

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON  
ELECTRONIC MONITORING SCOPING

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) has reviewed the documents associated with agenda item G.10 and has the following comments.

Electronic Monitoring is a high priority issue for the EC. We participated in the February Workshop and have two representatives on the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Technical Committee. Primary issues for us are the use of the cameras as a component to achieving compliance monitoring objectives, development of an electronic logbook, and expanded use of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) E-Fish Ticket program.

We have extensive experience in camera application within the whiting fishery, both at-sea and shoreside. Although we have limited direct experience with camera use in the fixed gear fishery, extensive use of cameras in fixed gear fisheries in Canada and the Nature Conservancy Program in Morro Bay, California leads us to believe cameras may be applicable as a replacement for human observers as well.

The PSMFC camera study has successfully placed cameras on three bottom trawl vessels this summer, with an anticipated six vessels coming on line this fall. We anxiously await the results of this study. Absent a definite outcome emerging from this study, the EC is not confident that camera deployment on bottom trawl vessels as a regulatory amendment can be achieved within the current 2016 implementation schedule. As a result, we believe the Council may want to revisit its projected implementation schedule to include consideration of a phased in approach with midwater trawl and fixed gear moving ahead of bottom trawl.

An electronic logbook could provide numerous benefits to science, management, industry and enforcement. The Risa Lynn case briefed earlier in the Council week further highlights the benefits and need for moving forward with development of an electronic logbook. While species information may be the primary desired data component, location and gear deployment information is also important and may be the more immediate need. As such, a data logger type system may be useful as an interim step towards implementation of a more robust electronic logbook.

Expansion of the PSMFC E-Fish Ticket Program takes advantage of an investment already made in EM. In addition to the Federal requirement that all trawl deliveries be reported on the electronic fish ticket, the State of Oregon allows the use of this electronic format for all commercial deliveries. We believe the Limited Entry Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery is a prime candidate for said expansion as elaborated on under agenda item G.2.