

Electronic Monitoring of the Pacific Coast Limited Entry Groundfish Fishery



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Overview

- ▶ Regulatory Process
- ▶ EM Exempted Fishing Permits
- ▶ Next Steps

Regulatory Process

- ▶ Council began scoping for EM in 2012
- ▶ Preferred Alts selected in Sept 2014
- ▶ Would apply to the **IFQ fisheries only (voluntary)**
 - ▶ Midwater trawl - whiting, rockfish
 - ▶ Bottomtrawl - mixed species deep and shallow
 - ▶ Fixed gear (bottom longline and pot fisheries, trawl endorsed)

Objectives

- ▶ Only for discard monitoring for IFQ species and debiting IFQ accounts
- ▶ Reduce total fleet monitoring costs to levels sustainable for the fleet and agency
- ▶ Reduce observer costs for vessels that have a relatively lower total revenue
- ▶ Maintain monitoring capabilities in small ports

Issues On the Ground Level

- ▶ Total cost of EM participation
- ▶ Incentives to participate/comply
- ▶ Retention Requirements
- ▶ Application and Approval Process with Individual Vessel Monitoring Plans

Issues On the Ground Level

- ▶ Shoreside monitors
- ▶ Observer coverage for scientific data collection
- ▶ Potential transfer of observer costs to non-EM users

Exempted Fishing Permits

- ▶ 4 approved applications
 - ▶ Bottomtrawl - 6 vessels (68 active)
 - ▶ Fixed gear - 5 vessels (23 active)
 - ▶ CA Bottomtrawl and fixed gear - 3 bottom, 2 fixed
 - ▶ Whiting - possibly 10-12 vessels (30 active)

Some Challenges

- ▶ Whiting
 - ▶ Full retention fishery, quantify discards and apply species compositions, data source (logbooks or video), % review
- ▶ Fixed gear, bottomtrawl, and midwater
 - ▶ Discard species list and develop wt estimation methods, % review, halibut viability

Implement EFPs by May, 2015

- ▶ Limited to 2 yrs, Council may expand participation
- ▶ Developing terms and conditions now
- ▶ Implementation concerns
 - ▶ Data flow
 - ▶ Fish handling protocols/weight estimations
 - ▶ Video review protocols/auditing reviewers
 - ▶ Halibut viability/retention

Next steps

- ▶ Verify Council policy choices based on EFP findings
- ▶ Intend to implement EM Regs for whiting fishery Jan 2016
- ▶ 2017 might be the earliest possible year of fleet-wide applicability for other sectors