

ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM – FINAL ACTION

At the April 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council adopted for public review several proposals for the electronic monitoring (EM) program (Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1). The proposed changes include alternatives for modifications to existing regulations, including delaying implementation of the EM program until January 1, 2022, an extension of the EM exempted fishing permits (EFPs) expiration date with expanded participation, and further review of the EM Program Guidelines and EM Provider Manuals. During the April meeting, the Council considered an alternative to change the three-year retention period for EM data as currently defined in the EM program regulations; however, they chose to omit that issue from the alternatives they adopted for public review. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently published a Procedural Directive ([Agenda Item G.5, Supplemental Attachment 4, April 2020](#)) that allows a data retention period of less than three years.

On May 14th, 2020, NMFS provided a letter in response to the Council's request for extension of the EM EFPs and delay of EM program implementation (Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2).

The Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committees are scheduled to meet on May 26th to consider the proposed regulatory alternatives and EM EFPs. The Committees will also consider bottom trawl catch handling issues, which are hindering participation in the EM program, with the possibility of incorporating them into the EM EFPs. A supplemental report is expected.

Council Action:

Adopt Final Recommendations for Regulatory Changes, Program Implementation, and Exempted Fishing Permits.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 1: Proposed Electronic Monitoring Program Alternatives Adopted for Public Review.
2. Agenda Item F.3, Attachment 2: Response Letter from NMFS Regarding EM Program
3. If Received, Public Comments are Electronic Only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Electronic Monitoring Program – Final Action Brett Wiedoff
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations for Regulatory Changes, Program Implementation, and Exempted Fishing Permits