

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
ELECTRONIC MONITORING - FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the briefing book documents and received information from Mr. Ryan Wulff, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region, under this agenda item and offers the following comments.

The GAP appreciates NMFS listening to concerns of the Council and industry and attempting to find a path forward that works for everyone. The GAP recommends the Council move to delay the electronic monitoring (EM) program implementation for at least two years. The minimum of two years is required in part to coordinate implementation with a North Pacific program of similar design, which will help gain efficiencies of scale and standardize the process. The rationale for this path has been documented in past GAP statements in [June 2021](#) and [March 2021](#).

There are two primary items to be considered at this time in facilitating a continued EM exempted fishing permit (EFP) in 2022 & 2023.

- 1) **EFP Extension Rationale:** One focus item of EFP work for extension into 2022 and 2023 would be for industry and NMFS to develop and test alternative catch handling protocols that are both cost effective for industry and provide sufficient monitoring and scientific data for NMFS. A second focus item of the EFP work would be to reduce overall program cost, particularly for video review, in order to attract more participants once implemented.
- 2) **Funding for EM Data Review:** Identifying funding for 2022 is the first priority, with 2023 to follow later. There are four potential sources of funding for 2022:
  - a. **Appropriation:** A 2022 appropriation of \$400,000 specific for video review is a possibility, but if it were to work out it wouldn't be until later this year, so three other avenues can be pursued in the near term.
  - b. **NMFS Funds:** NMFS is exploring use of cost recovery and other funds.
  - c. **Repurpose Grant:** Depending on the amount of NMFS funds available, there is an existing National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) industry grant whose stakeholders have indicated repurposing a portion is possible to offset some of the cost of video review.
  - d. **New Grant:** Industry can apply for a new NFWF grant, with matching industry funding (50/50 match), similar to what is done now for the North Pacific Pollock EM EFP. Further investigation is needed for this path.