

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL AND SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL
REPORT ON REGULATIONS FOR VESSEL MONITORING (VMS) DECLARATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) received a report from Mr. Dayna Matthews, of National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), regarding the issue of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) being used on vessels in fisheries other than groundfish.

The GAP/SAS understands the problem that the requirements for VMS reimbursement from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission do not mesh with the declaration regulations.

With this understanding, the GAP/SAS agrees with one of the proposed solutions referenced in [Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2, Vessel Monitoring System Situation and Possible Solutions](#). The “Groundfish Regulatory Amendment Approach,” in the middle box at the bottom of that document, would be the simplest solution.

For reference, it reads:

“Vessels with VMS units that met subsidy criteria by registering as a possible groundfish vessel must make a fishery declaration under the groundfish regulations.”

The GAP understands this solution would enable any VMS user, at the time of registering with the OLE, to make a simple declaration that he would or would not be fishing groundfish, therefore preventing miscommunication and future problems for OLE.

PFMC
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