

Item 4c

Integrating Electronic Monitoring into the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program

Potential components of EM Program for discussion at the EMWG meeting, November 2-3, 2015

EM Deployment Design

Goal: Use best available information to design the EM deployment methods, including the EM selection pool, that meet policy and data collection goals.

Elements could include:

- Use the ADP process to define the
 - EM deployment methods and
 - EM selection pool (the universe of vessels that can participate in EM, for example, hook and line vessels less than 50 ft LOA).

Participation/eligibility

Goal: A pool of EM participants that are committed to making EM work on their boats.

Elements could include:

- Opt-in process - NMFS to notify the universe of vessels defined by the selection pool, provide the opportunity for eligible vessels to opt-in, and select vessel that meet eligibility criteria.
- Eligibility criteria to participate contingent on
 - performance criteria (score card?) and/or
 - performance standard (example 2 equipment failures in a rolling 5-yr period or high failure rate or low compliance rate with operational requirements) and/or
 - other criteria besides performance (such as ports or number of trips)
- Selection of vessels to carry EM during selection periods

Equipment

Goal: NMFS, through the contractor, provides the necessary equipment to each vessel carrying EM.

Elements could include:

- Specifications/performance standards for equipment would be in the contract
- Equipment would be paid for using observer fees
- Few, if any, regulations would be needed to specify equipment

Installation

Goal: EM gets properly installed on each vessel, at the appropriate port, and in a timely fashion with the least interruption to the fishing plan.

Elements could include:

- Contractor works with a vessel operator to write a vessel monitoring plan (VMP), which can be amended between trips working with the contractor.

- Contractor installs EM equipment following VMP
- Vessel operator's responsibilities to ensure contractor has all needed access and assistance (similar to 2016 pre-implementation plan) prior to and during installation.
- Cooperation with contractors (schedules, ports, etc.)
- Recourse if installation is not successful

Operation

Goal: Each vessel operator maintains a functioning EM system throughout the fishing trip and there is a good process for maintaining quality control and addressing equipment failures.

Elements could include:

- In compliance with operational plan, which maybe part of VMP
- Vessel operator's responsibilities (stable power supply, function tests, breakdown, hard drive capacity, video quality, catch handling, effort logbook – all from 2016 EM pre-implementation plan, others depending on information gathered during pre-implementation).
- Incentives not to sabotage equipment, including time to fix equipment
- Flexibility to address equipment failures while at-sea
- First trip quality control
- Dockside observer to verify EM data or other quality control at landing

Data/Equipment Retrieval

Goal: EM equipment with data returned to NMFS timely and in good condition.

Elements could include:

- Contractor turns in hard drives/ transmits data to NMFS
- Contractor un-installs equipment
- Coordination with contractors (schedules, ports, etc.)

Video review/ Catch Accounting

Goal: Extract data from video equipment and integrate data into the catch accounting system in a timely manner so that data can be used in management.

Elements could include:

- Methods for video review
- Method for integrating EM data into catch accounting