# NMFS Report

EM Program Guidelines and National Data Storage Procedural Directive

September 14, 2019

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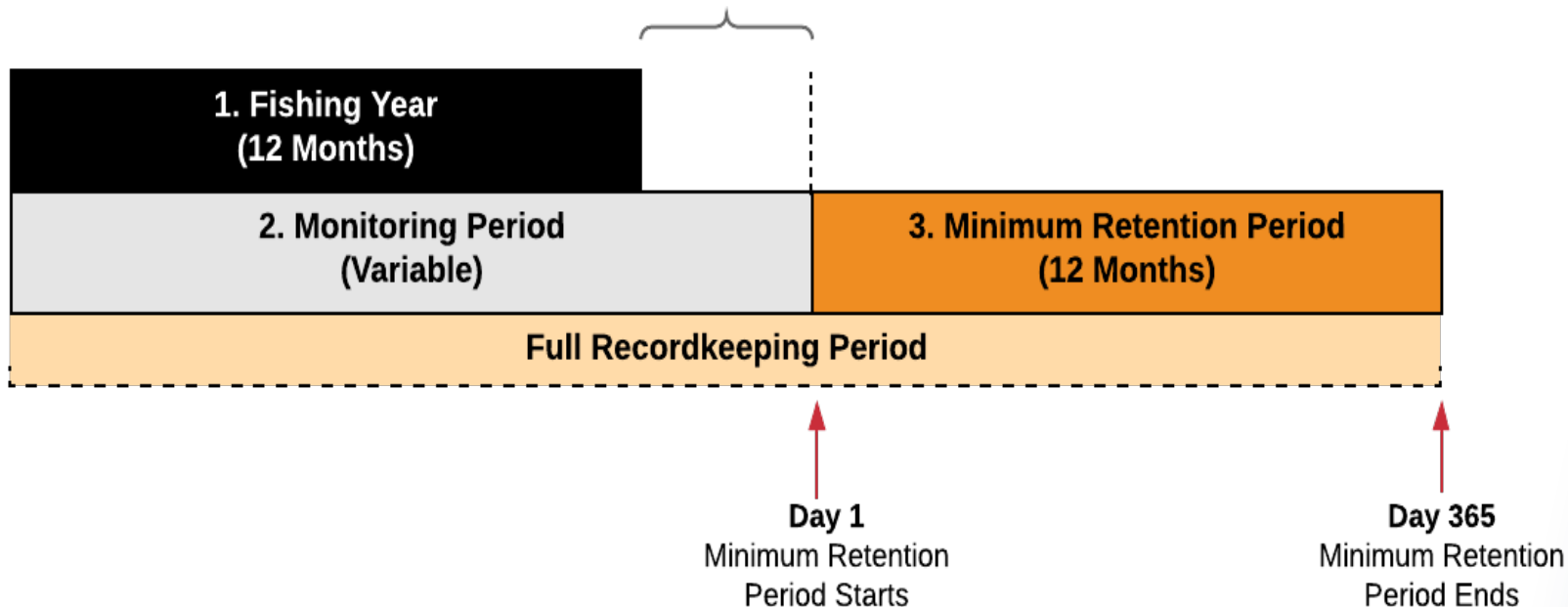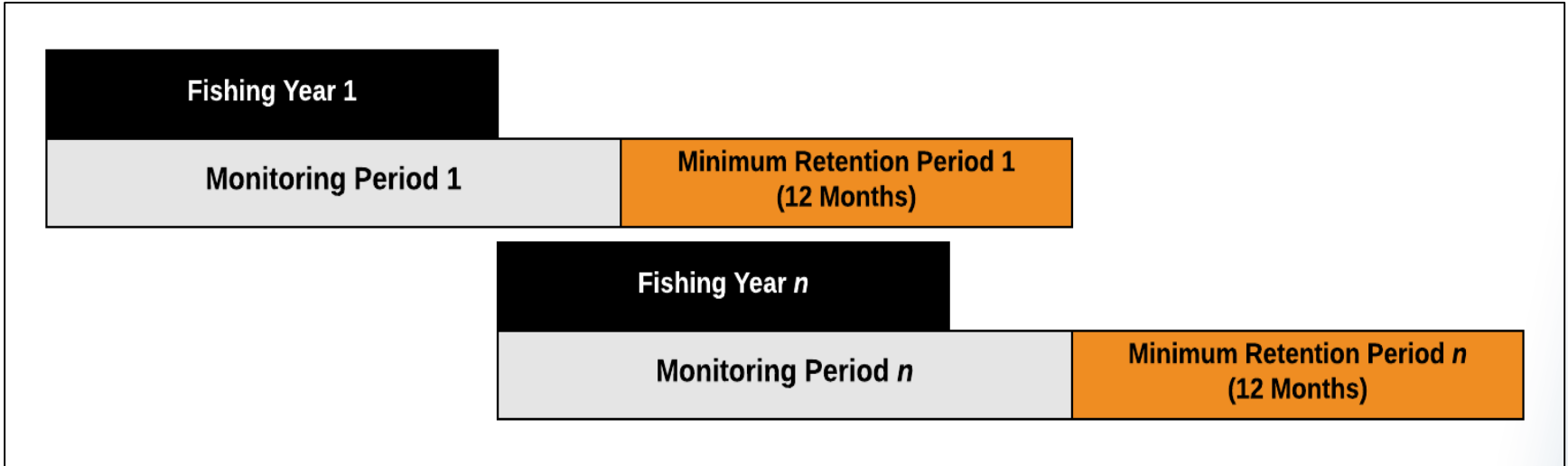
# National Data Storage Directive

- Addresses minimum retention period for vessel owners' EM data held by third party provider

- Does not address Federal "records"

- Ensures data available to NMFS for evaluating EM providers and participants and administering the program

- Implement within 2 years

The monitoring period often extends beyond the close of a fishery as data are collected, processed, and analyzed

1. Fishing Year (12 Months)

2. Monitoring Period (Variable)

3. Minimum Retention Period (12 Months)

Full Recordkeeping Period

Day 1
Minimum Retention
Period Starts

Day 365
Minimum Retention
Period Ends

# Figure 1:  EM Data Life Cycle Model

# Figure 2: Multi-fishing Year Example

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# EM Guidelines
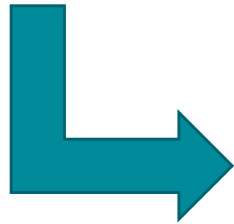
- Overview

- Vessel Monitoring Plans

- EM Service Plans

# How did we get here?

Regulations

Program Guidelines
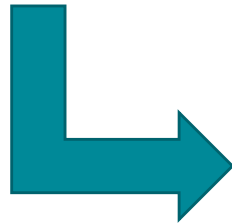
EM Service Plans
Vessel Monitoring Plans

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# How do EM program guidelines work?

- Best practices and other information that NMFS will use to evaluate proposed service and vessel monitoring plans.

- Lays out the specifics of an individual provider's or vessel's plans.

- Allows variation between providers and vessels, provided the program's needs are met.

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# How do EM program guidelines work?

- Review drafts at Sept and Nov 2019 Council meetings

- Finalize Dec 2019, publish notice in Federal Register

- Update annually

# VMP Guidelines - Vessels

- Vessel monitoring plan guidance
  - Catch handling language
  - Malfunction tables

- VMP templates

- Same as EFP

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# EMSP Guidelines

- Regulations establish general requirements:

  "Procedures for tracking hard drives and/or data files throughout their use cycle,"

- Guidelines describe best practices:

  "Hard drives/or data files should be individually labeled with a unique ID number. Each step of the HD/data file through the process, including access and by whom, should be logged so that chain of custody can be tracked."

- EM Service Plan:

  "HDs are individually labeled with a unique ID number that is tracked throughout their use cycle. The ID number, staff member name, date and time, are logged when the HD is received, when the data files are extracted, and when the HD is scrubbed and returned to the field. The ID number is also logged by the captain on the manifest that accompanies the HD when it is mailed in."

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# Questions

- Is there any additional information needed by EM service providers in the guidelines to complete their EM service plans and plan their service delivery models?

- Are any of the guidelines not relevant or appropriate for the groundfish EM program?

- Are there other best practices that EM vessels or providers know of that would be helpful to include in the guidelines?

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# EM Manual

- Video review protocols

- Sampling rate for video review

- Methods for species ID

- Methods for estimating weight

- Business rules for comparison of EM vs. LB data

- Format, data fields, and timing for reports

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