

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Policy Directive 30-133 (Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 1) and the Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plan for West Coast Marine Fisheries (Agenda Item C.4.a, Attachment 2). Dr. Steve Freese (NMFS) met with the SSC to go over the draft plan and answer questions.

The SSC makes the following points for consideration in the Implementation Plan.

- The plan should discuss the importance of providing data in support of stock assessments. The potential ability for electronic technologies to provide fishery-dependent data that are spatially explicit could be transformative for stock assessments.
- Confidentiality issues will need to be addressed to reap the full benefits of enhanced data collection. Some issues include how the data will be reported, and who will have access to the data and in what form (e.g., raw versus aggregated).
- Increased electronic data collection will also require increased staffing for management and analysis of the new data. This is particularly true if timeliness of the data reporting is a primary goal for implementing electronic technologies.
- The implementation plan should consider how fishery-dependent data are currently used to ensure a smooth transition to electronic monitoring.

PFMC
11/16/14