

F.5 Electronic Monitoring Program Changes - Final Preferred Alternative

Council Action:

1. Adopt a final preferred alternative, as appropriate.
2. Provide guidance as appropriate.

DRAFT - NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

I move the Council adopt the following Purpose and Need Statement and Final Preferred Alternatives for electronic monitoring under agenda item F.5

Purpose and Need Statement from [Agenda Item F.5 Supplemental Attachment 2](#):

This action is needed to create and ensure flexibility in the electronic monitoring (EM) program in order to reduce potential costs. Current regulatory deadlines for EM video review providers to submit required feedback reports to fishing vessels, and video review data summary reports as well as logbook data to NMFS may need to be revised to create more flexibility for EM video review providers. In addition, the regulations need clarification to ensure the intended flexibility regarding the process to evaluate and summarize EM video review data via the West Coast EM Program Manual (EM Manual). Therefore, the Council is considering changes to the current deadlines and requirements.

The purpose of extending the regulatory deadlines and clarifying regulations regarding the EM Manual is to provide positive benefits to participants and the nation, and to lower overall costs of the program while still meeting the data collection and data quality requirements of the EM program.”

Final Preferred Alternatives

Alternative 2 – Electronic Monitoring providers would have no more than 60 days to submit feedback for Electronic Monitoring Summary Reports.

Alternative 4 – Electronic Monitoring providers would be required to submit logbook data to NMFS within seven business days of receipt from the vessel operator.

Alternative 5

Regulatory language would be revised from: “The EM service provider must process vessels' EM data and logbooks according to a prescribed coverage level or sampling scheme, as specified by NMFS in consultation with the Council, and determine an estimate of discards for each trip using standardized estimation methods specified by NMFS. NMFS will maintain manuals for EM and logbook data processing protocols on its website.”

To: “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.”

Moved by Phil Anderson; Seconded by Bob Dooley Motion passed unanimously.