

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
EXPANSION OF VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

Some Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) members were at sea and did not receive the material prior to the conference call. (See attached email).

The SAS Chair has been advised Thursday, September 16, 2004 that Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on Salmon Troll Vessels is, in fact, being considered an option by the Pacific Fishery Management Council members at the recommendation of the Enforcement Consultants.

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel Troll Advisors request the Council maintain a "Status Quo" option for Salmon Trollers in the options and allow the full SAS to be provided the accumulated VMS documents prior to the November Council meeting. The SAS request adequate meeting time be made available at the November 2004 meeting to review these documents and provide considered testimony to the Council at that time.

PFMC
09/17/04

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel met via conference call on September 8, 2004. The following message was sent via e-mail and faxed to Salmon Advisory Subpanel members 24 hours prior to the conference call:

"Subject
: Conference call

Date
: Tue, 07 Sep 2004 11:56:25 -0700

From: Chuck Tracy <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

Dave Hillemeier <naypooie@northcoast.com>, Mike Orcutt <director@pcweb.net>, Craig Stone <emvlsport@aol.com>, Duncan MacLean <b-faye@pacbell.net>, Jim Olson <jaocto@juno.com>, Steve Watrous <branchofic@aol.com>, Jim Welter <jswltr@nwtec.com>, Tom Welsh <mwelsh9538@aol.com>, Butch Smith <coho@willapabay.org>, Jim Tuggle <tugstours@comcast.net>, Bob Strickland

To: <bstrickland@unitedanglers.org>, Kent Martin <imartin@tdn.com>

Hello:

Some of you have not received your briefing materials yet, but they should be arriving today. They were Fed-Ex'd Thursday. The conference call in number is on the Committee Memo, but for your connivance, it is listed below. Please note: Due to the expense of the call, the number of lines available is limited, and we request that only SAS members use the call-in lines. There will be a listening station at the Council office for interested public who wish to listen in on the call. The call in number for SAS members is 1-888-487-6444. The participant code is 8202280. The call is scheduled for 2-4 p.m., tomorrow, Sept. 8.

The Vessel Monitoring System briefing materials were not included in your package because salmon troll and recreational fisheries are not being considered for inclusion in the VMS. However, we have gotten some public comment expressing concern about including the salmon troll fishery in the VMS, so to alleviate concern, I've included the following excerpt from the EA being considered at the September Council meeting:

2.3 Alternatives rejected for analysis in this EA

VMS coverage of the recreational fisheries is not being considered at

this time. At its October 2003 meeting, the ad hoc VMS Committee considered expansion of the VMS program, including expansion into the charter and private sectors of the recreational fishery. After considerable discussion, the committee recommended that an area-by-area evaluation of the groundfish impacts by these participants was necessary before a final recommendation could be made.

The pink shrimp fisheries have not been included in the alternatives for VMS coverage. Pink shrimp vessels are allowed to fish within the trawl RCA providing a declaration report has been sent prior to leaving port on a trip in which the vessels is used to fish within the RCA.. Pink shrimp trawl vessels were excluded in the coverage alternatives because they are required to use finfish excluders, which dramatically reduce their catch of overfished species, primarily canary rockfish.

The salmon troll fisheries are allowed to fish within the fixed gear RCA and are allowed to retain some groundfish. Because VMS cannot be used to determine where a particular species was caught it is not considered to be an effective enforcement tool for monitoring open access trip limit compliance by salmon troll vessels.

State and federal fisheries in which groundfish are incidentally taken but not landed were not included in the analysis because fisheries where groundfish catch is not landed are not considered to be open access fishery. These vessels include: the those targeting Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) with round haul gear; those targeting HMS with purse seine gear, and those targeting the gillnet complex (California halibut, white sea bass, sharks, and white croaker) with driftnet.

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