

**GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING –
FINAL PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES, DISCARD SPECIES LISTS,
AND THIRD-PARTY REVIEW**

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard reports from Mr. Brett Wiedoff (Council staff), Ms. Melissa Hooper (National Marine Fisheries Service), and Mr. Patrick Mirick (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) on issues related to the Council's current action on electronic monitoring. We offer the following recommendations and comments:

General

Electronic Monitoring (EM) has been identified as one of the ways to effectively reduce the expense of operating in the trawl individual fishing quota program. Currently, the limited discarding allowed along with the 90 percent discard mortality rate for all halibut is deterring more participants from using EM. The GAP believes that moving forward with final action for bottom trawl and mid-water non-whiting trawl is important and we hope to continue to see improvements in the bottom trawl and mid-water non-whiting trawl programs that will result in additional vessels participating in the EM program.

Adopt Final Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rate

- Bottom Trawl- The GAP supports implementing the protocol developed by the GMT and endorsed by the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC).
- Midwater Trawl– The GAP supports the GEMPAC recommendations for a Final Preferred Alternative based on how the vessel declares:
 - If a vessel declares optimized retention, then apply Option 1 - Default rate of 90 percent DMR for all discarded halibut under EM.
 - If a vessel declares maximized retention, then apply Option 2 - The halibut must be landed and a DMR of 100 percent is applied.

Discard Species Lists

The GAP supports the GEMPAC recommendation of Option 2 as the Final Preferred Alternative.

Third Party Review

The GAP supports the GEMPAC recommendation of moving forward with the third-party review as a Final Preferred Alternative. Additionally, the GAP strongly supports the concerns raised in the GEMPAC report relative to the third-party review.

Future Agenda Items

The GAP supports the GEMPAC suggestions for future agenda items which include video review time, video storage issues (Federal and third-party), and catch monitor issues.