

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) West Coast Electronic Monitoring Updates

Subgroup 1. Develop an Industry Billing Process framework for PSMFC to collect funds from the industry.

Options were developed to allow for a system to be implemented that would account for appropriations, if available, while also allowing for 3rd party review through PSMFC or any other 3rd party provider. The best billing options involves use of an escrow provider to collect funds from industry and pay PSMFC for the review, thus maintaining a firewall between PSMFC review and Industry.

Appropriations and Industry Funding options:

Option 1a. Adequate appropriations (currently \$600K) provided to PSMFC not less than 90 days from start of monitoring year (Sept. 30).

- PSMFC would implement program similar to the current arrangement under the EFP and provide agreed-to review levels based on regulations.
- This would be a sole source agreement with PSMFC. No third party requirements/programs would be needed.

Option 1b*. Adequate appropriations not in place 90 days ahead (Sept. 30) of monitoring year.

- Oct. 1-PSMFC Escrow Service would send invoices to all vessels/permit holders who have selected PSMFC as a 3rd party provider. This would pre-fund escrow accounts in time for Jan. 1 start date.
 - Initial 1st quarter escrow amounts TBD based on historical trips/hauls/required sampling rate.
- PSMFC would complete video review for accounts in good standing and invoice escrow service monthly starting Feb. 1.
- Escrow service in turn would complete over/under process and invoice industry for future quarters based on usage and historical trips/hauls/required sampling rate.

Option 2. PSMFC serves as reimbursement program manager and does **not** serve as a 3rd party provider.

- Selected 3rd party providers complete video review consistent with regulations.
- PSMFC receives funds from NMFS for reimbursement of costs and reimburses 3rd party providers for eligible expenses.

NOTES:

Future years would follow same pattern and use previous years sampling as a basis for front loading escrow accounts 90 days ahead.

If appropriations are received by PSMFC anytime after the 90 day window above, they would be applied to the following calendar year's monitoring program.

If appropriations are provided under sole source agreement to PSMFC by Sept. 30, but they are inadequate to fund an entire monitoring year, PSMFC will complete monitoring as in option 1a above and will switch to Option 1b 90 days ahead of expending available funds. NMFS would need to notify other 3rd party providers/industry of program start date.

*Option 1b assumes PSMFC applies and is accepted as a 3rd party provider.