# Purpose and Alternatives for Electronic Monitoring Integrated Analysis

Discussion Draft 10/28/2015

## Draft Alternatives

Alternative 1: Status quo - EM is not a tool in the Council's Research Plan

*- human observer pool, with flexible deployment plan that allows annual policy choices on vessels in the zero selection pool, conditional releases*

Alternative 2: Allow use of EM for catch estimation, with integrated operator responsibilities

*- modeled on 2016 pre-implementation program*

Option: Require full retention of key species with associated dockside monitoring

Alternative 3: Allow use of EM for catch estimation by censusing discards

*- require a single discard point, EM census of all discards e.g. in camera chute. More suited to pot than longline.*

Alternative 4: Require operators to complete a logbook to be used for catch estimation, with EM audit

*- identify which are the key species to track, and implications of having either a census or a sample of vessels*

In the analysis, the Council may wish to choose different alternatives for different segments of the fixed gear fleet (gear - longline, pot; vessel size class - <40, 40-57, >58; other?). Or the Council may wish to choose multiple alternatives for regulatory implementation, but specify annually in the ADP which vessels will be using which kind of EM.

## Draft Purpose and Need

- Affirm Council's goal is to improve discard estimation of fish (including halibut PSC). Also management goal to monitor mortality of seabirds.
- Affirm that EM is one of the suite of tools available for effective fisheries monitoring, and that there is also a continuing need for human observers as part of that suite. There will be human observer coverage at some level at some times in all portions of the fishery, to provide data that cannot be collected via EM (e.g., biological samples).
- In restructuring the Observer Program, the Council assumed that an electronic monitoring option would be integrated into the program for vessels that have trouble accommodating a human observer.
- There are varying degrees of economic, operational and social hardship experienced by vessel operators and crew, on vessels that have insufficient space to carry an observer.
- Goal is to develop EM for longline and pot vessels (sampling is conceptually similar for both gear types, and there are established pilot programs for both).
- Initial priority is a monitoring tool on vessels that are not taking human observers. Effectively this means <40 ft vessels, and vessels 40-57.5 ft where taking an observer is problematic. Next priority is EM as an alternative to carrying an observer for any fixed gear vessel (including >57.5 ft), to reduce monitoring costs and/or improve quality of fishery-dependent data at sea.
- Affirm that we want to retain as much flexibility as possible for deciding who will be able to take EM, based on the annual monitoring needs for the fisheries. We recognize that we do need regulatory change to specify the vessel's responsibilities for using monitoring tools in the long term, including cameras and other tools. But we also understand that the structure of the annual deployment plan could provide flexibility to deploy combinations of tools for different categories.