

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
ELECTRONIC MONITORING ALTERNATIVES

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the draft set of alternatives developed by Council staff for integrating electronic monitoring (EM) into the trawl catch share program's compliance monitoring (Agenda Item H.8.a, Attachment 1). The Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) and the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee (GEMTAC) met in October to review the draft alternatives. Mr. Brett Wiedoff briefed the SSC on the report from this meeting (Agenda Item H.8.b, Supplemental GEMPC Report).

The alternatives identified under the five policy topics are reasonable. However, the SSC notes that the objectives of using EM as a compliance monitoring tool are not clearly defined, which makes risk analysis challenging. The SSC did not receive updates on the current pilot study conducted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; therefore, the SSC is unable to provide any feedback. The SSC expects to see a detailed study design that addresses the management measures identified in the alternatives. Also, in order to provide scientific guidance for future analyses, such as video sampling rate and cost analysis, the SSC encourages the collection of information from a variety of vessels and from existing EM programs, such as British Columbia's program.

PFMC
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