

## GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING (EM)- REVIEW OF EXISTING AND OUT-OF-CYCLE EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPS)

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an overview of this agenda item from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, and offers the following comments and recommendations.

### **Electronic Monitoring Exempted Fishing Permits for 2019**

**As in September, the GMT recommends the Council extend the 2018 electronic monitoring (EM) exempted fishing permits (EFPs) for whiting trawl, fixed gear, non-whiting midwater trawl, and bottom trawl through 2019 (or until the rulemaking is complete).** The GMT understands from [Agenda Item G.7.b, Public Comment 1, November 2018](#) that industry has had several discussions since September on possible adjustments to the 2018 EM EFPs that could be made via changes to vessel monitoring plans (VMPs) in 2019. As the GMT is unclear what changes are being proposed, we are unable to comment on any potential management implications. While recognizing the desire to use VMPs to be more flexible, the GMT urges the National Marine Fisheries Service to be cautious in allowing changes outside of the Council process that could impact accountability and erode data quality in this fishery.

### **GEMPAC Meeting**

Public Comment 1 also recommended that the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) meeting be held prior to the April 2019 Council meeting to discuss EM issues, which may include the transition plan from EFP to regulation and video review protocols. If this meeting is held, the GMT would like a member of the team to be present to hear discussions.

PFMC  
11/06/18