

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) Received an overview of the briefing book documents and Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) action from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Council staff, and received information from Mr. Ryan Wulff, National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Region, under this agenda item and offers the following comments:

- 1) The GAP agrees in general with the recommendations in the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (GEMPAC/TAC) report.
- 2) The GAP also agrees with the GEMPAC's goals on "ensuring the continuation of the EM Program" and being "mindful of the need to minimize cost of the program while at the same time ensuring the integrity of the EM system."
- 3) The GAP is pleased there is a path forward for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to be eligible as a third-party provider for video review and data storage.
- 4) The GAP agrees with GEMPAC provider manual changes and resulting suggested regulatory changes with range of alternatives. The GAP assumes the intent is ultimately to only have one manual for all third-party providers and agrees with this approach.
- 5) The GAP recognizes that a range of alternatives that includes raising to an upper range of 90 days the time to provide feedback to vessel representatives, provides the benefit of cost reduction from the provider. However, this raises the risk of mistakes compounding over time before becoming aware of the impact. The GAP believes it is worth considering this risk to achieve the cost reduction benefit. As long as the vessel operator is diligent in making logbook estimations then delayed surprises in discard results will be minimized.
- 6) The GAP agrees with the GEMPAC that a new National Marine Fisheries Service audit shop is not needed.
- 7) The GAP supports the GEMPAC request for at least one meeting between now and the March 2023 Council meetings.