

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director
Telephone (907) 271-2809
www.npfmc.org



605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252
Fax (907) 271-2817

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Enforcement Committee June 7, 2016 Minutes - EXCERPT

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Enforcement Committee met on June 7, 2016 in Kodiak, Alaska.

Committee members in attendance included Roy Hyder (Chairman), Chris Rilling, Jon Streifel, Will Ellis, Nathan Lagerwey, Alisha Falberg, Guy Holt, Glenn Merrill, Capt. Phil Thorne, Corrie Sergent. The committee was staffed by Steve MacLean, in place of Jon McCracken.

Others in attendance included: Josh Ryder, Marcus Cady, Jennifer Mondragon, Gretchen Harrington, Matt Robinson, Alicia Miller, Keith Brunton, Brent Pristas, Vince O'Shea, Stephanie Madsen, Bill Tweit, Diana Evans.

1. Review EM Integration Alternatives and Options for October 2016 Initial Review

The NPFMC has initiated an analysis to integrate electronic monitoring (EM) tools into the Observer Program for vessels using fixed gear. The EM program is being developed through the Council's Fixed Gear EM Workgroup. Diana Evans provided an overview of progress with EM development, to date, and presented the draft analysis (D-2). Nathan Lagerwey provided enforcement considerations that have been raised with respect to using EM for monitoring in fixed gear fisheries.

There was discussion at the committee about the two systems (integrated GPS vs. VMS) that could be used to provide location data with an EM system. Discussion concentrated on the utility of each system for enforcement opportunities, transmission of real-time data (location and system status), timelines for transfer and review of video data, data retention requirements, and timeline for implementation. Committee members noted that VMS allows for transmission of data that could provide system status information to the agency in real time, and may provide some opportunity for vessels to address critical failures at sea rather than returning to port. An EM system with integrated GPS would require a satellite modem to transfer those data, but would otherwise be comparable to VMS. It was noted that transmission of video data in real time from either system is currently cost prohibitive. However, transmission of basic system health data (no video) may be a viable alternative. System health transmissions would aid compliance and assist program technicians to troubleshoot EM systems at sea, potentially keeping vessels on the fishing grounds. It was also noted that requiring VMS to be incorporated into EM would require installation of VMS on vessels that do not currently have VMS installed. There were two perspectives raised by the committee with regards to enforcement utility of EM: one perspective was that the enforcement committee should recommend, at this early stage, those system components that would aid the agency, US Coast Guard, and State of Alaska in enforcement actions, the other perspective was that

EM is being considered as a way to add value the observer program, and the committee should consciously evaluate the value of EM to the observer program as the primary objective and compliance components as contributors to the goals of management and the data collection. The committee noted that EM will provide some support for enforcement, regardless of which components are selected. It was also noted that fully integrating VMS into EM could complicate progress on EM in the short term.

After discussion, the committee approved the following statement:

The NPFMC Enforcement committee recognizes the aggressive timeline for implementation of EM, and recognizes that with the accelerated timeline some of the enforcement issues that have been raised may not be fully resolved before implementation. The committee appreciates the opportunity to raise enforceability concerns early and recommends the EM Workgroup test compliance components during pre-implementation where feasible. The committee looks forward to continuing to work with the EM Workgroup to address additional enforcement concerns, after implementation, as the program matures.