

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON
 RECENTLY PUBLISHED GROUND FISH RULEMAKINGS & WORKLOAD

	<i>Proposed rule/notice of availability publication</i>	<i>Comment period end date</i>	<i>Final rule publication/notice of decision</i>	<i>Effective date</i>
Inseason	N/A	N/A	November 29, 2023 (88 FR 83354)	January 1, 2024
Inseason correction	N/A	N/A	December 29, 2023 (88 FR 90133)	January 1, 2024
Electronic monitoring program revisions	July 26, 2023 (88 FR 48180)	August 25, 2023	November 22, 2023 (88 FR 81354)	December 22, 2023
Amendment 32, non-trawl area management	NOA (August 2, 2023; 88 FR 50830); PR (August 30, 2023; 88 FR 59838)	NOA – October 1, 2023 PR – September 29, 2023	December 1, 2023 (88 FR 83830)	January 1, 2024
Amendment 31, stock definitions phase 1	August 23, 2023 (88 FR 57400)	October 22, 2023	November 8, 2023 (88 FR 78677)	November 8, 2023
2024 Groundfish Specifications Corrections	October 27, 2023 (88 FR 73810)	November 13, 2023	December 27, 2023 (88 FR 89313)	January 1, 2024
2024 Trawl Cost Recovery Fee Notice	N/A	N/A	December 12, 2023 (88 FR 86116)	January 1, 2024

Electronic monitoring (EM) regulatory program updates:

- EM exempted fishing permits (EFPs) expired December 31, 2023, and vessel owners interested in continuing to use EM in 2024 must obtain an EM Authorization. An EM Authorization application can be submitted electronically on NMFS’ website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/resources-fishing/electronic-monitoring-west-coast>.
- For questions regarding the application process, contact Melissa Hooper at melissa.hooper@noaa.gov or 206-526-4357.
- [2024 EM Program Updates and Reminders](#)
- NMFS approved six [EM service providers](#) for 2024-2025:

Approved EM service providers

EM Service Provider	Address	Phone	Email
A.I.S., Inc	3216 NE 45th Place Suite 106 Seattle, WA 98105	(206) 403-1109	luke@aisobservers.com
Archipelago Marine Research Ltd.	525 Head Street Victoria, BC Canada V9A 5S1	(250) 383-4535	amr@archipelago.ca
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)*	205 SE Spokane St Ste 100 Portland, OR 97202	(503) 595-3100	EM@psmfc.org
Saltwater Inc.	733 N St Anchorage, AK 99501	(907) 276-3241	info@saltwaterinc.com
Satlink SLU	16423 Sawgrass Drive Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971	(703) 447-5287	ccp@satlink.es
Teem Fish Monitoring Inc.	363-309 2nd Ave West Prince Rupert, BC Canada V8J 3T1	(236) 982-7044	amanda@teem.fish

*PSMFC provides EM data services when partnered with another approved EM service provider for at-sea EM services.

- As of January 26, 2024, NMFS has approved 33 EM vessel authorizations and an additional 13 vessels have begun applications. 14 vessels that previously participated in the EM EFP have not yet begun applications, and NMFS is conducting outreach to these vessel owners.
- The deadline for EM vessel authorization applications for the primary whiting season is February 1, 2024.
- EM Service Provider participation among the 33 approved vessels as of January 26, 2024:

EM Service provider and vessel counts

Field Services Provider/ Data Services Provider	Number of Vessels
Archipelago/PSMFC	27
Saltwater Inc/PSMFC	2
Saltwater Inc/Saltwater Inc	4

- PSMFC is administering the reimbursement program for EM video review services
 - Initially, 90% partial reimbursement will be provided for the review rates in the [EM Program Manual](#)
 - Full reimbursement may occur later in the year, as funds allow
 - The 2024 video review reimbursement rate is \$100 per haul fished
- NMFS is issuing EFPs to allow vessels to discard sablefish and rex sole while on declared optimized retention bottom trawl or non-whiting midwater trawl trips. These species were allowable discards under the EM EFPs, but must be retained under current regulations.

Action	Category	GF Branch Staff	Jan '24	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2025-26 groundfish specs & implementation	Harvest specifications	Massey/Moyer									PR		FR	
Whiting treaty administration & specifications	Treaty	Sayre			PR		FR							
Gear marking/entanglement mitigation measures	ESA	Hanshew			PPA			FPA						
On-going requirements for all GF BiOps		All												
Stock and stock complex definitions phase 2	MSA	Moyer									Scoping			
Trawl Rationalization Program Catch Share Review	Requirements	Sommer/Moyer												
Inseason management of groundfish fishery	Inseason management	Matson												
Groundfish Management Team participation		Moyer/Massey												
Trawl EFP administration	EFPs	Massey/Moyer												
Rec EFP administration		Moyer												
Fishery closures for coral restoration and research	Other	Moyer			PPA			FPA						
LEFG Follow-on		Hanshew								PPA		FPA		
Sablefish gear switching		<i>Unassigned</i>				FPA								