

REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS FOR THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM

Industry representatives have requested a presentation on the vessel monitoring system program (VMS) as it relates to participation and compliance with both the program and associated management regulations, such as the rockfish conservation area (RCA) boundaries. In particular, there have been questions about the enforcement of RCA boundaries and how determinations are made as to whether vessels are fishing, in transit, or hauling back. At the inception of the VMS program, the Council requested that the program have only very basic capabilities.

Given the improvements in equipment in the five years since implementation and changes in the management system (both past and anticipated changes), the Council may wish to consider whether the basic system works well enough or a process should be initiated for updating the VMS program to take advantage of new technologies and possibly increase industry flexibility? If the Council decides that consideration of a modification to the VMS system would be appropriate, it should be brought up when the Council does its workload planning under Agenda Item G.5.

Council Action:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

None

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. NMFS Office of Law Enforcement Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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