

# **Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits Update**

**Presentation for Pacific Fishery Management Council**

**By Melissa Hooper, NMFS West Coast Region**

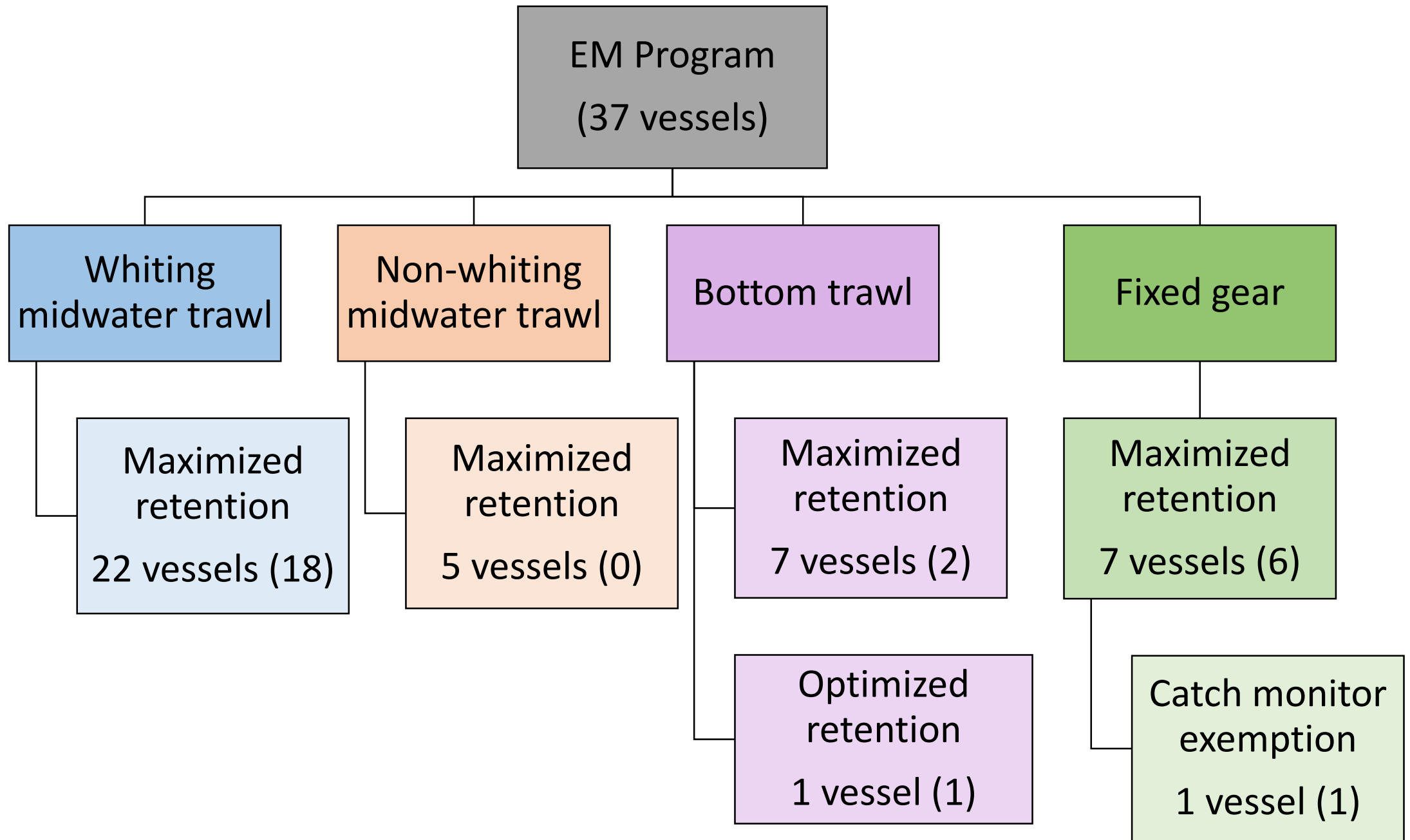
**September 2015**

# Outline

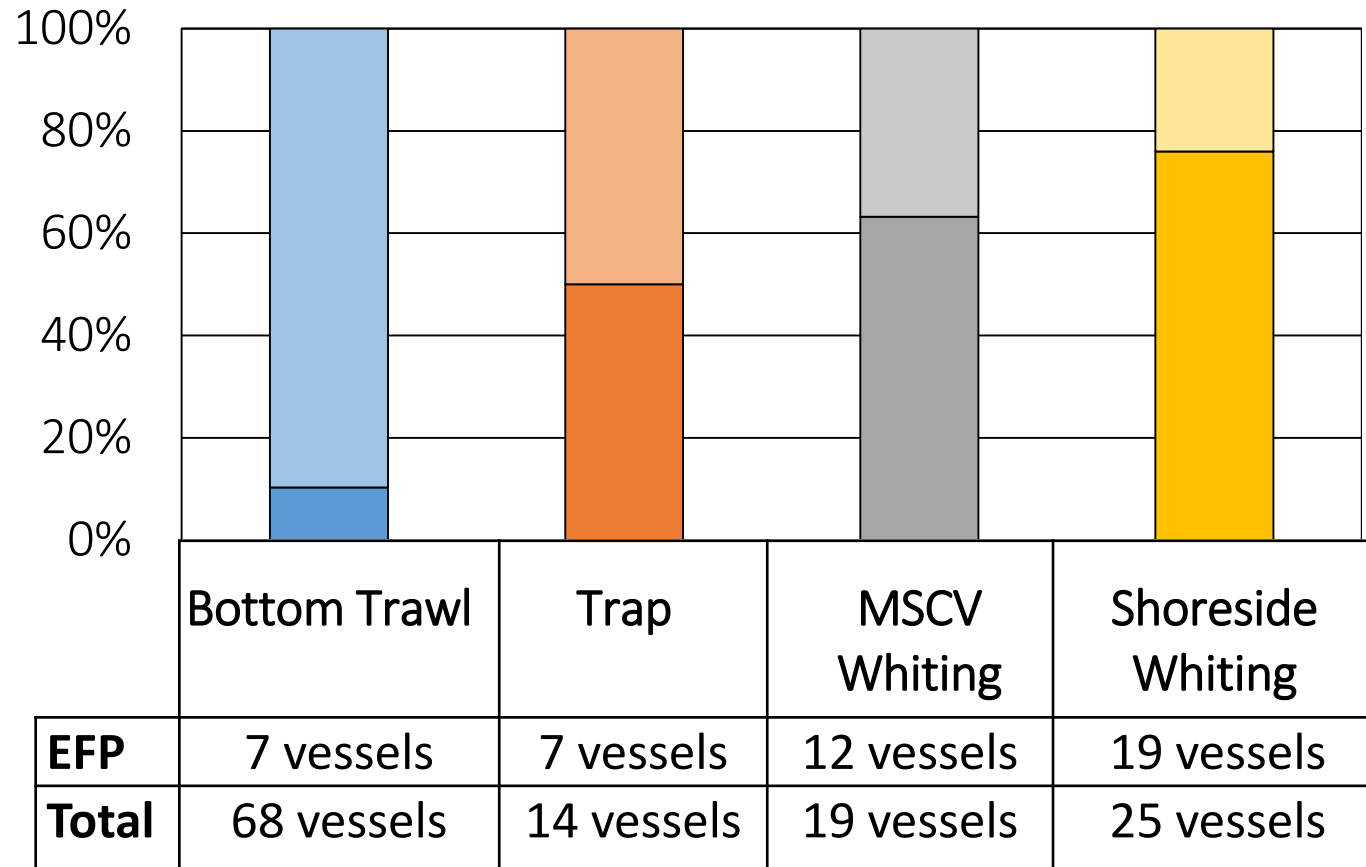
- Overview of EFP implementation
- Preliminary lessons learned from EFPs
- What's next
- Questions
- NMFS recommendations for whiting regulations

We are here





## Vessel Proportion Comparison: Total per Fishery vs. EFP Participants per Fishery



# Who can discard what?

Gear Type	May Discard
Whiting midwater trawl	Status quo (minor operational discards)
Non-whiting midwater trawl, bottom trawl, fixed gear maximized retention	Prohibited spp*, protected spp, mutilated and depredated fish, debris, inverts
Bottom trawl optimized retention	Whiting, Arrowtooth flounder, Dover sole, English sole, recognizable non-IFQ spp, prohibited spp*, protected spp, mutilated fish, debris, inverts

\*Salmon must be retained

**PACIFIC COAST GROUND FISH FISHERY**  
**EXEMPTED FISHERY PERMIT (EFP)**  
**AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. Code of Federal Regulations**  
 Sections 601.147 and 601.148, and part 600

**Test the Use of Electronic Monitoring in the Membership and Shortboard IFQ Sectors of the Pacific Whiting Fishery**

Permit Number:  
 Permit Issue Date:  
 Permit Effective Date:  
 Permit Expiration Date: 12/31/2015

Vessel Name	USCG Documentation Number	Pacific Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Permit Number

The above vessel participates in (check one):  
 Shortboard IFQ sector  
 Membership sector  
 Both shortboard and membership sectors

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provisions (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq., 16 CFR 600.145, and 50 CFR 600.30 (Subpart C)), the above named vessel is exempt from the requirements specified herein while participating in the "Optional Electronic Monitoring (EM) System as Part of Human Observers in the Areas and Shortboard State West Coast Whiting Fishery" study. Note: Excerpts of some regulations cited in this EFP are provided in Appendix A.

The purpose of the study is to test the use of electronic monitoring (EM) video cameras, associated sensors, and vessel logbooks, in place of human observers to monitor compliance in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program. Vessels operating under an EM EFP are exempt from the requirement to carry an observer on each trip, provided that they carry an operational EM system, retain all catch with live recapture, and follow the scientific protocol and terms and conditions of the permit. The EM data will be used to monitor compliance with retention requirements and to calculate logbooks used to determine from individual fishing quotas (IFQ) and bycatch quotas (BQ).

**EXEMPTIONS**

- The requirement to carry an observer on all trips in the groundfish IFQ fishery (16 CFR 600.146 (2)(1)(A) and § 600.150(b)(2) and (2)(1)(B)). As a condition of this permit, the vessel must carry an observer if required by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCOOP) and follow the requirements of § 600.149. Catch monitor coverage of shortboard vessels is still required.
- The following prohibitions only as they relate to the above exemptions: § 600.120(a)(3) and (a)(4), and § 600.117(a)(4)(3), (b)(1)(i)(a)-(c), and 601.175-176.

**Vessel Monitoring Plan**  
 Test the Use of Electronic Monitoring on Bottom Trawl Trips in the Shortboard IFQ Sector of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

**Overview**  
 The objective of the Exempted Fishing Permit is to test the ability of an EM system to document discards in place of observer monitors in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Trawl Rationalization Program. The EM system will log the vessel's location and fishing activity. Estimated weights of discards of individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and individual Bycatch Quota (BQ) species will be collected from vessel logbooks to derive vessel accounts. EM data will be used to validate vessel logbooks. The individual Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) documents the configuration of EM equipment and describes the vessel operator's and crew's day-to-day duties to make the project successful.

This Vessel Monitoring Plan has several components:  
**Appendix A** - EM Installation Summary  
**Appendix B** - Operator Responsibilities  
**Appendix C** - List of Species  
**Appendix D** - Observer Information Sheet

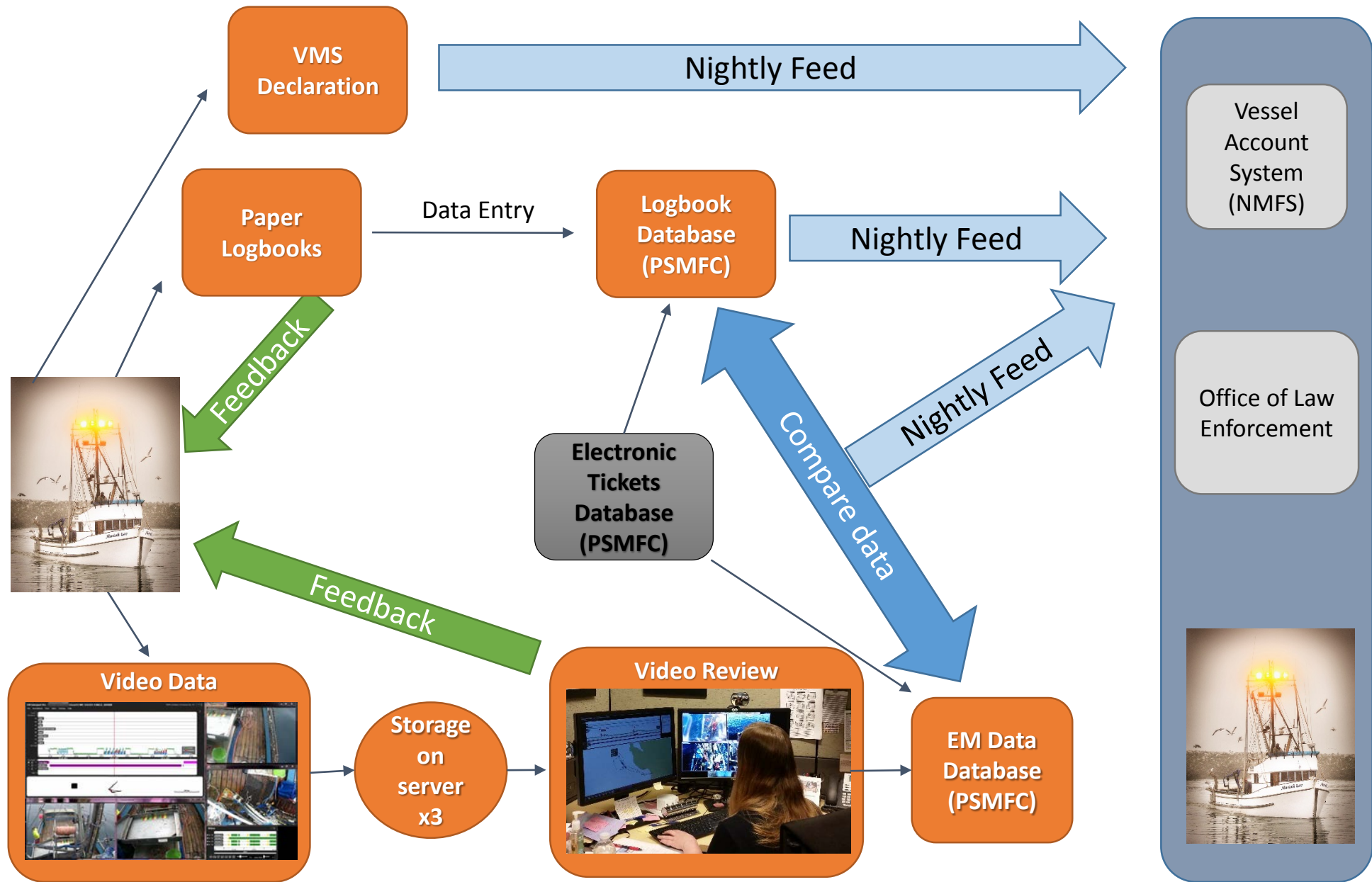
**General Vessel Information**

Vessel Name	
Fishery/Gear Type	
Home Port	
Captain	
Permit Number	
USCG Documentation Number	

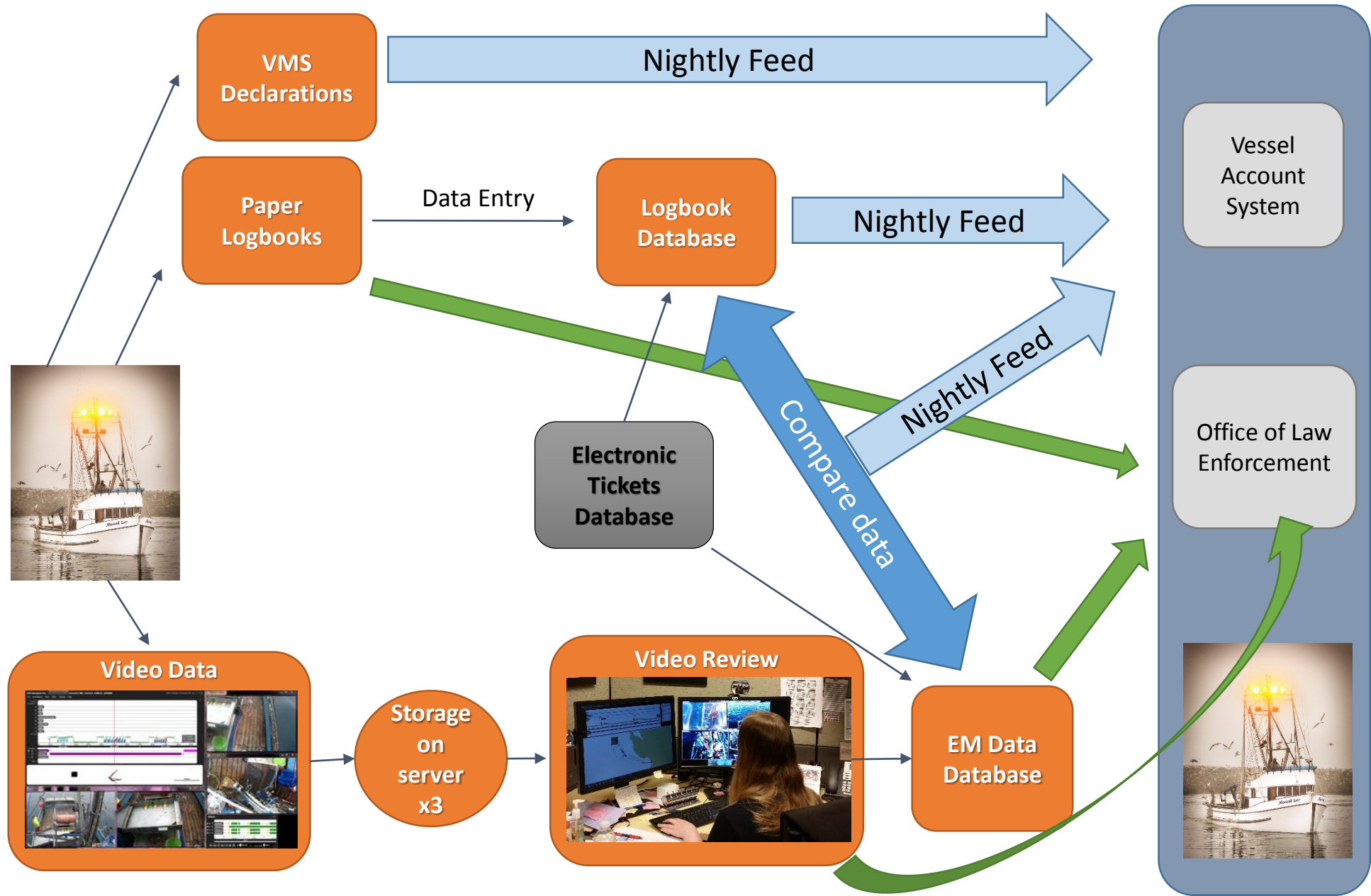
**Points of Contact**

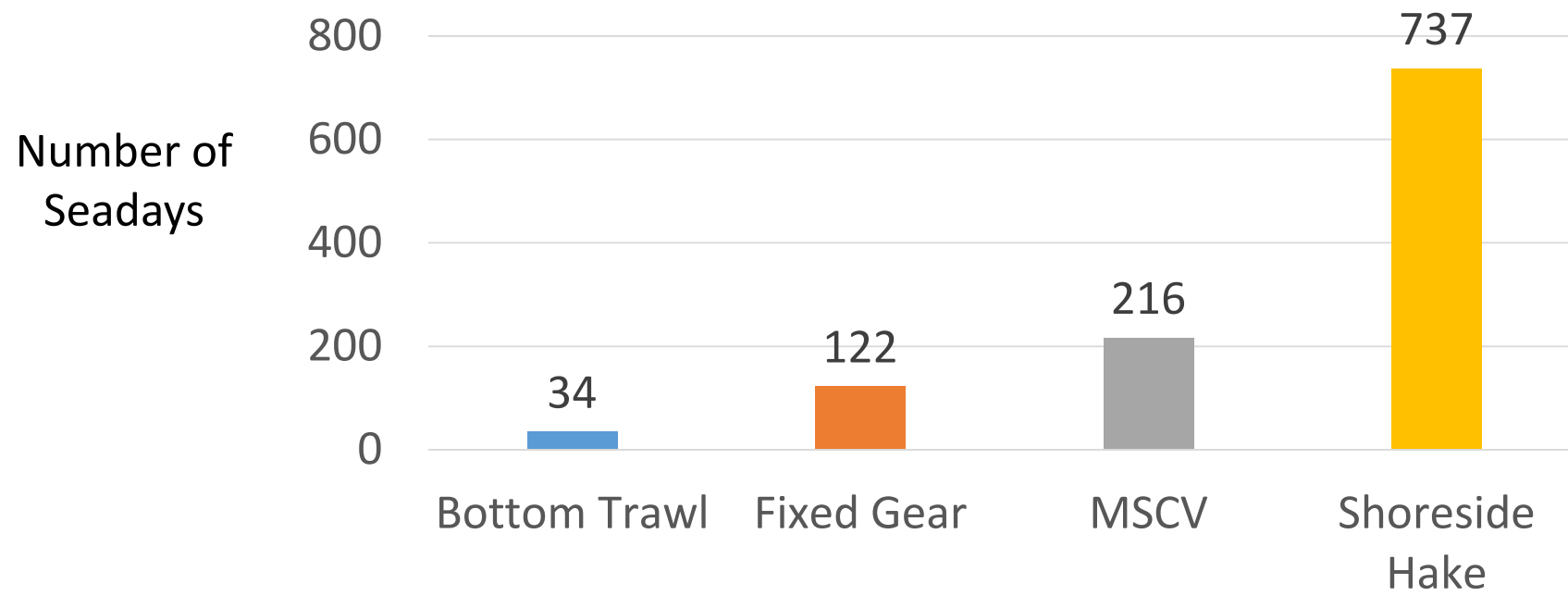
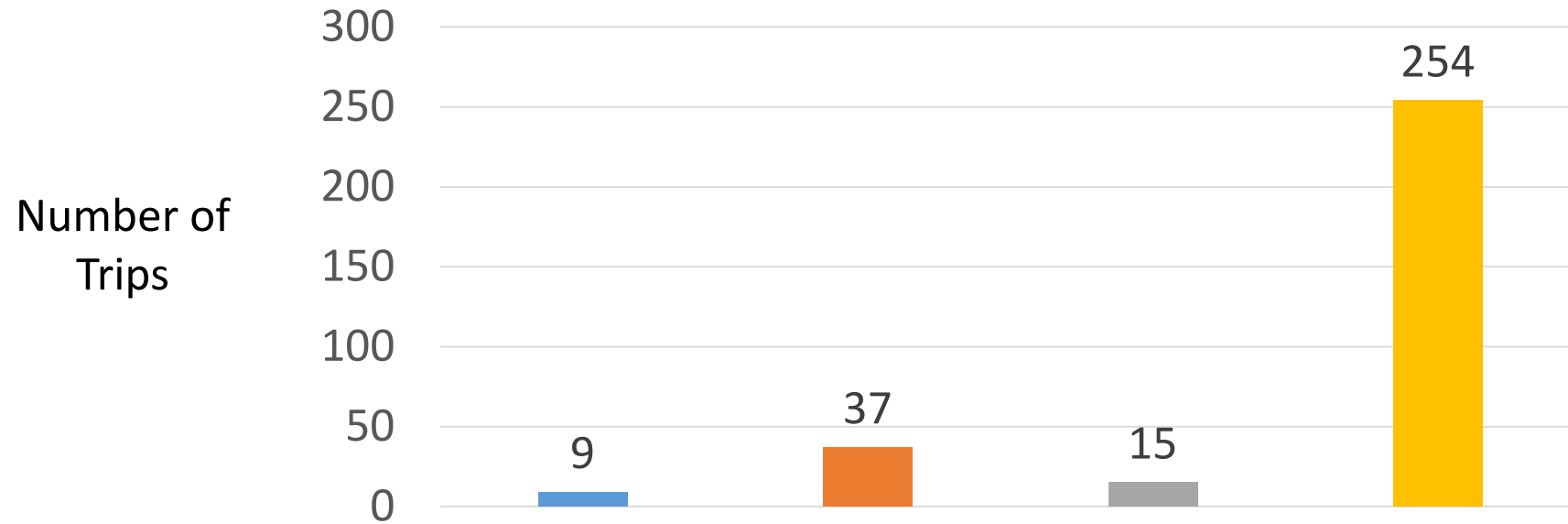
Contact	Number	Contact For
NMFS	<b>Daytime Hours (9-5)</b>	Notify of any system malfunction.
	1st: (360) 870-9061	
	2nd: (360) 235-4184	
<b>After Hours</b>	1st: (360) 870-9061	
	2nd: (360) 235-4184	
	3rd: (360) 786-8875	
	4th: 1-800-853-1564	
PIMFC:	503-595-3100	Questions about logbooks, video review, catch handling, or hard drive deliveries. Request additional hard
	Dave Colby: EMVFP@pimfc.org	



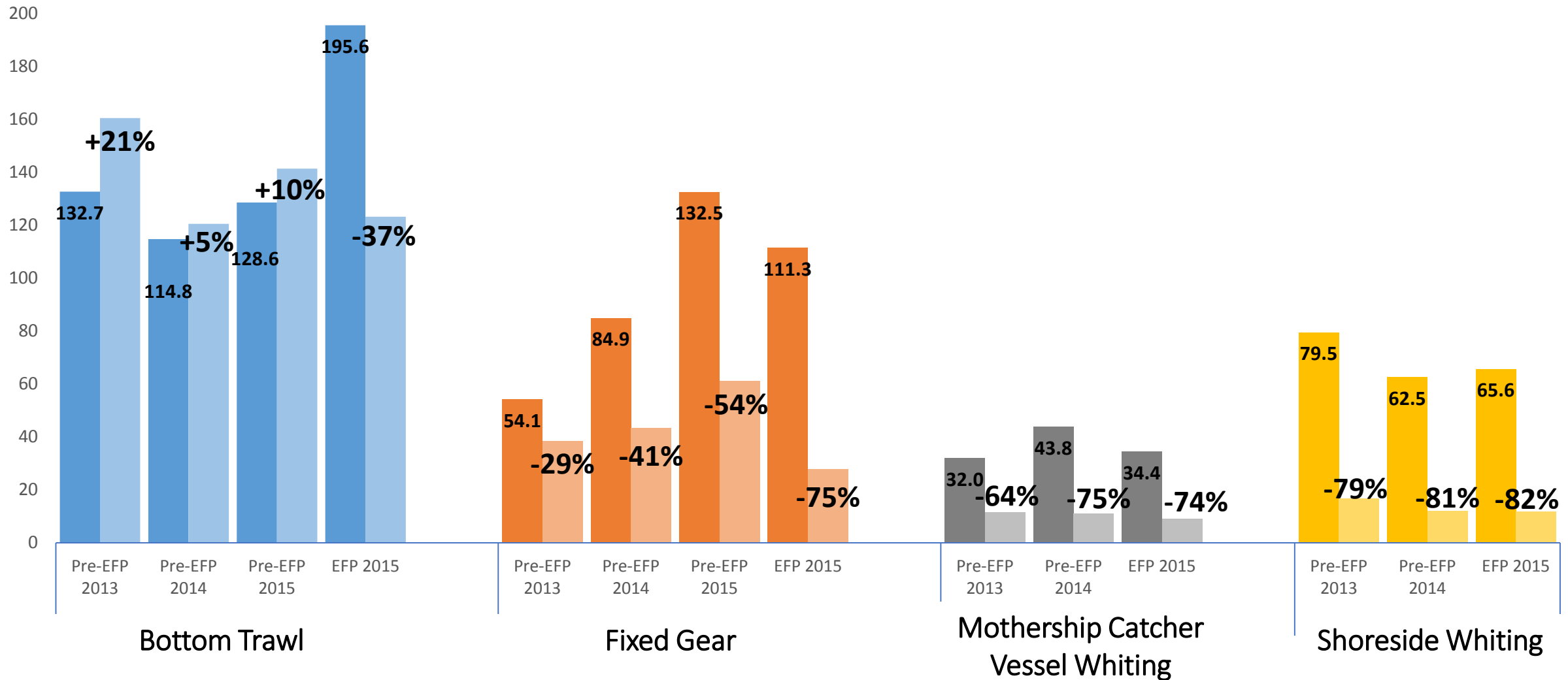




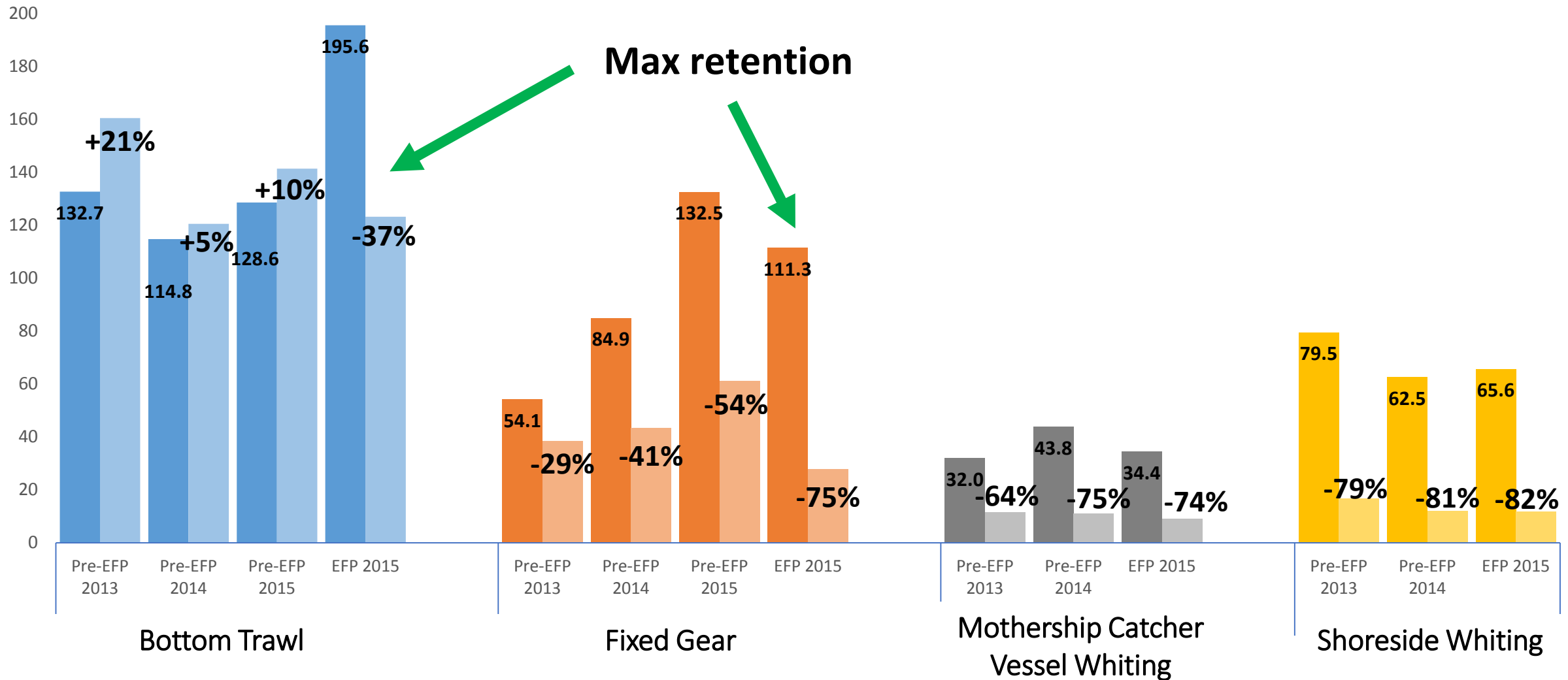




# EFP vs Pre-EFP: Average Haul Review Rate Compared to Average Actual Sort Time



# EFP vs Pre-EFP: Average Haul Review Rate Compared to Average Actual Sort Time



# What have we learned?

- There is a learning curve
- Tracking performance and following up is key (and a lot of work!)
- Logbooks are useful
- Equipment malfunctions do occur
- Tiered approach to regulations may be helpful

# What's next?

- More bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl vessels
- Compare logbook and EM discard estimates and develop business rules

# NMFS Recommendations for Whiting Regulatory Amendment

# NMFS Recommendations

- Reconsider inseason accounting for unintentional minor discards by mothership catcher vessels using logbook and EM data
- Revise FPA to specify that a third party would conduct video review funded by industry, but acknowledge that NMFS may need to conduct video review until such time as standards and infrastructure can be put in place to support third party review.



# MSCV Discard Accounting

- Currently, catcher vessel observer data is incorporated into mothership observer data
- What to do in EM program?
  - Council's FPA states "...for mothership sector deduct the aggregate accumulated unintentional minor discards (spillage) [preseason], estimated to be less than 0.5 percent of the mothership allocation."
  - Intended to reduce review costs by reducing data collection

# MSCV Discard Accounting

- FPA would result in little cost savings, because...
  - Whiting video review is extremely fast, low cost
  - Video would still need to be reviewed for major discard events
- Not consistent with accounting for vessels with observers
- Stale information, not clear how it would be updated

# MSCV Discard Accounting

- In EFPs, catcher vessel logbook discards incorporated into mothership observer data, then corrected with EM data
  - Consistent with observer method
  - Best available information
- NMFS recommends that the Council reconsider inseason accounting using EFP method

# EM Program Funding

- Alternatives for video reviewer:

1. NMFS
2. PSMFC
3. EM Provider
4. Third party

- Council FPA:

“Certified third party once a certification process has been established, until then, the Government, NMFS, or their agent (e.g., PSMFC).”

# EM Program Funding

- Guidance from DOC-GC is that NMFS and industry cannot both be eligible to fund the same requirement in regulation.
- A program component is either NMFS's or the industry's responsibility, with NMFS's role defined by its obligations to pay for government services.
- In practice, the Council's FPA makes sense. But we need to take a different route to get there...

# EM Program Funding

- Revise FPA to specify that a third party would conduct video review funded by industry, but acknowledge that NMFS may need to conduct video review until such time that NMFS has put standards and infrastructure in place to support third party review.

# Questions?

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- Phone: 206-526-4357

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