

GROUND FISH ELECTRONIC MONITORING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT ON FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) discussed the upcoming calendar related to Electronic Monitoring (EM) and would like to see EM on the Council's November agenda.

The committee recommends that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) make the draft manual available to the public soon and prior to the November advanced briefing book if at all possible. The GEMPAC believes that the manual is a critical piece when determining the future expense of the program. To that end, the GEMPAC believes the Council and its advisors should have two opportunities to review the manual before it is finalized – initially in November and again in the spring when NMFS has hopefully incorporated Council feedback into the manual.

The GEMPAC expressed concern about the uncertainties around future costs and would like NMFS to prepare and share current costs along with future estimates with stakeholders as soon as possible, preferable in November.

Lastly, the GEMPAC would like to see a more firmed-up calendar with specific tasks and deadlines. The GEMPAC also recommends a November 2019 discussion that identifies a contingency plan if critical deadlines are not met. For example, November is the normal time when groundfish exempted fishing permits (EFPs) are discussed – if it becomes necessary to ask the Council to extend EFPs beyond 2020 then November 2019 might be a time to do make that request.

PFMC
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