

Subject: FYI – Council approved EMWG recommendations

From: Diana Evans diana.evans@noaa.gov

Date: 2/10/2013 3:49 PM

To: EM Workgroup

Hello-

I have attached the Council's two motions on EM from the February Council meeting. One deals with the analysis, approving the purpose and need and the alternatives, including the EMWG's recommendation to continue to develop the idea of EM cooperatives potentially for a trailing amendment. The second endorses the EMWG's initial recommendations about expanding the pre-implementation pools in 2017, to 90 vessels for longline and potentially a 30 vessel pool for pot gear.

During the course of the meeting, there were also some follow-up discussions from our January workgroup meeting:

- at the January meeting, there were some outstanding issues with respect to vessels in the EM pool which fail to pre-register for a quarter but then decide they want to fish. NMFS has agreed with the suggestion made at the workgroup meeting, that each new vessel will be given a 30% chance of being selected when they call up, and if equipment is available, they will have to carry EM.
- Re the process for opting in to the pre-implementation pool for 2017. Please get the word out to people to get in touch with NMFS as soon as they know they want to participate - Dan's flier is almost ready to be distributed. NMFS will also send out a letter, hopefully to arrive before the start of the IFQ season, noting that anyone who is in the EM pool this year will automatically be rolled over into the pool for next year, but new entrants should get in touch with NMFS before mid-July.
- there was a discussion about the budget, and opportunities for getting the funding necessary to support the EMWG's initial thoughts about the size of 2017 pre-implementation pools. NMFS is submitting proposals for internal money over the next couple of months. There may also be opportunities through a NFWF grant, partially funded by NMFS, that would be a good fit for supporting the pot pre-implementation work. Dan and Malcolm are working on a table that would roughly cost out what is needed to support the 90 vessel longline and 30 vessel pot pools.
- NMFS is also continuing to look at the possibility of issuing an RFP specifically to support the pot EM work, as discussed at the meeting. Chris is investigating a couple of possibilities. There may be potential for NMFS or NFWF funding to be in place to begin EM work on a voluntary basis by the pot fleet for Oct-Dec 2016 (i.e., not while exempt from human observer coverage), although the timing is tight and it might not work out.

cheers,
Diana

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