

ELECTRONIC MONITORING COST ALLOCATION POLICY DIRECTIVE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests that all U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils review and provide comment on their draft policy directive for electronic monitoring programs (EM). The Procedural Directive would establish a framework for allocating costs for EM programs in federally managed U.S. fisheries between NOAA Fisheries and the fishing industry, and a timeline for implementing the framework. Currently, all appropriated funds designated for implementing systems to monitor the landings of fishing vessels at sea are fully subscribed. As a result, any new monitoring system must either be funded through discretionary spending appropriations or be substantially funded through non-appropriated funds, such as industry funding. In order to effectively implement the Policy Directive, this procedural directive is being issued to explain the categories of costs associated with EM programs and describe how such program costs should be allocated between NOAA Fisheries and industry participants. NOAA Fisheries will use this procedural directive as a framework to evaluate EM implementation.

In addition to this procedural directive on cost allocation, NOAA Fisheries will be developing a procedural directive on EM data storage for EM video held by a third party, contracted by the fishing industry. The policy will consider the costs and benefits of storing video for various lengths of time, as well as the management, scientific, and enforcement needs of any EM program. NOAA Fisheries will also consider different types of data storage to reduce costs to industry.

Council Action:

Adopt Final Recommendations on the Electronic Monitoring Cost Allocation Policy Directive.

Reference Materials:

Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1: Draft NMFS Procedural Directive on Cost Allocations in Electronic Monitoring Programs for Federally Managed U.S Fisheries.

Agenda Order:

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| C.2 | Electronic Monitoring Cost Allocation Policy Directive | Jim Seger |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Adopt Final Recommendations on the Electronic Monitoring Cost Allocation Policy Directive | |