

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING-  
PRELIMINARY PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES AND THIRD-  
PARTY REVIEW

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Ms. Melissa Hooper of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on electronic monitoring (EM) development updates for the bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl fisheries. The GAP also heard a presentation by Patrick Mirick of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and their effort to model halibut discard mortality rates when vessels use EM. The GAP appreciates the updates and offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP continues to believe that EM for bottom trawl can be effective from an accountability standpoint and cost effective relative to 100 percent human observer coverage.

The GAP endorses the recommendations in the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) Report (Agenda Item E.6.a, Supplemental GEMPAC Report). Additional GAP comments and recommendations on the three primary items under this agenda item are described in the following.

**Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs)**

The GAP supports the GMT Report (Agenda Item E.6.a) Alternative DMR rate calculation method and their recommendation that the Council task the Science and Statistical Committee with reviewing the GMT Alternative. The GAP believes application of such an alternative could be done in an accountable and cost effective way. Further development of the specific method will be required.

**Third-Party Video Review Policy**

The GEMPAC did not have any recommendations or comments on this topic. The GAP also struggled to come up with particular recommendations, but we do offer a few comments. The GAP understands the basis for the decision that NMFS cannot use any entity (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission; PSMFC) as a “sole provider” for video review, but it does concern us in terms of costs and program continuity if PSMFC were not to be the video review provider. The GAP believes that positive results from the EFP in terms of operations and review of log book discards is a positive sign that video review could be reduced from 100% and audits would only be needed at a minimal rate.

**Discard Species List Adjustment**

The GAP concurs with GEMPAC in recommending Option 2 in Supplemental NMFS Report 1.