

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE

At the April 2022 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council's Ad Hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (GEMPAC/TAC) reported on efforts to create a cost-effective method for catch accounting that is intended to verify the accuracy of logbook entries ([Agenda Item F.7.a, Supplemental GEMPAC/TAC Report 1, April 2022](#)). They also identified two subgroups of committee members, one to work with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission on potential industry funding mechanisms and the other to evaluate sampling, data handling, and data processing protocols related to cost and data turnaround requirements. Committee members also plan to track the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Information Law Procedural Directive.

The Council is scheduled to hear an update regarding the subgroups progress to address the issues they identified in the April report. Proposed changes to address these issues may require changes to the current regulations for the EM Program that are set to be effective on January 1, 2024. The GEMPAC/TAC will meet between the September and November Council meetings to get reports from the sub-committees, receive and discuss their recommendations, and scope the need for a regulatory amendment package. If an amendment is necessary, a regulatory amendment and rulemaking package timeline would likely include Council action in November 2022 and March 2023 to be effective as soon as possible in 2023. This ensures that EM participants and providers understand the requirements prior to submitting EM participation applications to NMFS, generally due June 1 and October 1.

Council Action:

- 1. Receive a Program Overview, Including Updates on Funding Mechanisms, Catch Handling Requirements, and Data Submission and Processing Timelines.**
- 2. Provide Guidance on Next Steps.**

Reference Materials:

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

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| G.3 | Electronic Monitoring Update | Brett Wiedoff |
| | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| | b. Public Comment | |
| | c. Council Action: Receive a Program Overview, Including Updates on Funding Mechanisms, Catch Handling Requirements, and Data Submission and Processing Timelines; Provide Guidance on Next Steps | |