

## ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

In May 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued Policy Directive 30-133, Policy on Electronic Technologies and Fishery-Dependent Data Collection (Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1), which called for the development of Regional Electronic Technology Implementation Plans to address regionally specific fishery data collection issues and needs of fisheries or fishery management plans (FMPs) for which electronic technologies are appropriate. At the September 2014 Council meeting, the advance briefing book included an informational report containing an outline of a draft Electronic Technology Plan (ET Plan) and the policy directive, which were presented to most of the Council's advisory bodies for them to comment on. Their comments, along with Council staff's, have been incorporated into a draft ET Plan (Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 2), which is available for additional advisory body comments and Council consideration at this meeting.

In development and implementation of a fully Regional ET Plan for West Coast marine fisheries, the roles of several key partners, in addition to the NMFS and the Pacific Council, will need to be taken into account, including: the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) as the clearing house of West Coast fishery catch information, the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, and Northwest Indian Tribes in their roles as the original collectors of most shore-based catch accounting information.

NMFS and Council staff request the Council provide guidance to staff to incorporate Council comments into a final draft with the assignment to complete a final version by the end of the year. It is therefore important for the Council to provide its perspective on expectations of substance in a final ET Plan document. As part of the process to finalize the draft ET Plan, staff will need to include cost proposals for short term implementation, which will be incorporated into a funding request through NMFS. Thus, it is useful for state and tribal representatives to comment on cost proposals for development and initial implementation of electronic fishticket systems for their marine fisheries as currently listed in the draft ET Plan. The PSMFC has provided input regarding the description of their roles in the process; they will continue to refine appropriate cost estimates as the ET Plan is developed. It is likely that as ET issues arise and funding and priorities shift over time, the ET Plan will require modification; therefore, the Council should expect revisions to the ET Plan at some point, such as during the Research and Data Needs process.

### **Council Action:**

#### **Provide Guidance and Direction to staff on Completion of the Electronic Technology Plan**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Policy Directive 30-133, May 3, 2013: Policy On Electronic Technologies And Fishery-Dependent Data Collection.
2. Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 2: Draft Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan for Marine Fisheries in the West Coast Region, October 2014.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. National Marine Fisheries Service Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Consider Adoption of Electronic Technology Plan, and Provide Guidance of Further Development and Implementation

Chuck Tracy  
Steve Freese

PFMC  
10/27/14