefing, the Council will receive a presentation from PSMFC regarding preliminary results of the National Marine Fisheries Service/PSMFC 2013 field study. PSMFC will also provide insights from the 2012 and 2013 field studies that may inform the development of an electronic monitoring program and implications regarding potential exempted fishing permits (Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 1). A final 2013 field study report will be available in June. PSMFC will also discuss a project that is currently underway to estimate species density and discard weights (Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 2). The goal of the project is to evaluate whether data collected using proposed electronic monitoring methods can be used to generate species-specific estimates of discard weight.

Council Action:

No Action.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 1: PSMFC Preliminary 2013 Report.
2. Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 2: PSMFC 2014 Supplemental Study Design.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Informational Briefing
- c. Council Questions and Discussion

Brett Wiedoff
Dave Colpo