

GROUND FISH ELECTRONIC MONITORING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING
PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND MANUAL REVIEW

The Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee (GEMPAC/TAC) reviewed the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program Guidelines and EM Manual. We provide our suggested edits and comments in each report with tracked changes and highlighted them in yellow (Agenda Item H.3.a, Supplemental GEMPAC/TAC Reports 2, 3, and 4, *Electronic Only*).

We also provide the following recommendations regarding the video review percentage rates for each catch share fishery:

Recommend that shorebased whiting, non-whiting midwater trawl (maximized retention trips), and mothership catcher vessel (MSCV) trips have a 100 percent review rate.

Recommend an initial 10-25 percent review rate for bottom trawl and fixed gear trips, and non-whiting midwater trawl trips practicing optimized retention. In addition, we recommend that a mechanism be developed to evaluate review rates in the future.

In addition, the GEMPAC would like to stress to the Council that we continue to have serious concerns about the direction National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is taking the West Coast EM program. In short, NMFS needs to address the key issue of allowing the continuation of Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) maintaining its current video review, logbook entry, and data storage functions. This is what the impacted industry wants for their program. PSMFC has also indicated their desire and willingness to continue on in their current role. The additional costs of building out the 3rd party audit function at NMFS is redundant, burdensome, and risks the future of the West Coast EM program.

PFMC
11/17/19