

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the Electronic Technology Plan ([Agenda Item C.4.a. Attachment 2](#)) and received a briefing by Dr. Steve Freese from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) and offer the following thoughts.

Overall, the GMT is supportive of moving forward with the Electronic Technology Plan. As new technologies become available that improve data collection and/or are more economical than current methods, they should be considered and implemented.

### **Data Confidentiality and Sharing**

Under the draft regional implementation plan, development of confidentiality, data storage and sharing policies is scheduled for the 2018-2020 time period. The GMT believes that this should be addressed at the beginning of plan implementation, rather than three years into the plan. The GMT recommends that the data confidentiality and sharing standards that are currently in place remain, and that there be no further limits on data availability.

### **Electronic Fish Tickets**

The GMT is in support of electronic fish tickets for all commercial fisheries coastwide. However, we do acknowledge that there may be difficulties and workload issues for the individual states in terms of implementation. As an example, many fish buyers/ processors in Oregon already submit electronic fish tickets. Washington has developed an electronic fish ticket for some fisheries and is in the process of modernizing their fish ticket system for better data flow before implementation to other fisheries. Furthermore, the GMT has heard that in California, some processors are beta-testing electronic fish ticket programs. Being cognizant of these issues and processes within each state, the GMT recommends continued progress on electronic fish tickets for all west coast commercial fisheries.

### **Electronic Logbooks**

The GMT supports the development and implementation of electronic logbooks for commercial fisheries. The team recalls that the Council began a process towards developing electronic logbooks previously, but are unsure of the progress to date. The GMT does recognize that electronic logbooks could assist in addressing issues in the future, such as being considered as a tool for vessel movement monitoring.

### **Recreational Fisheries**

The GMT supports the development of electronic technologies for recreational fisheries as noted in the plan. Electronic charter/ party boat logbooks were an idea that came up during our discussion on the technology plan. The GMT also thinks that there may be other ways for electronic technologies to aid in increasing the accuracy and timeliness of catch accounting from the recreational fisheries. Hopefully this plan and the new National Marine Recreational Policy will be complimentary in regards to electronic technologies.