

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FINAL EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP) APPROVAL FOR 2015–2016

Mr. Brett Wiedoff briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the revised exempted fishing permit (EFP) applications for electronic monitoring (EM) (Agenda Item F.5.a Attachments 1 – 4). The applicants were present to answer questions. The utility of the data obtained through these EFPs can be enhanced if there is consistency in data collection and reporting procedures. If the information is not collected and compiled in a consistent manner, it may result in a lost opportunity to compare results among EFPs and to compare results between EFP and non-EFP fleets. For example, economic data are valuable in evaluating cost effectiveness of EM. Collection of common data components, such as cost of equipment purchase, maintenance, and video review, should be considered by all EFP participants. The SSC encourages the EFP applicants, the Council staff, and National Marine Fisheries Service regional staff to collaborate on identifying common data components, standardizing reporting procedures, and planning for future data analyses.

The SSC found insufficient information to evaluate whether the level of observer coverage in the applications is adequate. Observer responsibilities include compliance monitoring and collecting scientific data and discard samples at sea. Since most of the EFPs are premised on maximized retention, the role of the observer on an EFP vessel will be different than on non-EFP vessels. It is not clear to the SSC how changes in observer coverage with EFPs might affect the quantity and quality of data needed for science, management, and compliance monitoring. The SSC requests that the observer program provide information regarding the data currently being collected, how they are used, and how they might be affected by reduced observer coverage.

PFMC
06/22/14