

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

There is a need to adequately monitor the catch share program for compliance in an economical and flexible manner while meeting the goals and objectives of national policies and standards, the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP, the trawl rationalization program, and all applicable laws and acts including the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). NMFS and the Council identified that EM may be a viable option to monitor the catch share program for compliance with IFQs and individual and mothership coop sector allocations. The purpose of the proposed action is to meet the following regulatory objectives:

1. Reduce total fleet monitoring costs to levels sustainable for the fleet and agency;
2. Reduce observer costs for vessels that have a relatively lower total revenue;
3. Maintain monitoring capabilities in small ports;
4. Increase national net economic value generated by the fishery;
5. Decrease incentives for fishing in unsafe conditions;
6. Use the technology most suitable and cost effective for any particular function in the monitoring system; and
7. Reduce the physical intrusiveness of the monitoring system by reducing observer presence.

At the September 2014 Council meeting in Spokane, WA, the Council selected their final preferred alternatives for an electronic monitoring program for the Pacific coast limited entry trawl groundfish fishery catch shares program. The following table provide the Council's selections:

Table 1. Fixed gear fishery (longline and pot) final preferred alternatives and options with footnotes.

Alternatives/Option Choices for Fixed Gear Fishery (longline and pot)				
Step 1. Choose Overall Alternative (this will be the primary data source for discard estimates)				
Alternative 1: No Action – Human Observers Estimate Discards				
Alternative 2. Camera Recordings Use to Estimate Discards				
Alternative 3. Logbooks used to Estimate Discard with Logbook Audits a/				
Step 2. For Alternative 2 or 3, Choose an Option from Each of the Following Rows				
EM Component	Options for Each EM Component Category			
2.3.2.1 (Alt 1) and 2.3.3 (Alt2) Video Reading Protocol (% review)	A. 100% (Alt 2 only)	B. X% (Alt 2 Only)	C. X% (Alt 2 Only) plus logbook review	Logbook Audit (Alt 3 Only) a/

2.3.2.2 and Discard Accounting - Individual or Fleetwide	A. One Discard Category, Full Accounting for All Discards	B. Two Discard Categories, Sector or ACL Deduction for Category 2 Discards	C. Two Discard Categories, No Accounting for Category 2 Discards		
2.3.2.3 Retention Requirements	A. Maximize	B. Optimize b/			
2.3.2.4 Halibut Retention/ Discard with Fishery Specific Options	Default Rates A. IPHC Gear Rate longline 16%; pot 18% mortality c/	Default Rates B. WCGOP Rate C. Vessel Specific Rate	D. Discard Exemption (100% retained)	E. Captain/Crew Evaluation	F. With EM Data - Via IPHC Approved Method c/
2.3.2.5 Discard Species List Adjustment	A. NMFS Rulemaking Process	B. Routine Process	C. Full Council Rulemaking Process		
2.3. Eligibility for Camera Use	A. Initial and Continued Eligibility Requirements				
2.3.2.6 EM Vessel Operation Plan - IVMP Expiration	A. No Expiration	B. Annual			
Declaration of EM Use	A. Annual - choose for entire year	B. Annual - project for year (monthly/quarterly)	C. Declare Until Changed (some limit on frequency of change)	D. Declare Until Changed (no limit on frequency)	
3.3.2.8 Data Transfer Process (Not Mutually Exclusive)	A. PSMFC Staff	B. EM provider	C. SS Catch Monitor	D. Vessel Operator (crew)	E. 3rd Party
Video and Data Processing Analysis	A. NMFS d/	B. PSMFC	C. EM Provider	D. 3rd Party d/	
Payment for Scientific Data Collection/Observations	A. Government	B. Industry	C. Combination		

a/ The percent review under Alternative 3 to be the minimum level determined to be necessary to ensure compliance (no less than 10%) with an escalation clause for non-compliance.

b/ Optimized retention with allowable discarded species informed by EFPs and other field work by PSMFC (if no species are allowed to be discarded due to inability to speciate and accurately estimate discard amounts then it would be equivalent to Maximized Retention).

c/ Option A may be the method that can be applied at this time. Prefer Option F if the method is approved by IPHC.

d/ Certified Third party (Option D) once a certification process has been established, until then, Government (Option A) – NMFS or their agent (e.g. PSMFC).