

ELECTRONIC MONITORING REGULATORY PROCESS

The Council adopted a range of alternatives and options for an electronic monitoring (EM) program in November 2013, and at the April 2014 Council meeting the Council provided guidance on further development of an EM program. On May 7 and 8, the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) and Technical Committee (GEM Committees) met in Seattle, Washington to discuss potential revisions and additional options for Council consideration (Agenda Item F.2.b, GEMPAC Report). Council staff presented a framework for developing a cost analysis for an EM program. In addition, the GEM Committees heard from the only two west coast observer providers about how they may be affected by the development of an EM program to assist the GEM Committees and Council staff in the development of EM options and the impact analysis.

The GEMPAC report provides recommended definitions, revisions, and additional options to the Council's adopted alternatives, and a summary of observer provider comments. A new detailed listing of alternatives that includes the GEMPAC's recommendations is provided in the Council's draft analytical document titled "Draft Analysis of an Electronic Monitoring Program for the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery Catch Shares Program" (Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1). The draft Council decision document, which will ultimately evolve into a National Environmental Policy Act-compliant document, provides background on the development of the EM program, alternatives and options, and initial draft impact and cost analyses. In addition, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission submitted its final 2013 field study report for Council consideration (Agenda Item F.2.b, PSMFC Report). The NMFS Fisheries Science Center provided a net revenue analysis on the topic of EM (Agenda Item F.2.b, NMFS Report).

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to refine alternatives, assign focused analysis, and select any preliminary preferred alternatives that may be appropriate for the different fishery sectors. The Council is currently scheduled for final decision making on a regulatory program recommendation to the NMFS at the September, 2014 Council meeting. At that time, the Council may make final decisions on individual fishery sectors, as opposed to needing to make a final decision for all sectors simultaneously.

Under a separate agenda item (F5, Final Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2015-2016), the Council is scheduled to consider for final approval electronic monitoring EFP applications. The Council may want to consider the implications of the applications and how the projects could assist the Council in their development of EM program policies.

Council Action:

Consider Refining Alternatives and Adopting Preliminary Preferred Alternatives, as Appropriate, for Public Review

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1: Draft Analysis of an Electronic Monitoring Program for the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Trawl Groundfish Fishery Catch Shares Program.
2. Agenda Item F.2.b, GEMPAC Report: GEMPAC Report to Council.
3. Agenda Item F.2.b, PSMFC Report: PSMFC Final 2013 Report.
4. Agenda Item F.2.b, NMFS Report: Net Revenue Analysis for Electronic Monitoring on the West Coast.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Brett Wiedoff
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Refining Alternatives and Adopting Preliminary Preferred Alternatives, as Appropriate, for Public Review

PFMC
06/03/14