

## ELECTRONIC MONITORING

During the September 2022 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the Council received an update regarding the Ad Hoc Groundfish Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (GEMPAC/TAC) subgroup's progress to address the issues they identified in the [April GEMPAC/TAC report](#).

Specifically, the subgroups identified the following topics to be explored for potential changes that may save costs or create efficiencies within the EM program:

- A. Simplifying National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) EM Provider Instructional Manual
- B. Potential extension to the Deadline to Submit Primary Video Review Data (Currently 3 weeks)
- C. Potential Changes to Pass/Fail Business Rules When Conducting Primary Video Reviews
- D. Potential changes to NMFS Audit requirements for an "Experienced" EM Provider
- E. Creation of an Industry Billing Process for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Primary Reviews as a Third-Party Contractor

In some cases, the 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 on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to examine these issues, scope the need for a regulatory amendment package, and potentially develop a range of alternatives for Council discussion and adoption. A GEMPAC/TAC supplemental report is expected. If an amendment is necessary, a regulatory amendment and rulemaking package timeline would likely include further Council action in March (preliminary preferred alternative selections) and April of 2023 (final preferred alternative selections) 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. Adopt a Range of Alternatives.**
- 2. Discuss Process and Schedule for Future Action.**

### **Reference Materials:**

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

### **Agenda Order:**

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|-----|---|---------------|
| H.7 | Electronic Monitoring   | Brett Wiedoff |
|     | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies                                      |               |
|     | b. Public Comment   |               |
|     | c. <b>Council Action:</b> Adopt a Range of Alternatives, Discuss Process and Schedule for Future Action |               |