Midwater Trawlers Cooperative
Electronic Monitoring
September 15, 2019
Whiting Exempted Fishing Permit Sponsors
2015-Present
EFP Participants 2019

- Whiting: 65%
- Bottom Trawl: 16%
- Fixed Gear: 7%
- CA Groundfish: 12%
Percent of Whiting Vessels Using EM

- Using EM: 93%
- No EM: 7%
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 whiting industry objected

• Push to 3\textsuperscript{rd} party video review model even though whiting 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• Any unpublished national policies on Electronic Monitoring that haven’t been released?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 immanent issuance of summary settlements or NOVA’s

• If vessels receive penalty, they become ineligible to participate in the program under permit criteria
• 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?