

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
ELECTRONIC MONITORING UPDATE

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received reports from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff; and Mr. Brent Paine, Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Committee (GEMPAC) member, regarding updates on the review of the electronic monitoring implementation issues and possible suggested changes to this new program

The GAP appreciates the work done by the GEMPAC and the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee (GEMTAC) subgroups to date and sees this work as a beneficial process to find solutions to problems that were identified during the original amendment and rulemaking. It's the GAPs understanding that the following topics are being discussed and developed by the subgroups:

1. Develop an Industry Billing Process framework for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to collect funds from the industry.
2. PSMFC to look at adjusting the EM/logbook pass/fail rates to lower the fail rates with the goal of reducing full video review of some trips thereby reducing costs.
3. Discuss the issues concerning sampling, data handling, and processing protocols (e.g., related to the 3-week turnaround requirement).
4. Review EM Provider Manual to potentially develop a streamlined version for experienced providers and provide it to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for thought/review and legal review.
5. NMFS to look at the level of audit necessary for an experienced provider and the estimated costs associated with those audits.

We acknowledge there is no Council action associated with this agenda item at this meeting as the Council has scheduled potential action on this issue for the November 2022 meeting. The GAP urges the Council and the GEMPAC/GEMTAC to stay on task in developing recommendations that will achieve the stated goals of the EM program. The GAP also urges the Council, NMFS and interested members of the public to continue to work toward finding efficiencies in the EM program that would make it more cost effective.

PFMC
09/09/22