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EM Workshop Presentation Description

Presenters (Karl Haflinger and Eric Torgerson) are currently working on a NFWF funded project to reduce the time spent reviewing electronic video monitoring data by developing computer algorithms to flag activity on a fishing vessel that may indicate when discards could potentially occur. Discarding of fish can occur any time from when the net arrives alongside the vessel and is taken aboard to when the vessel ties up at the processor, and this is one reason why previous efforts to use EM in trawl fisheries have incorporated extensive manual video review. Rather than devote significant man hours to review, we are working to develop software-based approaches that allow for a focused, time saving review of video based on the identification of activities where discards could occur. We envision that the scenario for video review would be:

- At the end of each trip a vessel would upload recorded video to a secure server.
- Software on this server would then scan the recorded video record for activity on deck that needed to be examined. Where such examinations are necessary, a bookmark would be added to the table of contents for that particular trip.
- Additional bookmarks would be set to the net hauling event, and to a series of random examination points in the trip.
- Once a table of contents to the trip footage was assembled, the observer in charge of monitoring the video can scan through all significant events in the trip – rather than the entire trip – resulting in less time spent reviewing video material. The entire trip would remain on the secure server and be available to Federal management staff as necessary.

Our presentation at the workshop will consist of a demonstration of the techniques we have developed to date under this contract.