

GROUND FISH ELECTRONIC MONITORING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT
REGARDING ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

The Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (Committees) met via webinar on May 29, 2019. The Committees received a presentation from Mr. Brett Alger about the development of national directives for electronic monitoring and other efforts by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement Electronic Monitoring ([EM] Agenda Item D.6.a, NMFS Report 1 and 2). The Committees thank Mr. Alger for the detailed report and appreciate the discussion.

Regarding the forthcoming draft EM Data Storage Procedural Directive, the Committees recommend the Council schedule a two-meeting review process when the draft is released to all Regional Fishery Management Councils for review and comment. If available in time, the draft document could be reviewed along with the EM Program Guidelines review that is scheduled for the September and November 2019 Council meetings.

During the meeting there was discussion about the potential misalignment of the proposed time lines for data storage in the procedural directive presentation (approx. 12-15 months) and the forthcoming final rule for EM in the whiting and fixed gear catch share fisheries (unknown at time of webinar). Some individuals are concerned that if there is misalignment, the Council and NMFS may need to revisit the issue, which could further delay final implementation of the EM program and/or potentially compromise 3rd party EM providers' readiness for the scheduled 2021 implementation.

PFMC
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