

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ELECTRONIC
MONITORING PROGRAM CHANGES – FINAL PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (FPA)

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

Recommended Alternatives

The GAP agrees with the recommendations and rationale in the Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (GEMPAC/TAC) report. These three FPA recommendations are:

Alternative 2 - no more than 60 days to submit feedback/EM summary reports,

Alternative 4 - no more than seven business days for EM providers to submit logbooks to NMFS, and

Alternative 5 - revised EM discard data review language “The EM service provider must process vessels’ EM data and logbooks according to a prescribed review methodology, as specified by NMFS in the EM Manual on its website.”

Guidance

The GAP agrees with the recommended guidance in the GEMPAC/TAC report. These three guidance recommendations are:

The EM manual should specify the minimum EM video review for optimized retention fishing trips (e.g., bottom trawl, fixed gear, and non-whiting midwater trawl) to be a random selection of 10% of hauls per trip (minimum one per trip).

The EM manual should modify business rules for video review as written in the GEMPAC/TAC report: “*Allowable discard species are approved by NMFS and listed*”

The last section of the GEMPAC/TAC report expresses a desire to modify the process to identify discard species list. The GAP recommends that the Council identify the most efficient process to remove the discard species list from regulations as soon as practicable. The GAP understands that this recommendation may not occur at the same time as other actions under this agenda item.