

PROPOSED ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM ALTERNATIVES
ADOPTED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The following changes to the electronic monitoring (EM) program regulations were adopted for public review during the April 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting:

1. Hard Drive Deadline: increase the hard drive submission deadline to 72 hours from the beginning of the offload.
2. Reusing Hard Drives: require EM data to be removed before reusing hard drives only if end-to-end encryption is not used.
3. Limit on Switching Between EM and Observers for Whiting: remove the limit on switching between observers and EM for whiting vessels.
4. Mothership/Catcher Vessel (MS/CV) Endorsement: remove the requirement for an MS/CV endorsement to use EM on mothership catcher vessel trips.
5. Pre-departure Test: Maintain status quo for the pre-departure test requirements as it is useful in ensuring systems are working before departure
6. Logbook Processing: allow EM providers to receive and enter logbook information, rather than submitting to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
7. Reporting Deadlines for EM Service Providers: require deadlines for EM service provider reports of technical assistance, logbook data, vessel operator feedback, EM summary and data compliance reports, and other as specified elsewhere.
8. Correct the reference to “a NMFS-accepted EM Service Plan” under 660.603(a)(1) to 660.603(b)(1)(vii).
9. Change the implementation date to be no earlier than January 1, 2022 in the EM Program regulations for both the electronic monitoring provider permits and responsibilities, and the vessel and first receiver responsibilities

In addition, the Council recommended NMFS approve continuation of existing EM exempted fishing permits (EFPs), modified as necessary, until the effective date of the amended regulations with the understanding that new entrants will be allowed to join the extended EM EFPs.

The Council also recommended that NMFS, in consultation with the Council, conduct a comprehensive review regarding the EM Program Guidelines and EM Provider Manual with the revised proposed rule that will reflect the proposed changes and the final procedural directive on data retention, and any other relevant directive.

PFMC
05/15/20