

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON REGULATIONS FOR VESSEL  
MONITORING (VMS) DECLARATION REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Mr. Dayna Matthews, of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), regarding the issue of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) being used on vessels in fisheries other than groundfish.

The GAP affirms its statement from the April 2013 meeting; the Enforcement Consultants' April and June 2013 recommendations; and the Council's action in April 2013 to modify regulations 660.13 and 14 as appropriate (See [June 2013 Agenda Item E.1.b, EC Report](#), paragraphs 2 and 3). A simple declaration of gear type or sector at the time of VMS registration is the best solution.

Furthermore, the GAP also agrees with the Enforcement Consultants' June 2013 recommendation option 1 for the "other gear" declaration. Making a programming change in the NMFS Information Technology system so that comments in the "other gear" section are available to the United States Coast Guard is easier than expanding the declaration list and will solve the issue.

Regarding an amendment to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan for consideration of VMS requirements in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission arena, the GAP has no comments since this is primarily an HMS issue.

PFMC  
06/20/13