

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM REVIEW AND COST ALLOCATION PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) was briefed by Mr. Brett Weidoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, and Mr. Brett Alger, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) National Observer Program, and some members participated on the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) webinar on August 17, 2018. While there are several issues being considered under this agenda item, the GMT focused its attention on 1) electronic monitoring (EM) exempted fishing permit (EFP) extensions for 2019 and 2) prioritization of remaining issues described in [Agenda Item F.3.b, Supplemental GEMPAC Report 1, September 2018](#).

### EM EFP Extension for 2019

Currently, all EM EFPs are set to expire at the end of 2018. However, the GMT was informed by NMFS staff that the EM rulemaking for whiting and fixed gear<sup>1</sup> may be delayed, and therefore the Council may want to consider extending the EFPs through 2019 (or until the rule is implemented). Additionally, the bottom trawl and non-whiting proposed and final rules are likely to extend into 2019. **Therefore, the GMT recommends that the Council extend all four EM EFPs through 2019.** When the final rule is implemented, the EFPs would be terminated and the fleets would operate under the regulations. The Council would need to schedule final action on the 2019 EFPs at the November 2018 meeting, which the GMT believes could be handled under inseason as noticed.

### Prioritization of Remaining EM Issues

In Agenda Item F.3.b, Supplemental GEMPAC Report 1, September 2018, the GEMPAC discusses a list of items that require further discussion by the Council. The GMT supports the GEMPAC recommendation that an agenda item be scheduled in November 2018 to provide updates on progress made by the proposed “sub groups” noted in the GEMPAC report. We will provide comment on this work and prioritization of these issues in November, if the item is scheduled.

PFMC  
09/10/18

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<sup>1</sup> The GMT notes that these regulations would only be for pot/trap gear as no vessels have participated in the EM EFP with hook-and-line gear. If vessels were interested in fishing with hook-and-line gear with EM in the future, another EFP would be needed to assess feasibility and determine impacts.