

PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION (PSMFC) REPORT ON ELECTONIC MONITORING

Electronic Monitoring Project

Purpose:

Demonstrate the feasibility of using electronic monitoring (EM) for compliance monitoring on selected commercial fishing vessels as an alternative to human observers.

Short Term Goals:

1. Compare EM to the observer data to determine confidence levels
2. Set up EM review and camera install and maintenance infrastructure
3. Solve the issues through a collaborative group

Long Term Goals:

1. Maintain the biological integrity of the existing system
2. Save some money for the fishermen and taxpayers
3. Insure the confidence of the landing and discard data
4. Integrate with electronic logbooks
5. Look for opportunities to add to stock assessment information

Study Design Elements:

A. Whiting Fishery Sectors

- Mothership -- 15 boats
- Shoreside -- 15 boats

1. Motherships will be fishing off Oregon and Washington.
Target date to being is June 1, 2012.
Shoreside boats will be fishing out of Newport, Astoria, and Westport.
2. Each of these boats has existing cameras that were part of a previous pilot program.
Cameras will have full coverage of fish handling areas.
3. All boats will be fishing full retention.
4. Review will compare EM to captains log books and observer data for trip discards and amounts.
5. Review of camera tapes will be done at 100% this year.
6. Cameras go on at the start of the first fishing event and continue until the vessel re-enters port.
7. During the fishing operation, any problems or issues will be solved by a collaborative group.
8. Projected time frame: June 2012 – January 1, 2013.

B. Fixed gear (IFQ program gear switching)

- 2 boats

1. California boats (Half Moon Bay).
2. Cameras will have full coverage of fish handling areas.
3. Control point camera at catch retrieval area.

4. Review will compare EM to captain's log books and observer data for trip discards and amounts.
 5. Review of camera tapes will be done at 100% this year.
 6. Cameras go on at the start of the first fishing event and continue until the vessel re-enters port.
 7. During the fishing operation any problems or issues will be solved by a collaborative group.
 8. Projected time frame: June 2012 – January 1, 2013.
- C. Groundfish Trawl Fishing Non-whiting West of RCA
- About 4 boats.
1. Boats will fish off Washington, Oregon and California.
 2. Cameras will have full coverage of fish handling areas.
 3. Review will compare EM to captain's log book and observer data for trip discards and amounts.
 4. Review of camera tapes will be done at 100% this year.
 5. During the fishing operation any problems or issues will be solved by a collaborative group.
 6. Projected time frame: June 2012 – January 1, 2013.

Electronic Monitoring Timeline

- April 3, 2012 _____ • Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting
- April 30, 2012 _____ • Draft monitoring plan design completed
- May 1 - 5, 2012 _____ • Contract awarded (NMFS/NOAA)
- Boats finalized
 - Meet with boats
- May 15 – June 1, 2012 _____ • Review position advertised
- Cameras mounted and operating (whiting)
 - Pick-up process finalized
 - Camera maintenance process finalized
- June 1 – June 15, 2012 _____ • Review position filled. Training scheduled set
- Fixed gear cameras operating
 - Trawl cameras operating
- June 15, 2012 _____ • June whiting review begins
- Fixed gear camera review begins
- January 1, 2013 _____ • Program design review
- Prepare for March Council meeting (February deadline)