

Electronic Monitoring Workgroup – Highlights and action points

May 11, 2016, teleconference and AFSC, Seattle, WA

Workgroup: Bill Tweit (chair)

Appointed: Dan Falvey (ALFA), Howard McElderry (Archipelago Marine Research), Don Lane (NPFA, phone), Nancy Munro (Saltwater, Inc., phone), Jeff Stephan (UFMA, phone)

Agency: Council – Diana Evans, Sam Cunningham, Matt Robinson
NMFS Fisheries Monitoring & Analysis (Observer Program) – Chris Rilling, Farron Wallace, Liz Chilton,
NMFS Alaska Region – Jennifer Mondragon, Gretchen Harrington, Alicia Miller
NMFS National Observer Program – Jane DiCosimo (phone)
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement – Nathan Lagerwey, Brent Pristas (phone), Guy Holt (phone)
NOAA General Counsel – Tom Meyer
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission – Dave Colpo, Jennifer Cahalan
ADFG – Trent Hartill
IPHC – Claude Dykstra (phone)

Others attending included: Dane McFaddon (Sitka Sound Science Center, phone), Luke Szymanski (AIS)

The Chair opened the meeting with introductions and a discussion of the agenda.

2016 pre-implementation program

- We continue to have vessels who did not pre-register for the fishing period calling in to go fishing. Policy is that if there is a camera available, they have to take it. Future decision point (not in the testing year) will be what to do with that data, given that it is not a random sample.
- No concerns with 2016 budget to date. Unresolved discussion about whether to rollover unused money to 2017, or spend it on additional installations.
- No problems with installations causing delay in fishing plans
- Video review going smoothly; still issue with high failure rate on first trip.

Budget / costs / pot cod RFP

- Handout on budget update for 2017. NMFS HQ has promised some money for pot cod work and longline pre-implementation, but must go to the PSMFC grant due to contracting restrictions. Chris Rilling is also asking for bridge funding for 2018.
- Options for funding pot cod work are to put out a Federal RFP for a small contract (deadline for initiating large contracts has passed), funnel the work to AMR as the existing PSMFC contractor, or work with PSMFC to put out a second RFP for the pot cod work. PSMFC requires about 2 months for the RFP process, money must be in hand before initiating.
- EMWG discussed whether it was worth the work to initiate other RFPs, to retain the potential for pot cod work to be with a different provider. The WG did not want to close off the potential for multiple providers at this time, so NMFS is asked to keep exploring contracting options with PSMFC.
- EMWG gave Jen Mondragon input on the updated the regional implementation plan cost table
- The EMWG supports submitting a pot cod NFWF proposal, and also asks for Council letter of support. Encourages NPFA to write proposal specifically to tie into existing Council efforts.

2017 pre-implementation planning

- Discussion of draft fleet opt-in letter for 2017; should highlight that now pot gear is eligible, and extend ports to accommodate pot fleet (Don Lane to discuss with NPFA)

- Dan Falvey presented initial draft of 2017 program, combining pot and longline. Consider wiring up boats and supplying full or partial systems based on the number of trips taken per season.
- Discuss in July possibility of having some video review done by port techs, potential cost savings and implications for quality control. EMWG discussed potential for cross training of port techs across providers, and concerns about proprietary information. Unresolved.
- Dan Falvey offered to write up a list of general standards for EM hardware platforms; WG noted that some vessels do both pot and longline, what happens if they are with different providers.
- Industry also suggested doing EM trip selection in 2017; further discussions needed with agency

Update on stereo camera work

- Farron Wallace gave a powerpoint of new stereo camera research including automatic species ID

Enforcement considerations

- Nathan Lagerwey provided a handout identifying compliance goals and recommendations, a shortlist of the types of violations that observers currently report, and violations that an EM reviewer might be trained to look for
- Nathan agreed to get together with Dave Colpo to start looking at actual EM data, to see how enforcement/ compliance concerns can be tracked in video review. Helpful to compare list of potential violations with how one might get data on them from EM.
- The Workgroup continued to discuss the relative enforcement needs of VMS versus EM-integrated communication options, for example to report EM system health. Useful to look at relative cost of VMS vs integrated (note examples in use elsewhere). Also work through consideration of timeliness of data needs first.

EM analysis

- Handout of revised timeline. Discussion about whether we could continue with PSMFC grant for 2018-2019, rather than going straight to a Federal contract. Suggest giving Council opportunity to provide input on that decision point.
- Jen M discussed paper on catch estimation options, in preparation for June SSC presentation. Trying to move away from relying on logbook-reported effort for estimation. Discussed whether we still need logbooks; perhaps to capture gear type (snap on vs stuck). Unresolved.
- Discussion about draft performance metrics, which should be tracked on an annual or periodic basis – useful exercise to consider, but focus on those that are parallel with Observer Program
- Sam provided initial discussion of cost framework questions. EMWG recommended that Sam develop a cost framework based on the amount of the partial coverage fee that is likely available to fund EM, and what types of program might be bought with that, for July discussion.

Scope of June Council discussion

- Will present overview and catch estimation paper to SSC in June, and PSMFC report. Not biological sampling data, as issues yet to resolve.
- Will present overview and enforcement considerations (Nathan) to Enforcement Committee.

Meeting planning

- Add an extra day to the July meeting – start 1pm on July 26th (Diana to send hotel info)
- Move the Aug 31st teleconf to Thursday August 25th
- FYI: National EM workshop Nov 30-Dec 1st, IOFMC meeting Aug 29-Sep 2
- Potential EMWG meeting Nov 29th