

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN UPDATE

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the Agenda Item C.5.a, NMFS Report and have the following comments.

Electronic fish tickets (EFT) have been used in trawl rationalization as either a demonstration or regulation requirement for the last nine years. The recent action by the Council will add all limited entry and open access sablefish landings to those for which EFTs are required.

The State of Oregon currently requires the submittal of EFT's for all non-treaty main-stem and select area commercial salmon fisheries on the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam. Additionally, Oregon authorizes EFT submittals for all commercial landings.

These actions afford enforcement a significant tool for monitoring and enforcing landing requirements enacted by this Council.

We would ask the Council to establish a timeframe for development of an umbrella rulemaking for EFT regulations to cover landings from all fishery management plan fisheries.

With respect to electronic technologies and access to data, the EC requests the Council send a letter to the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and NOAA General Counsel requesting the authorization of PSFMC access to VMS and fishery declaration data pertaining to the West Coast of the U.S. for the purposes of supporting fishery management and enforcement per the authority of the MSA 16 USC 1881a, Section 402(b). These data are being collected for enforcement and management purposes, but are not readily available for their intended purpose. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission handles significant state and Federal confidential data used for management and enforcement purposes but has not been able to gain access to these data to provide managers and enforcement with reports that are central to their primary tasks.

PFMC
04/12/16