

FINAL ACTION TO ADOPT FIXED GEAR ELECTRONIC MONITORING ALTERNATIVE AND DEEM WHITING AND FIXED GEAR ELECTRONIC MONITORING REGULATIONS

At the November 2015 Council meeting, the Council revised their final preferred alternative for the midwater trawl whiting fishery electronic monitoring (EM) program and reviewed the NMFS draft EM regulations for the fishery. In addition, the Council scheduled for the April 2016 meeting the verification of their final preferred alternative (FPA) for the fixed gear fishery that was adopted in September 2014, and deeming of NMFS draft EM regulations for the whiting midwater trawl and fixed gear fisheries. The Council recommended that council staff arrange webinars for the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (GEMPAC and GEMTAC) to further develop the draft EM regulations for both fisheries. On February 20th 2016, a one-day webinar was held with the GEMPAC and GEMTAC to provide comments to NMFS for potential changes to the draft regulations.

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to confirm or revise its final preferred alternatives for the fixed gear fishery that were adopted in 2014 (Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1). Council staff incorporated the November 2015 FPA for the whiting fishery and the 2014 adopted FPA for the fixed gear fishery into the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) (Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2). Some preliminary impact analyses were added the draft EA.

Also under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to deem final regulatory language for whiting and fixed gear fisheries as necessary or appropriate to implement the Council's FPAs for both fisheries (Agenda Item F4, NMFS Report). The NMFS Report provides recommended final CFR-style regulations for deeming, as well as additional information about implementation. The GEMPAC and GEMTAC will meet at the April 2016 Council meeting. The GEMPAC will provide a report to the Council regarding their recommendations for the two action items listed below.

Council Action:

1. **Confirm or revise the adopted final preferred alternative for the fixed gear fishery electronic monitoring program.**
2. **Deem regulations for implementing Council final action for whiting and fixed gear electronic monitoring**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 1: Fixed Gear Fishery Final Preferred Alternatives and Options, September 2014.
2. Agenda Item F.4, Attachment 2: An Electronic Monitoring Program for the Limited Entry Groundfish Trawl Fishery (*Full Version Electronic only*).
3. Agenda Item F.4.a, NMFS Report, Including Recommended CFR-style Regulations.

Agenda Order:

- F.4 Final Action to Adopt Fixed Gear Electronic Monitoring Alternative and Deem Whiting and Fixed Gear Electronic Monitoring Regulations Brett Wiedoff
 - a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Confirm or Revise Adopted Council Final Preferred Alternative for Fixed Gear Fishery Electronic Monitoring and Deem Regulations for Implementing Council Final Action for Whiting and Fixed Gear Fisheries Electronic Monitoring

PFMC
03/23/16