



Midwater Trawlers Cooperative Electronic Monitoring September 15, 2019



**Whiting
Exempted Fishing Permit
Sponsors
2015-Present**



Industry

Providers

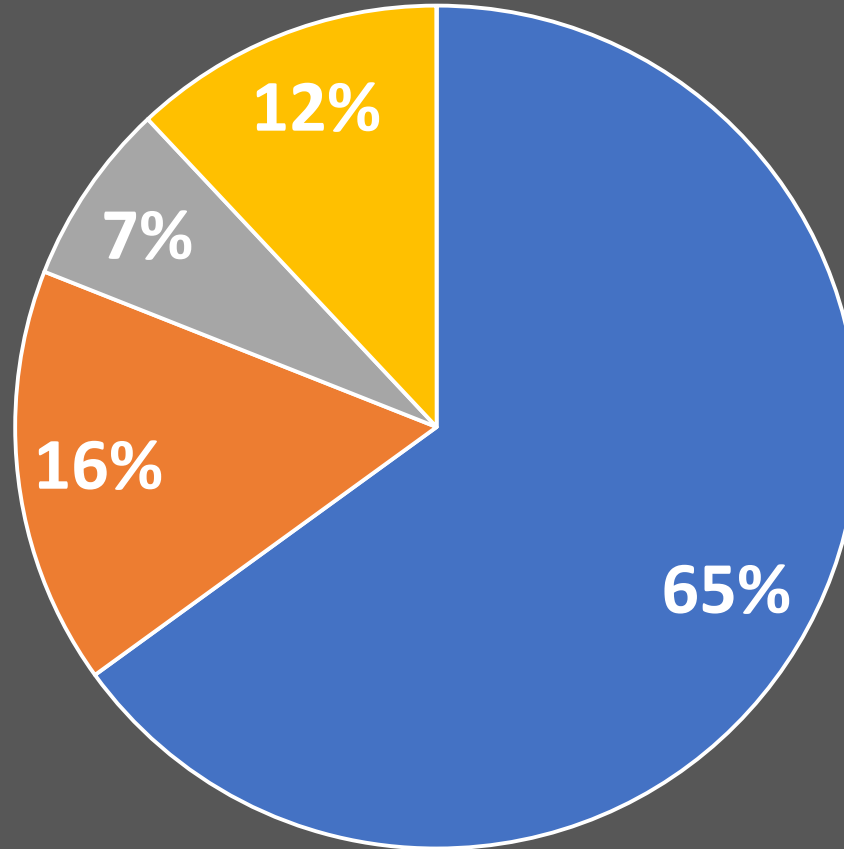
ENGO's

PSMFC

Council

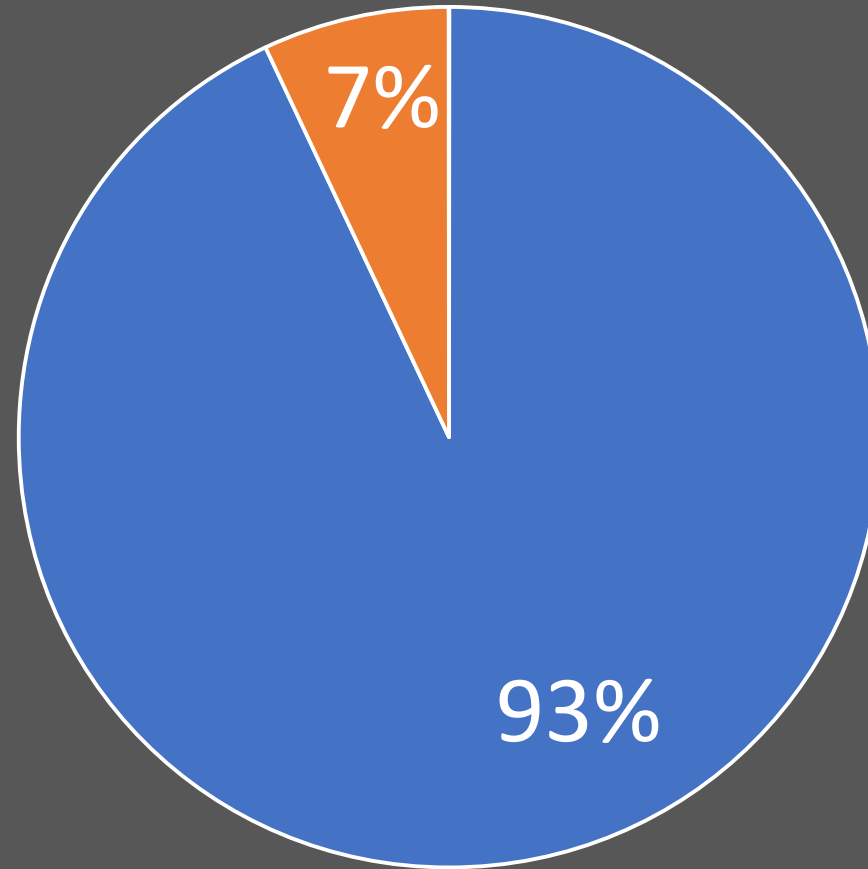
NMFS

EFP Participants 2019



■ Whiting ■ Bottom Trawl ■ Fixed Gear ■ CA Groundfish

Percent of Whiting Vessels Using EM



■ Using EM ■ No EM



Program Goals

- Cost effective
- Operationally Flexible
- Efficient
- Acceptable Alternative to Human Observers

Cost Effective?
\$5,600 - \$15,000
Per whiting vessel
Annually





Flexible / Efficient?

Drive submission
requirements

Discard definitions



Acceptable Alternative to Human Observers?

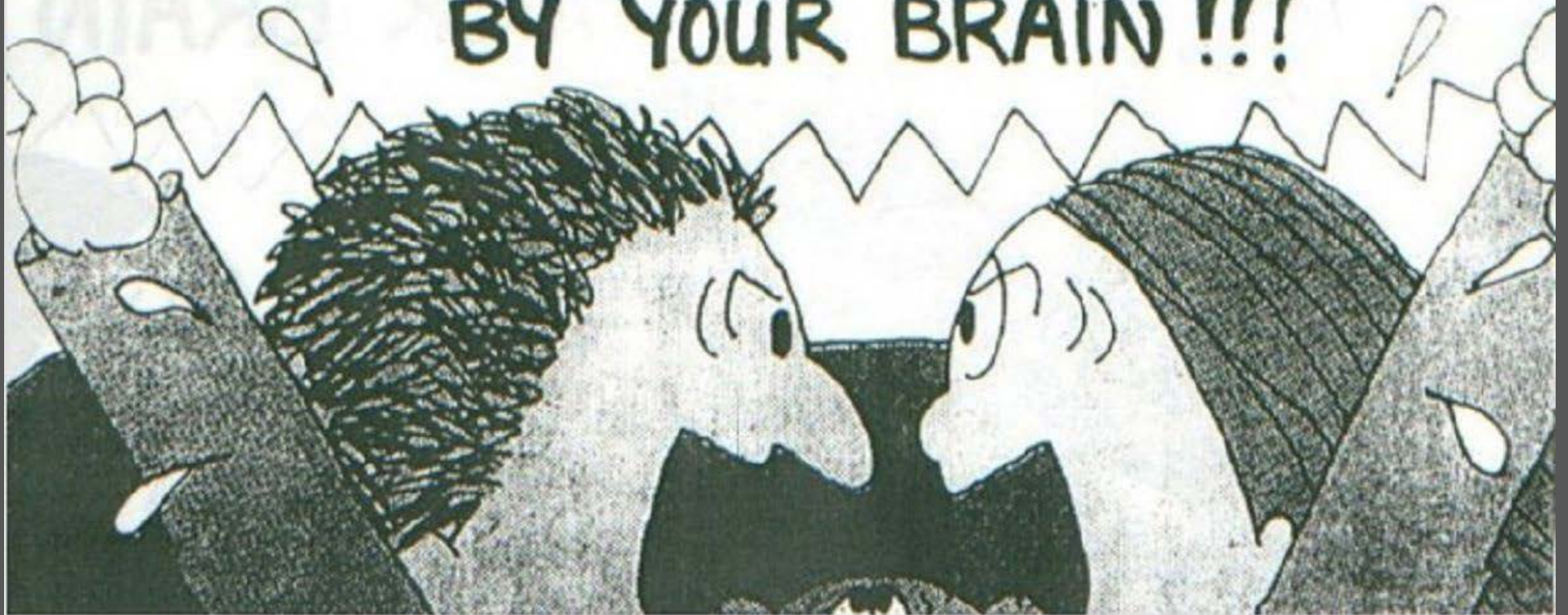
- Absolutely!
- PSMFC Data demonstrates skipper and video review estimates are very close



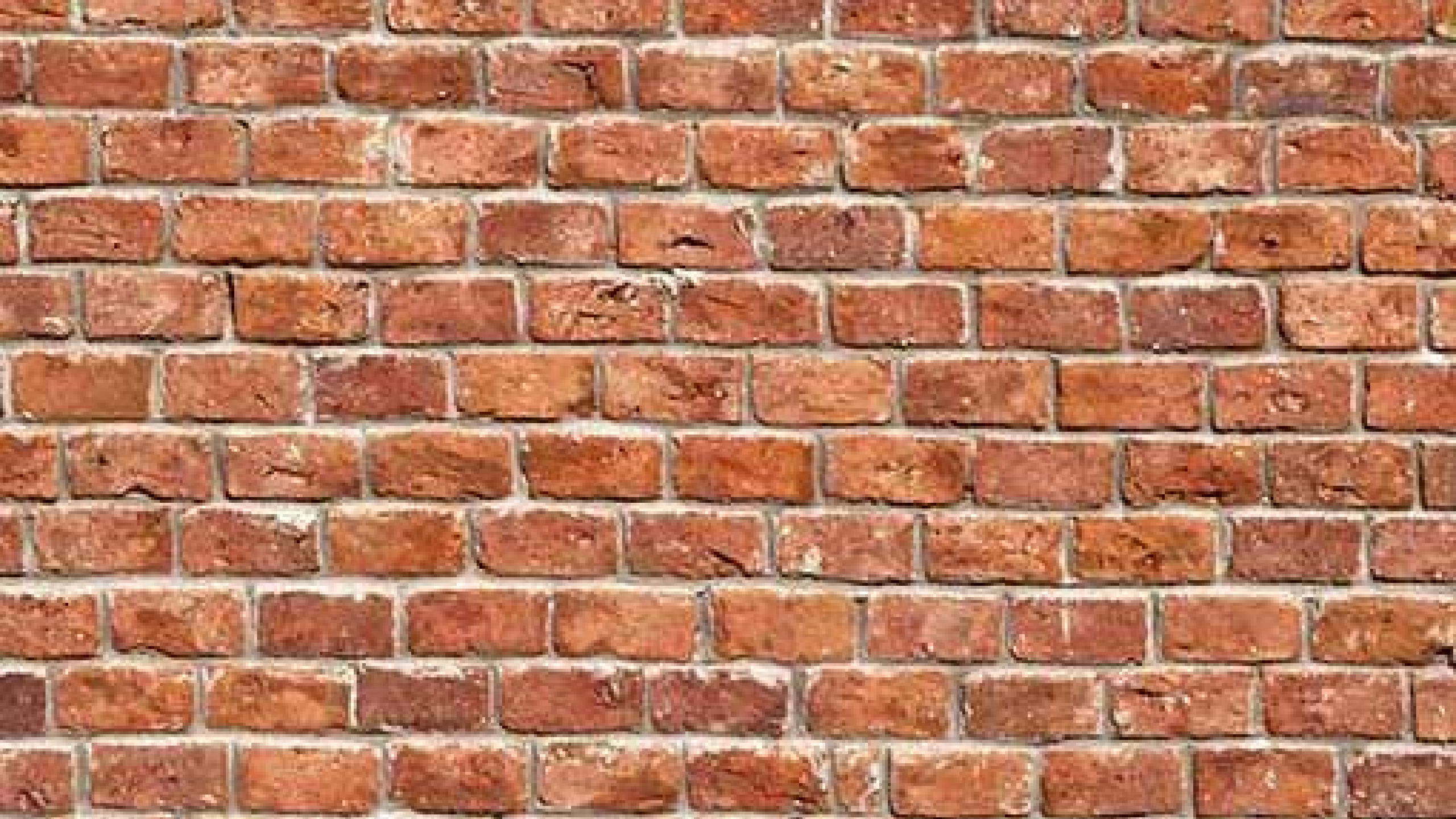
Whiting Fleet originally pushed for 3rd party review

PSMFC provides a cost-effective, quality product that cannot currently be matched in the private market

MY WORDS CAME OUT FINE!
THEY WERE PROCESSED INCORRECTLY
BY YOUR BRAIN !!!



- Push to publish rules even though whitening industry objected
- Push to 3rd party video review model even though whitening industry objected
- Creation of rules, guidelines and manual absent stakeholder input from the outset







- Uncertainties around future expense of the program – will cost whiting vessels 3X more
- Inequity set-up by cost policy: LAPP vs Non-LAPP
- Creation of new department within NMFS Observer Program - best use of limited funds?
- Uncertainties around future video review rates
- Any unpublished national policies on Electronic Monitoring that haven't been released?
- What's in the manual?

16 whiting vessels investigated for whiting discards in 2017

All discards took place on camera, were recorded in logbook and came out of quota pound accounts – nothing was hidden

Boat owners, captains and EFP sponsors were not notified by NMFS of unauthorized discards until 6.5 months into the season



- No discards in 2018 & 2019 – many deck loads, which can be unsafe and of low quality
- Boat owners received phone calls in late July notifying them of the imminent issuance of summary settlements or NOVA's
- If vessels receive penalty, they become ineligible to participate in the program under permit criteria





Whiting EM EFP

- Amend final rule for whiting and fixed gear
- Eliminate the 3rd party review model and retain PSMFC
- Fund with catch share or fishery monitoring line item –
- \$300K annually
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to design an operationally efficient and flexible program





QUESTIONS?