

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE  
ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

The Draft Electronic Technology Plan identifies an increasing need for “near real-time reporting” and emphasizes the management demands for more precise, timely and comprehensive fishery-related data. The Highly Migratory Species Management Team (HMSMT) notes that there are a number of useful monitoring systems in the three phases for implementation over the ten-year horizon of the plan. Many of these systems have the potential for more broad application than currently identified in the plan. In particular, in the 2015-2017 Initial Implementation Project, there are a number of commercial fisheries where the development of electronic logbooks is prioritized. The HMSMT sees a clear need for application of electronic logbooks for commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV); in particular, for those carrying recreational fishers fishing for Pacific bluefin tuna (PBF) on the West Coast. An immediate application of electronic logbooks would help meet the needs of a recent Resolution adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (Resolution C-14-06). Specifically, beginning in 2015, C-14-06 requires that nations recreationally fishing for PBF are required to report recreational catches of PBF semiannually. Currently the paper logbook system for the California CPFV fishery, from submission to processing and data compilation, takes a minimum of six weeks. Therefore the HMSMT recommends including the application of electronic logbooks for CPFVs fishing PBF in the 2015-2017 phase of initial implementation.

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11/16/14