

Funds Available:

Federal Initiatives

\$83K was obtained in a 2013 NPRB grant dedicated to the development and testing of stereo cameras.

\$1.254 M has been allocated to AFSC from various internal 2014 NMFS funding sources and Pacific States is managing this via a grant.

Of this internal NMFS funding:

\$ 187K is dedicated to a National Observer Program funded project for e-log and sensor integration development.

\$302K is dedicated to three internal Fisheries Information System funded projects for image analysis and storage, automation of e-log submissions, and automated image processing.

All of the above projects represent internal and external commitments.

The remaining amount of the NMFS internal funding is being dedicated to a range of activities that we have addressed with the EM workgroup.

These projects include:

Leasing, deployment, and retrieval of EM systems for selected volunteer vessels. Currently, we have selected 5 vessels out of Sitka and 5 vessels out of Homer.

Contracting with vessels to take both cameras and observers to enable comparison of EM to Observer work.

PSMFC Staff to conduct the video review and provide result summary of industry led research.

AMR work to develop the industry's study design for cooperative research (pending).

PSMFC Staff to coordinate field work and advanced camera testing.

PSMFC Staff to integrate EM data into the Observer database (NORPAC) that supports catch accounting.

PSMFC management and travel associated with all projects.

The detail associated with these tasks reveals a suite of confidential contractual information and we would need to defer to PSFMC as to what can be released publicly. As noted at the EM workgroup meeting on November 18th and 19th, current funding is sufficient to cover the 2015 deployment of cameras on the 10 volunteer vessels already selected and notified. We also expect to have 2 additional vessels from Petersburg and funds are sufficient to cover this expense.

Broad scale expansion, once we have an agreed work plan, would require the acquisition of additional funding. See the funding opportunities section below.

Industry Initiatives

2013 NFWF grant to ALFA for EM travel – \$30K direct, \$30K matching, \$60K total.

2014 NFWF grant to ALFA for transitioning EM from Pilot to Integrated Component of Management - \$135K direct, \$38K matching, \$173K total.

2013 NFWF grant to ALFA for GPS data loggers - \$110 direct, \$181.5K matching, 291.5K total.

Status: need an update on the above projects.

2013 NFWF grant to NPFA for testing EM on small fixed gear cod boats – \$127.4 direct, \$120K matching, \$247K total

Status: NPFA and Saltwater, Inc. briefed the EM group that grant funds are running out on this project. NMFS notes that it can fund some portion of a continuation via an existing contract with SWI using previously allocated funds (from 2013).

NFWF grant to Lowman and Associates for National EM workshop –\$ 89K direct,\$ 77K matching, \$166K total.

Status: work is complete and report is available on the web.

Funding opportunities:

Federal

NMFS anticipates \$2-4M to be dedicated to EM development projects as a line in the 2015 budget, subject to Congressional approval of the 2015 budget and any guiding language contained therein. Funds could be available and used in 2015 or 2016. At this time, Congress has not acted on the 2015 budget and we are in a continuing resolution until December 10th.

There is always potential for NMFS HQ to allocate funds to a specific project, and EM has been a high priority. The Council, or industry, could request additional allocations to AK EM projects.

Other potential initiatives

NFWF Fisheries Innovation Fund- An RFP of \$1.2M, with 40 percent reserved for New England, was announced on 11/24/14. Pre-proposals are due on 12/19/2014. Full proposals, if invited, are due 2/26/14. Note that NFWF has a strong interest in EM initiatives.

Saltonstall – Kennedy Grants – available to industry. Research priorities for 2014/2015 include to maximize fishing opportunities and jobs, **improve the cost effectiveness and capacity for fishery observations**, increase the supply, quality and diversification of domestic seafood, and improve the quality and quantity of fishery information from the U.S. territories. See: www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=Saltonstall-Kennedy

Note that SK funding is substantial as they have \$20M with individual grants capped at 400K. Decisions on these grants would be made in June of 2015, so they would be a good opportunity to fund 2016 work. The federal government cannot receive S-K grants, though NMFS could assist in grant development.

Other?