

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EXPANDED VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

The Enforcement Consultants have reviewed the information relating to the expansion of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and have the following comments:

In reference to Agenda Item B.5.b, NMFS Report April 2005, the Enforcement Consultants have met with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and representatives of the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) and discussed the report. It is our understanding the majority of the GAP supports Alternative 6.B. The Enforcement Consultants have compared this alternative to our initial option of Alternative 5.B. After evaluation, the Enforcement Consultants will support Alternative 6.B with a slight modification. Current language states, "If a Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) requirement is discontinued during the year, mandatory Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) coverage would be discontinued for the affected vessels." The Enforcement Consultants would ask the following language be inserted in the current languages place: "If an RCA requirement is discontinued during the year, VMS coverage would be reevaluated for the affected vessels."

Rationale: Currently, VMS is utilized in support of RCA enforcement; however, in the future, VMS may be used to support other area-based management. Examples: Marine Protected Areas and Sanctuaries.

PFMC
04/06/05