

## SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON VESSEL MOVEMENT MONITORING ALTERNATIVES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) met via webinar on November 4, 2015 and discussed the range of alternatives. The SAS continues to have concerns about the proposed changes in vessel monitoring system (VMS) technology and policy that could be untenable to the relatively smaller salmon troll vessels. The SAS supports status quo for salmon troll vessels which also participate in the open access groundfish fishery. The current rate of one ping per hour is appropriate for salmon trolling because the allowable groundfish take is low and limited to lingcod and yellowtail rockfish and the salmon fishery is not restricted by substantial closed areas. Salmon trollers that participate in the open access sablefish fishery usually only do so for a few months a year, but are required to maintain VMS operation year-round.

The proposal to increase the “ping rate”, or frequency of transmissions would require the installation of newer units on vessels which already have VMS transmitters. Higher monthly rates for more frequent transmissions would financially strain a fishery already limited by small quotas and trip limits.

Furthermore, smaller trollers with less battery capacity have already had problems with dead batteries caused by VMS units with high voltage draw while in harbor or at anchor and the increase frequency of transmissions by the newer VMS units would amplify this problem. This creates serious safety concerns for boats at anchor in heavy weather if the engine won't start due to a drained battery.

PFMC  
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