

ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM REVIEW AND COST ALLOCATION PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

At the June 2018 meeting, the Council received the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) draft Procedural Directive on Cost Allocations in Electronic Monitoring Programs for Federally Managed U.S Fisheries (Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1). During the meeting, the Council discussed development of a recommendation letter identifying several items of concern, requested an extension of the review timeline, and requested NMFS staff provide a detailed overview of the directive at the September meeting. During the meeting, NMFS informed the Council that an extension had been granted, which created the opportunity to finalize the draft recommendations letter at this meeting. The Council also directed the Council's Ad Hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) to review the directive prior to the September Council meeting and provide its recommendations prior to finalization of the Council's comment letter (Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2). NMFS staff will provide an overview of the draft directive at the September meeting.

The GEMPAC is scheduled to meet via webinar on August 17, 2018 to hear the NMFS presentation and discuss the directive. In addition, the GEMPAC will provide the Council a prioritized list of other electronic monitoring (EM) issues that need further discussion for continued development of the West Coast EM program (e.g., the transition plan for Third Party video review, reduction of video review from 100 percent, and shoreside catch monitor issues). Based on this information, the Council may want to schedule priority EM items on the Council's year-at-a-glance document to continue examining EM issues and receive updates. Currently, the Council has tentatively scheduled an EM Program Review agenda item for April 2019 that is focused on percent video review reduction options and the forthcoming draft NMFS data storage procedural directive.

During the September meeting, the Council will receive an EM Program update from NMFS regarding the final rule for the midwater trawl whiting fishery and fixed gear fishery, the timeline for development of the EM bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl environmental assessment with proposed and final rule, halibut discard mortality rate implementation, and the timeline for the forthcoming draft NMFS data storage procedural directive identified in the draft Cost Allocation Procedural Directive. In addition, the current EM exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for all four catch share fisheries will expire at the end of 2018, therefore the Council may want to consider extension of these EFPs based on the EM update. If an extension is desired, then the Council may take final action in November to recommend one to NMFS.

Finally, Council staff provides a report regarding attendance at the International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference in Vigo, Spain (Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 3). Council staff appreciate the opportunity to attend on behalf of the Council and showcase its advancement of the West Coast EM Program.

Council Action:

Review the Status of the Electronic Monitoring Program, Provide Guidance on Priority Issues, and Adopt Final Recommendations on the Cost Allocation Procedural Directive.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: Draft NMFS Procedural Directive on Cost Allocations in Electronic Monitoring Programs for Federally Managed U.S Fisheries.
2. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2: Draft Letter of Recommendations to NOAA Regarding Procedural Directive.
3. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 3: Report Regarding Attendance at IFOMC.

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Electronic Monitoring Program Review and Cost Allocation Procedural Directive Brett Wiedoff
- a. National Marine Fisheries Service Presentation Brett Alger
- b. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Review the Status of the Electronic Monitoring Program, Provide Guidance on Priority Issues, and Adopt Final Recommendations on the Cost Allocation Procedural Directive

PFMC
08/13/18