

## FEASIBILITY OF USING REAL-TIME ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK DATA IN GROUNDFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Situation: Logbook data from West Coast groundfish fisheries has been an important part of fishery management and stock assessment since its inception. Currently, each state administers a logbook program and adjusts the logbook data, in part, by comparison with fishticket information. Processing the hand written logs and compiling the adjusted data is a time consuming process. The Council has expressed concern that management decisions are often based on data series that are dated by a year or more. There is a strong desire to utilize more current information. Bycatch modeling in the limited entry trawl fishery is a recent example of how the existing logbook program can delay the application of new information. The process of updating models used to estimate bycatch and project landings relies on logbook data, including the incorporation of data gathered in the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program. Estimates of retained catch, verification of tow location, and target species catch distribution among depth strata and target fisheries are derived from adjusted logbook data. In the absence of logbook data, less desirable sources such as fishticket data may be substituted. An electronic logbook program has the potential of improving the availability and quality of fishery data and this emerging technology has been recommended as a means of streamlining the flow of data from at-sea collection to the management process

Electronic logbook programs have been successfully implemented by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and are currently being tested on a small scale on the West Coast by NMFS. A joint session of the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel, the Groundfish Management Team, and other participants is scheduled for Monday, November 3 from 8:30 A.M. until noon. The joint session will cover three topics, including real-time electronic logbooks; during this segment of the joint topic meeting, there will be presentations by organizations familiar with the use and development of electronic logbook programs. Participation in this joint session is strongly encouraged as the electronic logbook presentations will not be repeated during the Council session. However, a brief summary of the joint session on electronic logbooks will be given by Council staff and presenters will be available to answer questions during Council discussions.

The Council is to consider information presented at the joint session and input from the Advisory Bodies and the public and discuss the feasibility of incorporating electronic logbook technology into West Coast groundfish fisheries.

### Council Action:

#### **1. Consider feasibility and further steps.**

### Reference Materials:

None.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Feasibility and Further Steps

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