

ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

In 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released an Electronic Technologies Policy Directive that provides guidance on the adoption of electronic technology solutions in fishery-dependent data collection programs. Electronic technologies include the use of vessel monitoring systems, electronic logbooks, video cameras for electronic monitoring (EM), and observer technologies, among other systems. The Policy Directive was due for renewal in 2018. NMFS recently updated the directive and will provide an overview during the June meeting (Agenda Item D.6.a, NMFS Report 1).

In June and September of 2018, the Council reviewed and provided comments to NMFS on the draft EM Cost Allocation Procedural Directive. The Procedural Directive establishes a framework for allocating costs between NMFS and the fishing industry for EM programs in Federally managed U.S. fisheries. NMFS finalized the directive in early 2019 and will provide an overview during the June meeting (Agenda Item D.6.a, NMFS Report 2).

During the June 2019 meeting, NMFS will provide an overview of current efforts to develop a procedural directive regarding EM data storage. The procedural directive will consider the costs and benefits of storing EM video for various lengths of time, as well as the management, scientific, and enforcement needs of EM programs around the country. NMFS will also consider different types of data storage to reduce costs to industry. An overview of the project was presented to the Council Coordination Committee in May 2019 and to the Council's Ad Hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee via webinar on May 29, 2019 (*Agenda Item D.6.a, Supplemental GEMPAC Report 1*). NMFS will publish the draft procedural directive after the June 2019 meeting. The Council will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft directive during subsequent Council meetings in 2019.

In addition, NMFS is developing a new retention schedule for EM data held by NMFS (i.e., Federal records), including video and data collected from EM programs, and developing guidance for updating the Regional ET Implementation Plans. NMFS will provide an overview of both projects.

Council Action:

Review the Procedural Directive and Develop Recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.6.a, NMFS Report 1: Revised Electronic Technologies Policy Directive.
2. Agenda Item D.6.a, NMFS Report 2: Final EM Cost Allocation Procedural Directive.
3. *Agenda Item D.6.a, Supplemental GEMPAC Report 1.*
4. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#))

Agenda Order:

- D.6 Electronic Monitoring Program 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 Procedural Directive and Develop Recommendations to National Marine Fisheries Service

PFMC
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