

**EM Cooperative Research Call
March 5, 2014**

Present: Dan Hull (Council), Diana Evans (Council), Doug DeMaster (NMFS AFSC), Steve Ignell (NMFS AFSC), Glenn Merrill (NMFS AKR), Jennifer Mondragon (NMFS AKR), Jay Bryan (AMR), Brian Lynch (PVOA), Martin Loefflad (NMFS AFSC), Chris Rilling (NMFS AFSC), Dave Colpo (PSMFC), Linda Behnken (ALFA), Dan Falvey (ALFA), Malcolm Milne (NPFA), Dawn Mann (AMR Inc.), Morgan Dyas (SWI), Pete Jones (NMFS AKR).

Agenda

1. Minutes from the last meeting
2. RFP status (NMFS)
3. Updates on Cooperative Research "tracks"
 - Track 1: IP Cameras -- (Sitka-Dan F, linda; Homer--Malcolm, David)
 - Track 2: IP cameras/observers (Dan, Malcolm, David, Kathy)
 - Track 3: stereo camera systems (AFSC)
 - Track 4: elogbooks (NMFS, AFSC, IPHC)
4. Cooperative research funding status
5. Data Review protocols

1. Minutes from last meeting

There have been several versions of the minutes from the EM Cooperative Research Workshop in Juneau and Martin Loefflad will set up a conference call next week to resolve any remaining discrepancies and finalize the minutes.

2. RFP Status

The discussion focused on whether a Request for Proposals (RFP) or some alternative process would be used to provide conditional releases from observer coverage for vessels carrying EM systems beginning in May. There was agreement that an RFP was necessary for vessels with EM and observers, and for vessels with stereo cameras and observers. The unanswered question was regarding the process for releasing vessels from observer coverage during the next selection period beginning in May. The vessels that are currently participating by taking cameras have not been released from coverage. Whether and how they will be in the future is still an open question. Industry participants reiterated that developing this process very quickly is important and that, from their perspective, all volunteer vessels should receive releases from coverage. NMFS is still trying to determine whether an RFP or some other mechanism would be more appropriate and if so, under what conditions the releases would be authorized. NMFS AKR and AFSC have not had a chance to discuss this since the February workshop and agreed to resolve the issue internally and report back to the group.

3. Updates on Cooperative Research Tracks *Track 1: IP Cameras.* Four standard EM systems have been installed on volunteer vessels in Sitka and a 5th system is currently being installed. The systems are being provided by Archipelago Marine Research (AMR) under contract to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The systems consist of two cameras monitoring catch and a third camera obtaining images using different frame rates. No deck/compliance cameras have been installed.

Industry noted a concern about battery drain and the need to have systems shut down at night. NPFA reported that one Homer boat is available to have a Saltwater EM system installed in April under this cooperative research project, if funds become available to extend the work to Homer. He noted there are other EM installs in place on a separate NFWF funded project. Others noted that KBAY representatives may have three boats lined up for late March installs, also in Homer.

There was discussion about retention of rockfish and potential dockside monitoring but detailed discussion of data review protocols was deferred to later. Other industry members noted that they have additional vessels outside of Sitka who would like to participate in the project but PSMFC currently only has sufficient funds for the first wave of camera deployments. The second wave of deployments will depend on availability of future funding. So far, the plan is for AMR to provide cameras in Sitka and Saltwater, Inc (SWI) to provide them in Homer, all via Pacific States contracts. It was noted that the cost structure for deployments will likely differ between Homer and Sitka.

Industry members reiterated their perspective that rapid feedback on QA/QC to fleet was important to the success of the EM project.

ALFA noted they are collecting a range of effort data from Sitka EM boats and will share a template with NPFA and K-Bay Fisheries. It was also noted that vessels could voluntarily share a copy of their IPHC logbook as it contains comparable effort information.

Track 2: IP Cameras with Observers. One vessel in Wrangell is willing to fish with an EM system and an observer in late March, but a decision on the RFP and resolution of funding will need to be completed first.

It was noted that NMFS needs to develop the observer sampling protocols that will occur on this vessels. For example, will observers conduct their normal sampling? Or will they be doing something different such as sampling every set and monitoring all hooks?

Track 3: Stereo Camera Systems. Several industry groups have expressed an interest in deploying stereo camera systems but NMFS is keeping the small boat hook and line fleet under cooperative research as its first priority. A decision on deployment will be contingent upon the RFP and funding. The stereo camera systems were originally planned to be tested under an NPRB grant later this summer. The NPRB work will continue, but we may be able to implement the stereo cameras system through an RFP sooner than previously planned.

Track 4: Elogs. NMFS AKR will take the lead on this track. Industry participants stated that they did not think e-logs should be included in the 2014 cooperative research. NMFS stated that several trawl catcher vessels are already using e-logs because they are required to use paper logbooks and have found the e-logs to be more user friendly than paper logs. E-logs are also available to be deployed on any longline or pot vessels that are interested. The e-log meets IPHC reporting requirements and a paper printout can be sent to IPHC. The e-logs require a computer and printer to print logbook pages. It was noted that the printer requirement would likely be difficult for small vessels in the hook and line fleet. There was a

discussion about features of e-logs such as user profiles, customization of data entry fields, templates, and other issues, some of which have already been addressed with the current version of e-logs. However other features such as automatically incorporating latitude and longitude data from the vessels' GPS into the e-log is not available in the current version. It was suggested that the EM Workgroup could be used to disseminate information about e-logs and get feedback on ways to improve the system. Any vessels interested in using e-logs should contact Jennifer Mondragon in Juneau (her contact info is: Jennifer.mondragon@noaa.gov or 907-586-7010).

4. Cooperative Research Funding

PSMFC does not have any additional funds in hand for additional EM system deployment at this time. All parties are hopeful that additional funds will become available through the federal budget process, and NMFS provided assurance that this is a high budget priority, but the exact sources and amounts have yet to be determined.

5. Data Review Protocols

Dan Falvey provided the document "Data Review Protocols" to participants. The goal of the protocols is to determine what types of EM data need to be collected and what the review process should be. These elements are necessary to determine the ultimate cost of deploying the cameras and reviewing the data. The group was not prepared to discuss the protocols in detail during the call and NMFS AFSC will set up a conference call with a subgroup to review the protocols. It was noted that cameras systems are now being deployed before the review protocols have been agreed to. The subgroup will consist of Dave Colpo, Dan Falvey, Farron Wallace, Martin Loefflad, Brian Lynch, AMR and Saltwater; IPHC will also be invited as they were not on the call but had provided some thoughtful comments on the draft..

Leads for each Track

There was discussion of overall project coordination and our next planned meeting.

Track 1: Linda Behnken

Track 2 and 3: Martin Loefflad

Track 4: Jennifer Mondragon

Next Meeting – March 26, 9:00 am AK time (10:00 am Pacific)

Action Items:

1. Martin will schedule a conference call with the group that will finalize the minutes from the Juneau workshop
2. NMFS will meet internally to discuss the process for releasing vessels in track 1 from observer coverage & report back at the next meeting
3. Martin will schedule a meeting for the "data review protocol subgroup"