

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON  
OMNIBUS REGULATION CHANGES, PART I

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) has reviewed the documents pertaining to Agenda Item F.3.a, June 2014 and has the following comments. Referencing Attachment 2, *Initial Compilation of Possible Groundfish Management Measures for Council Considerations*, the EC recommends the following be moved forward for final rule making.

Table 1 (A):

- Seabird Rule-Mandatory Streamers for vessels fifty five feet or greater
- Fishery Declaration Enhancements
- Update E-Ticket for Web-based Submissions
- Require E-Tickets for Sablefish Landings

Seabird Rule-Mandatory Streamers: Council action has been completed. Considering the Endangered Species Act (ESA) implications for this fishery, completion of this rule should be considered a high priority.

Fishery Declaration Enhancement: Council action has been completed. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) notification problem identified under Council consideration of this action has been addressed by increasing NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and USCG daily/weekly communications. The EC suggests this action be rolled into the next Groundfish rule making opportunity.

Update E-Ticket for Web-based Submission: Moving E-Ticket to a web-based platform represents a significant enhancement for E-Ticket reporting on the West Coast and should be supported by federal rule making at the earliest opportunity.

Require E-Tickets for Sablefish Landings: A recently completed Department of Commerce (DOC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) report found that NMFS was not adequately tracking sablefish tier status' in-season and subsequently was not pursuing enforcement of tier overage violations. E-Ticket reporting of all West Coast sablefish landings will give enforcement the necessary tool to track individual limited entry permit (LEP) tier status and cumulative bi-monthly, weekly, and daily trip limits, in both the daily-trip-limit (DTL) and open access (OA) fisheries.

Table 1(C):

- Increase Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Ping Rate.

Increase VMS Ping Rate: The EC places this issue among its highest priorities and asks the Council to schedule it for action at the earliest opportunity. In discussions with Council staff, if given a high priority for the September meeting, alternatives could be developed for the November Council meeting for Council action on a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA) in

March, with final action in April. This schedule establishes a realistic expectation that regulations could be in place by January 2016. In light of the significant need to maintain a vigorous Rockfish Conservation Area and essential fish habitat monitoring capability, any further delay of this action would be highly detrimental to enforcement's ability to ensure closed/conservation area integrity. The EC requests that this item be identified for focus in development of background information for September.

In conclusion the EC recommends:

1. The following be moved forward for final rule making.  
Table 1 (A):
  - Seabird Rule-Mandatory Streamers for Vessels greater than fifty five feet
  - Fishery Declaration Enhancements
  - Update E-Ticket for Web-based Submissions
  - Require E-Tickets for Sablefish Landings
  
2. Increasing the VMS ping rate be given a high September scheduling priority with follow-on expedited action.

PFMC  
06/21/14