

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING  
PROGRAM – FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) reviewed the documents in the advanced briefing book and supplemental reports. The GMT will not comment on length of video retention, which is neither a management nor a data quality issue; we defer to the Enforcement Consultants.

The Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee report includes a call to increase the cost-effectiveness of catch handling requirements when using electronic monitoring and suggests that participants will continue to work with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) staff to address these concerns. This process appears to have worked effectively twice previously, when catch handling procedures were altered to allow the discard of mixed Dover sole and deepsea sole and mixed Pacific sanddab and unidentified sanddab. These changes increased flexibility for participants and decreased sorting costs, while reducing data quality only for species of low attainment and currently of low management concern. As similar situations arise in the future, NMFS and industry should continue to work together to balance industry-needed flexibility with management-needed data accuracy and precision.

PFMC  
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