

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
ON EXPANSION OF VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the alternatives in the draft Environmental Assessment to expand the vessel monitoring system (VMS) coverage in the groundfish fishery, and the recommendations presented in the Ad Hoc VMS Committee Report. The GMT endorses the recommendations of the Enforcement Consultants (EC), as presented in Agenda Item H.10.c, Supplemental EC Report. It is the GMT's understanding that, under the EC proposal, the following open access sectors will be required to have a VMS and declaration requirement:

Longline

Pot

Line gear (except those excluded below)

Non-groundfish trawl (includes pink shrimp, California halibut, sea cucumber, and ridgeback prawn)

The following open access sectors would be excluded from a VMS and declaration requirement:

Salmon troll

Highly migratory species (HMS) line gear

Dungeness crab pot gear

Sheephead pot

HMS net gear (gill, set, drift, and trammel nets)

HMS pelagic longline gear

Coastal pelagic species purse seine gear

It is the GMT's understanding that with the exceptions noted above, any vessel using longline, pot, or line gear to take and retain groundfish in federal waters in any part of the year under open access limits would be subject to VMS and declaration requirements for the remainder of the year, regardless of other fisheries they may participate in during that year.

GMT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt the recommendations of the EC as presented in Agenda Item H.10.c, Supplemental EC Report.

PFMC

11/03/05