CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON DRAFT
REGIONAL ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pursuing several large data technology infrastructure projects that are necessary to support electronic technologies such as electronic reporting and electronic fish tickets. A summary of these projects is provided below to inform discussions on the draft regional electronic technologies implementation plan. The CDFW can provide additional or more specific information if requested.

Commercial Fishery Logbooks: CDFW is consolidating commercial fishery logbook data into one secure, centralized, enterprise-grade data repository. This is the first step towards implementing electronic logbooks that will allow near real-time reporting. To date, CDFW has designed and built the Marine Log System for the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel logbook (CPFV). Early testing with industry representatives is being conducted in November 2014 with a potential for deployment in the spring of 2015. The CDFW currently has 15 logbooks, 13 of which are mandatory. The use of electronic reporting is expected to be voluntary unless the need arises for mandatory electronic reporting. Development of the electronic reporting tools will be prioritized such that those needing near real-time reporting and that have industry buy-in will be addressed first. This type of phased approach is recommended.

Electronic Fish Tickets: Currently CDFW has a secure, centralized, enterprise-grade data repository for commercial landing receipts. The Oracle platform for the Commercial Fisheries Information System will not be supported indefinitely; therefore, CDFW is planning to transition this database to a Microsoft SQL Server platform. At the same time, CDFW is working with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to evaluate the use of their electronic fish ticket system, known as E-Tix, for California landing receipts. Preliminary discussions have taken place and a Business Analysis is currently being developed. We intend to integrate the new database with E-Tix much in the same way that Oregon and Washington have done or are in the process of doing. We recommend that electronic reporting of landing receipts be phased in such that fisheries in need of near real-time reporting will be targeted first. Again, the phased approach on a voluntary basis is recommended for this system as well.

California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS): CRFS consists of seven individual field surveys based on the mode of fishing (i.e., the site where anglers access the fisheries) and a telephone survey of licensed anglers. The information collected in the surveys is combined with data from other CDFW applications (sport fishing license data in Automated License Database System and CPFV log data in the Marine Log System) to produce monthly estimates of catch (i.e., number and weight of fish harvested) and effort (i.e., number of fishing trips). The CRFS database uses Microsoft SQL Server. CRFS staff is currently investigating electronic data capture for one of the surveys, and for the administrative data associated with the surveys. The CDFW also collaborated with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in 2013 on preliminary testing of the use of tablets for CRFS data collection. There is some promise that electronic reporting may be a viable option for CRFS.