

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING
DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING PRELIMINARY
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS APPROVAL

Some of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) Draft Report Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program ([Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 1, April 2014](#)) and PSMFC 2014 EM Research ([Agenda Item C.1.b, Attachment 2, April 2014](#)). Some on the GMT were also able to attend the presentation by Mr. Dave Colpo and Dr. Alia Al-Humaidhi ([Agenda Item C.1.b, Supplemental PSMFC PowerPoint, April 2014](#)). Many GMT members did not have time to thoroughly review and comment because of the GMT's 2015-16 biennial harvest specifications and management measures workload.

At the March Council meeting, under the workload planning discussion, this agenda item was identified as a lower priority relative to the biennial specifications agenda items. Therefore, the GMT did not have time for a thorough review or have in-depth discussions on the associated briefing book materials. We were unable to meet with exempted fishing permit (EFP) authors and participants or with Mr. Colpo and Dr. Al-Humaidhi to discuss their projects and ask questions. Additionally, we were unable to meet with Mr. Brett Wiedoff (Council staff) for an overview and questions. The GMT points out that our inability to meet with these individuals to thoroughly discuss the EM program and the EFPs is not a reflection of our lack of interest or how important we feel this issue is, but reflects our inability to accomplish everything that we would like. Even during "in-cycle" years for EFPs, we find it difficult to provide the full attention of the GMT to EFPs due to the number of other agenda items that receive higher priority. Although many members of the GMT are keenly interested in the EFPs and the development of EM, we will not likely have time to consider these EM EFPs in depth (or EFPs in general) in the near future without prioritization guidance from the Council to do so.

Exempted Fishing Permits Relative to Council Operating Procedure 19

In an attempt to provide input on the Council Operating Procedure (COP) 19, a GMT sub-group created Table 1 that compares the EFP applications to the requirements under COP 19. The GMT did not have the opportunity to consider the technical merits of the applications. If the Council wishes the GMT to spend time between now and June reviewing and commenting on the EFP proposals, the Council needs to indicate this to the GMT, weighing the trade-offs with work on the biennial specifications analysis and documentation.

Table 1. Electronic monitoring-related exempted fishing permit applications and requirements under Council Operating Procedure 19. Cells containing “x” indicate completion. (FMA = Fishermen’s Marketing Association, MTC = Midwater Trawlers Cooperative, UCB = United Catcher Boats)

COP 19 REQUIREMENTS ("x" if completed)	Silva	FMA	CA Risk Pool	MTC UCB	Eder et. al
Date of application	x	x	x	x	x
Applicant's name, mailing addresses, and telephone numbers	x	x		x	x
Statement of the purpose and goals of the experiment for which an EFP is needed, including a general description of the arrangements for the disposition of all species harvested under the EFP		x	x	x	x
Valid justification explaining why issuance of an EFP is warranted		x	x	x	x
Statement of whether the proposed experimental fishing has broader significance than applicant's individual goals		x	x	x	x
Expected total duration of the EFP		x	x	x	x
Number of vessels covered under the EFP	x		x		
Description of species (target and incidental) to be harvested under the EFP and the amounts of such harvest necessary to conduct the experiment; include harvest estimates of overfished species		x	x	x	
Description of a mechanisms, such as at-sea fishery monitoring, to ensure that the harvest limits for targeted and incidental species are not exceeded and are accurately accounted.		x	x	x	x
Description of the proposed data collection and analysis methodology			x	x	x
Description of how vessels will be chosen to participate in the EFP		x	x	x	x
For each vessel in EFP, the approximate times and places fishing will take place, and the type, size, and amount of gear to be used			x	x	
Signature of applicant	x	x	x	x	x