

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING
PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND DATA STORAGE PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this agenda item from Ms. Melissa Hooper. The GAP was also briefed on the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee (GEMPAC) meeting and draft statement. The GAP offers the following comments and recommendations.

The GAP strongly supports the GEMPAC statement. In particular, the GAP shares the concerns expressed there and in public comment about the direction of the electronic monitoring (EM) program development and its ability to meet program goals to reduce monitoring costs, particularly for those vessels with lower overall revenue. Based on available information, it is impossible to accurately assess the likely costs of the EM program, but what can be said with certainty is that industry costs will increase under the new system, and agency costs will increase as well. Coupled with significant remaining uncertainties about critical design components, like video review rates, the GAP concurs with the GEMPAC recommendation to delay implementation of the final rule for whiting and fixed gear vessels, and delay publishing a rule for bottom trawl and non-whiting midwater trawl. To that end, we request that the Council notice the EM item for the November Council meeting agenda such that they could recommend such a delay, and retain Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in its current role as the video review provider.

The GAP also concurs with the GEMPAC statement with regard to the data storage policy directive and the EM implementation guidance.

PFMC
09/15/19