

# Final 2017 Electronic Monitoring Pre-Implementation Plan

January 2017

## 1. Introduction

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) has established an intention to integrate electronic monitoring (EM) tools into the Observer Program for the fixed gear groundfish and halibut fisheries. The Council's intent is to develop EM to collect data to be used in catch estimation for this fleet.

This document describes the EM pre-implementation plan for 2017, and also notes other EM research and development that will take place in 2017. This pre-implementation plan was developed and refined through a Council committee, the fixed gear EM Workgroup (EMWG). The EMWG provides a forum for all stakeholders, including the commercial fishing industry, agencies, and EM service providers, to cooperatively and collaboratively design, test, and develop EM systems, consistent with the Council goal to integrate EM into the Observer Program.

The overall goal of this 2017 pre-implementation plan and the cooperative research is to develop the use of EM, in combination with other tools, for catch accounting of retained and discarded catch, and to identify key decision points related to operationalizing and integrating EM systems into the Observer Program for fixed gear vessels in a strategic manner. The experience and results from the data collected during this pre-implementation and research phase will inform the implementation of EM as an integrated part of the Observer Program. As such, it should be noted that the eventual components of the regulated EM program may have different provisions than those that are proposed in 2017.

The Council took final action on the EM Integration analysis in December 2016. Under the current best-case scenario timeline, regulations would be prepared in 2017, and the integrated program would be implemented for the 2018 fishing year.

Year	Fieldwork / Pre-implementation (Pre-imp)	Council process, regulations	Observer Program/ Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)
2014	<i>Fieldwork</i>	<i>EMWG develops 2015 Cooperative Research Plan (CRP), discusses alternatives for analysis</i>	<i>Oct – 2015 ADP places 10 vessels that are participating in EM research into the no selection pool</i>
2015	<i>Feb – SSC reviews CRP Jan-Jul – operational and stereo camera field research</i>	<i>Feb – SSC, Council review CRP  Oct – propose a 2016 Pre-Implementation plan to Council</i>	<i>Oct – 2016 ADP proposes all EM Pre-Imp vessels in no selection pool</i>
2016	<i>Jan-Dec – Pre-implementation on 58 longline vessels 40-57.5'. Jan-Jul – EM stereo camera field research on 3-5 longline vessels. Field research on pot vessels.</i>	<i>Oct – initial review for EM analysis to integrate EM into obs program. Dec – final action on EM analysis</i>	<i>Oct – 2017 ADP proposes all EM Pre-Imp vessels in no selection pool</i>
2017	<i>Jan-Dec – Second pre-implementation year for longline vessels &gt;40', and proposed pre-implementation for pot vessels. Potential research on other technology.</i>	<i>Jan-Aug – Develop proposed and final regulations for integrating EM, hold MSA-required hearings in AK, WA, OR</i>	<i>June – Annual Report provides prelim analysis on allocating observer fee between observer and EM deployment Oct – 2018 ADP allocates funding to observers and EM deployment</i>
2018	<b>Integrated observer/EM monitoring program</b>		

## 2. Management Objective

The EM management objective identified by the Council for both hook and line and pot vessels carrying EM systems is to estimate at-sea discards. Retained catch will be assessed through landings reports. The intent for EM is to identify discard species to the lowest taxonomic level possible, or at a minimum to the species level needed for management and stock assessment purposes, while acknowledging that for some species, grouping will still occur.

A secondary objective for hook and line vessels has been established for seabird monitoring in 2017, namely to determine whether seabird mitigation measures are present or absent during setting of longline gear on EM-observed trips.

## 3. The EM Selection Pool

The EM selection pool in 2017 will include vessels that meet the Council's criteria for EM, and who opt into the EM pool. Not all vessels in the EM selection pool will carry cameras for all of their fishing activity (see Section 4). Vessels which were in the EM selection pool in 2016 need to "opt-in" again.

### Qualifying Criteria & Process:

- **Criteria:** The 2017 EM selection pool is open to vessels 40 feet or greater length overall using hook and line and pot gear. First priority will be given to vessels 40-57.5 feet length overall where carrying a human observer is problematic, due to bunk space or life raft limitations.
- **Process:** In June, NMFS sent a letter to all fixed gear (both hook and line and pot gear) vessels 40 feet or greater length overall (Attachment 1). In this letter, NMFS requested that vessels indicate their interest in being in the EM selection pool by September 20, 2016. After the October 2016 Council meeting, which will include discussion of the EM Pre-Implementation Plan, a second letter specifying the rules governing EM deployment for 2017 was sent to vessels that had expressed interest (Attachment 2). After receiving this second letter and reviewing the requirements for volunteering, vessels may choose to contact NMFS and "opt out" of the EM program, in which case they will be returned to the human observer pool. Vessels agreeing to the EM program rules, and accepted by NMFS, will be placed in the EM selection pool for the duration of the 2017 season, with no probability of carrying an observer on any trips for the 2017 fishing season. Additions to the EM pool from vessels not meeting the September 20, 2016 deadline may be considered on a case-by-case basis relative to the qualifying criteria and available funding.

### EM Pool Size:

**Hook and Line Vessels:** Up to 90 vessels,  $\geq 40$  feet, will be allowed to participate in the longline EM selection pool. First priority in the pool would continue to be given to small longline vessels (40 to 57.5 ft LOA) and vessels that have liferaft or bunk space limitations with carrying a human observer, followed by vessels that were registered for the 2016 EM selection pool. Vessels selected for the longline gear EM program will be moved into the zero selection pool for human observers.

**Pot Gear Vessels:** Up to 30 vessels,  $\geq 40$  feet, will be allowed to participate in the EM pot selection pool, if funding permits. First priority will be given to vessels that have liferaft or bunk limitations with carrying a human observer. Vessels selected for the pot gear EM program will be moved into the zero selection pool for human observers.

#### 4. EM Deployment Model

An issue was identified in 2016 with vessels failing to pre-register for an EM selection period. A number of vessels participating in the 2016 hook and line EM pre-implementation program and in the pot fleet have expressed an interest moving the EM selection process towards a “trip selection” basis, similar to that used for human-observed vessels. As a result, the 2017 Pre-implementation Plan will investigate the trip selection model in order to test its operational feasibility for the EM pool.

##### **EM Selection Process for Both Hook and Line and Pot Gear Vessels:**

- **Pre-Installation of EM on Vessels in the EM Selection Pool:** Vessels opting into the EM Selection pool for 2017 will be contacted by EM port technicians in the late fall of 2016 to schedule EM system installation at an opportunistic time in advance of commencing fishing operations. Pre-installation of EM systems will begin in October 2016 upon approval by the Council of this 2017 EM Pre-Implementation Deployment Plan, and subject to sufficient funding. During this initial contact, the requirement of the 2017 EM program will be explained to the vessel operator and they will be given an opportunity to “opt-out.” Based on a review of the vessels that have opted-in, their fishing history and port locations, NMFS and the EM service provider will assess which vessels will receive the complete EM system installs (EM sensors, cameras, and control centers) versus those that may only receive the EM sensor and camera installs without the control center. A maximum of 60 vessels will be pre-wired with complete EM systems, and the remainder will be pre-wired with EM sensors and cameras. The intent is to pre-install EM systems on all vessels in the EM pool, not to exceed the 90 vessels that have been budgeted for. **Vessel operators in the EM pool are encouraged to contact the EM service provider as early as possible to arrange for pre-installation.**
- **ODDS Trip Selection:** The ODDS system, i.e., trip selection, will be used in 2017 to notify the vessel operator if a trip has been selected for EM coverage. Vessels in the EM selection pool with an EM system installed must log each fishing trip into the ODDS system at least 72 hours prior to departing for a trip. On trips selected for EM coverage, the vessel operator must contact the EM service provider, acquire an EM control center or hard drive as needed, and comply with the operator responsibilities in Section 7 prior to leaving for an EM-selected trip. Any vessels in the EM pool that have not yet had an EM system installed must contact the EM service provider for an installation before they can log a trip in ODDS. All vessels will have the opportunity to have a system installed in advance, and once the system is installed they will be added to the ODDS system and able to log trips.
- **Changing Dates on EM Selected Trips:** Vessels wishing to change the date of an EM-selected trip must notify their EM provider directly. The EM provider will coordinate with the vessel and NMFS to either change or cancel the date of an EM-selected trip.
- **Target Coverage Level:** In 2017, the target selection rate will be **30% of logged trips for vessels in the hook and line EM pool**, and **30% of logged trips for vessels in the pot gear EM pool**
  - If equipment is available, vessels could be asked to carry EM for longer (i.e., the program would allow for higher coverage on an ad hoc basis to further test an aspect of EM).
  - A midyear budget review is planned and, if necessary, the coverage level may be adjusted downward dependent on remaining funds.

## 5. Service Ports

- **Hook and Line Vessels:** There will be three primary service ports for vessels in the hook and line EM pool in 2016: Sitka, Homer and Kodiak.
- **Pot Gear Vessels:** Primary service ports for vessels in the pot gear EM pool are Homer, Kodiak, and Sand Point.
- **Other Ports:** EM services in other ports will be limited to remote support or periodically scheduled visits by primary port technicians, as funding permits. Vessels not available for EM pre-installation during scheduled trips will be required to travel to a primary port for EM installation or service.

## 6. EM Hardware

**Hook and Line Vessels:** In 2017, vessels participating in the hook and Line EM program will use EM equipment designed and supplied by the Archipelago Marine Research, Ltd. (AMR)<sup>1</sup>. The EM system consists of a control center to manage the data collection, connected to an array of peripheral components including digital IP cameras (generally 2 or 3, depending on the deck configuration), GPS receiver, and gear sensors (hydraulic pressure transducer, drum rotation sensor if appropriate). An additional camera will also be installed to determine if a seabird streamer line was used during setting.

**Pot Gear Vessels:** In 2017, vessels participating in the pot gear EM program will use EM equipment designed and supplied by either Archipelago Marine Research, Ltd or Saltwater, Inc. The EM system consists of a control center to manage the data collection, connected to an array of peripheral components including digital IP cameras (generally 2 or 3, depending on the deck configuration), GPS receiver, and a hydraulic pressure transducer.

## 7. Operator Responsibilities on Vessels Carrying EM Systems

Vessel operators are expected to adhere to the following responsibilities when randomly selected from the EM pool to carry cameras while participating in the 2017 pre-implementation program. The EM Workgroup will use the experience from 2017 to consider how to structure the regulations with respect to these and other responsibilities; a regulated program may have different provisions.

- **EM system installation:** Vessels selected from both the hook and line EM Pools must have an installed, functioning EM system for the period selected for EM coverage. During the EM system installation, it will be the vessel owner's responsibility to assist with planning the best wiring routes and installing the hydraulic oil pressure and engine oil pressure sensors with the assistance of the EM technician.
- **Vessel Monitoring Plan:** the EM service provider will work with each participating vessel to develop a vessel monitoring plan (VMP) which will identify the specific practices required for each vessel's unique configuration. The VMPs will include a cover letter that includes program details, such as the EM system details, operator responsibilities, operator checklist, and troubleshooting protocols. The VMPs will also include an installation summary defining vessel-specific installations details, system settings, camera locations and views. Additionally, a description of how to conduct a hard drive swap and typical troubleshooting strategies, and contact information for key program resources and participants will be provided. Vessel operators will sign the VMP in acknowledgment of the operator responsibilities and system setup requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> Except for approximately ten vessels that have signed up for the EM pot gear program and are working with Saltwater, Inc. If those vessels also fish with longline gear, the Saltwater EM system will monitor their longline activity as well.

- **EM system operation:**
  - **Onboard Power:** The EM systems that will be used in 2017 can accommodate DC power from 12-32 volts, or use AC power from an inverter or gen set. It will be the vessel owner’s responsibility to work with the EM technician to identify a stable power supply and maintain power to the EM system at all times when underway. To avoid battery drain, the EM systems on hook and line vessels will be allowed to power down to sleep mode when the engine is off.
  - **Function Test:** Prior to leaving port, the vessel operator must turn the system on and conduct a system functionality test following the instructions in the VMP. If the functionality test identifies a malfunction, the vessel operator must contact the EM service provider immediately to resolve the issue. The EM service provider will determine if the malfunction is critical or non-critical. A critical malfunction is one that prevents the data collection objectives from being achieved.
    - **Non-Critical EM System Malfunction:** If the malfunction cannot be fixed in a timely fashion, the vessel operator may depart on the scheduled trip, but must follow the service provider’s instructions to trigger video recording manually. The vessel operator may not depart on a second trip without a functioning EM system unless approved by the EM service provider.
    - **Critical EM System Malfunction:** If the malfunction is a camera defined as “critical” in the vessel must remain in port for up to 48 hours to allow the EM service provider time to effect repairs. If the problem cannot be fixed within the 48 hour window, the vessel may receive a release and depart on the scheduled trip. The malfunction must be fixed prior to departing on subsequent trips.
  - **Equipment breakdown at sea:** If the system passes the function check prior to leaving port, and remains continuously powered during the trip, the operator would NOT be required to return to port in the event of a breakdown. However the malfunction must be fixed prior to departing on subsequent trips. If a vessel has repeat problems with EM system reliability or video quality, that vessel may be removed from the EM pool for a period of time and placed in the human observer pool.
  - **Hard Drive Capacity:** The vessel operator must ensure that the system has adequate memory to record the entire trip before departing port. The vessel operator must carry one or more spare hard drives, sufficient to record the entire trip, as a back-up.
  - **Video quality:** The vessel operator will be required to check the monitor before each haul and to wipe water and slime off the camera lenses to maintain video quality. Video quality for each set will be recorded on the vessel score card.
  - **First Trip Quality Control Review:** Operators of vessels selected for EM coverage will be strongly encouraged to make their first landing at an EM service port to allow for a quality control visit.
- **Catch handling:**
  - **Hook and Line Vessels:**
    - **Discard control points.** The vessel operator will be responsible for ensuring all catch is handled within view of the cameras as described in the VMP. A deck camera will be used to ensure that all discards are done in view of the rail cameras.



**Vessels with Saltwater, Inc. systems:** Vessel operators will be asked to mail hard drives to Saltwater, Inc. in Anchorage, following instructions in the Vessel Monitoring Plan. Saltwater will copy the hard drives and send to PSMFC for data review.

## 10. Feedback Systems

Past experience has shown that to obtain high quality EM data, a comprehensive feedback system involving the vessel operator, the EM service provider, and the EM video reviewer's needs to be in place. The 2017 EM program will have several feedback systems. These feedback systems are intended to be educational and adaptive in nature rather than citation-oriented.

1. The EM service provider will schedule a quality control visit by the EM service provider after the first trip. After review of the sensor logs and video images, the EM service provider will confer with PSMFC to identify any installation or deck operational changes that need to be made to meet the goals of the program. Quality control visits are not mandatory on the vessel's part, but are strongly encouraged. In 2017, vessels in the longline fishery will be encouraged to turn on and run the EM system on the first trip immediately following installation, regardless of whether the trip is selected for EM coverage, and to schedule the quality control service upon landing. The data from these trips will not be submitted to PSMFC for review, but will provide an opportunity to resolve potential issues prior to an actual monitored trip.
2. EM service technicians will use a Vessel Scorecard (Attachment 5) to track the vessel's performance with respect to EM system function (including time gaps, sensor performance, and GPS gaps), compliance with operator responsibilities, and the quality of data coming from the vessel. The technician will review the scorecard with the vessel operator to ensure the operator understands operator requirements and whether tasks have been properly completed. The scorecards will be emailed to PSMFC reviewers prior to receipt of the hard drive, so that they are aware of any corrective actions already taken. Information from the Vessel Scorecards will be compiled into a database inseason and for end of season reporting, to establish performance thresholds and better performance metrics.
3. PSMFC reviewers will send a priority Feedback Form to EM service providers if any camera angles need to be changed, or to alert the provider to system malfunctions. For vessels with Saltwater, Inc. EM systems, Saltwater local reviewers will also provide timely feedback to the vessel as necessary to improve catch handling and image quality.
4. PSMFC reviewers will routinely fill out a drive or trip report that will be sent to the provider, vessel operator/owner, and enforcement, documenting performance with respect to EM system function, the compliance with operator responsibilities, and the quality of data coming from the vessel.
5. An incident report (also known as a "call from sea" email) will be completed each time a skipper calls from sea to report a critical malfunction or failure while at sea. All calls from sea will be reported by email to both PSMFC and the designated NMFS contacts at the time the call is received.
6. At the conclusion of fishing for the year, vessel operators will be contacted by EM service providers and encouraged to conduct a post-season debriefing to discuss overall vessel performance metrics and to provide feedback on a variety of issues, including but not limited to: 1) the "user experience"; 2) vessel costs or impacts; and 3) how much time it required to have EM on the boat (installation, cleaning lens, changes to fishing practices, etc).

## 11. Data review procedures

**Hook and Line and Pot Vessels:** PSMFC will review all EM data collected from hook and line and pot vessels to assess whether data is complete, how many trips and hauls were captured, and the video quality of those hauls. PSMFC reviewers will complete a drive or trip report on EM system performance, compliance with operator responsibilities, and the quality of data coming from the vessel. The EM Workgroup will provide direction to PSMFC on protocols for reviewing video for species identification. NMFS will establish a protocol with PSMFC to ensure that all review information, including species identification, is transmitted to AFSC in an appropriate format.

**Additional Local Review for Pot Vessels:** In addition, Saltwater, Inc. will be duplicating local EM data review of pot gear vessels with Saltwater systems installed, to better develop their video review software, build local infrastructure, and test an alternative model for EM cost effectiveness and data turnaround time. NMFS will approve a sampling plan protocol for video review, and review information will be submitted to AFSC via web portal.

## 12. Catch Accounting

NMFS is not yet using EM data being collected through the EM Pre-Implementation Plan in catch accounting. However, the goal in 2017 is to make the necessary infrastructure modifications and catch estimation programming changes to incorporate EM data into the catch accounting system so that it is available for inseason management.

- **For hook and line EM vessels**, in 2017, NMFS will obtain piece counts from EM and will apply average weight by species to the piece counts using other sources of information to derive weight for catch estimation purposes. The 2017 program does not include a provision for measuring species length on hook and line vessels.
- **For pot gear EM vessels** in 2017, NMFS will obtain piece counts from EM and will apply average weight by species to the piece counts using other sources of information to derive weight for catch estimation purposes. The 2017 program may include work to develop the process for measuring species length on pot gear vessels, evaluation of the logistics of collecting data on both retained and discarded catch from pots, and comparison of catch estimates from different estimators.

## 13. Other EM cooperative research in 2017

Within the confines of the budget, the EM Workgroup recommends continuing with other EM research projects in 2017 such as developing additional EM technologies, and continued progress towards expanding EM into other fixed gear sectors.

### **Research and development of other EM technologies for the fixed gear fleet**

#### **Stereo cameras**

In addition to the 90 vessels in the longline EM selection pool, approximately 6 vessels may volunteer to participate in continued testing of stereo cameras. These vessels would be moved into the zero selection pool and be required to carry stereo cameras on all anticipated trips in 2017. Stereo camera vessels will not be part of the random selection process in 2017.

### EM lite (sensors but no video)

The Workgroup is considering the utility of deploying sensor systems on vessels that are not deploying cameras, in order to collect positional data about where vessels are fishing. The utility of this information is for catch estimation, when data from EM vessels is applied either to non-selected vessels in the EM pool, or potentially to the broader zero selection pool. In 2017, the Workgroup is also considering testing EM sensor packages (without video components) that could be combined with satellite transmission capacity. The goal would be to determine if this EM configuration could meet a compliance monitoring objective for vessels that want to fish IFQ in multiple areas.

### Transmission of EM status data

In 2017, the Workgroup is considering testing mechanisms for transmitting real-time basic EM system health data from vessels at sea, and transmitting full maintenance information and selected image clips, GPS, and/or sensor logs when the vessel returns to dock. The purpose of testing transmission equipment and methods is to evaluate (1) whether there are operational issues with installing equipment to allow vessels to transmit at sea and at the dock, (2) the costs of installation of such equipment and transmitting data, and (3) the utility of such information for enforcement.

## **Progress towards expanding EM into other fixed gear sectors**

### Hook and line vessels <40ft LOA

For vessels under 40' LOA, the EM Workgroup has undertaken a demographic study of this fleet including the number of trips, the distribution of vessel lengths, volumes landed, and primary ports. In 2017, the Workgroup will discuss the study and identify priorities for phase in of coverage. This work would support the development of a plan for implementation in future.

## **14. Budget for all 2017 EM deployment and research**

The total available 2017 EM budget is \$2,190,630 available from the following sources:

- \$ 1,812,014 – NMFS Office of Science and Technology
- \$ 121,616 – NMFS Cooperative Research
- \$ 257,000 – ALFA NFWF Funds (approximate amount remaining to be spent in 2017)
- \$ 542,047 – NPFA/Saltwater NFWF Funds

The 2017 EM funding will support work in 4 major areas:

1. Operation and deployment of EM on hook and line catcher vessels greater than 40 ft LOA in the EM selection pool;
2. Operation and deployment of EM on pot gear catcher vessels greater than 40 ft LOA in the EM selection pool;
3. Funding for EM infrastructure in order to integrate the data from EM into the observer program database for use in catch accounting; and
4. EM research and development projects.

The four areas are described in more detail below. The EM Workgroup also recommends maintaining a reserve of funding to support pre-implementation in 2018. Remaining funds in 2017 may be used to fund a request for proposals for EM work in 2018.

## **EM operation and deployment on hook and line catcher vessels greater than 40 ft LOA**

Description: Operational testing of EM on fixed gear vessels according to the EM Pre-Implementation Plan developed by the EM Workgroup will cover purchasing EM equipment (cameras, wiring, hard drives, etc.), field support for deployment and retrieval of the EM systems, and time for Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) employees to conduct review of imagery data.

### Available Budget/Projected Spend Plan:

- \$750,000 – NMFS Office of Science and Technology
- \$257,000 – ALFA NFWF Funds (approximate amount remaining to be spent in 2017)

Total: \$1,007,000

Attachment 6 provides a more detailed budget specific to the fieldwork portion of the longline 2017 EM operation and deployment project.

## **EM operation and deployment on pot gear catcher vessels greater than 40 ft LOA**

Description: Operational testing of EM on fixed gear vessels according to the EM Pre-Implementation Plan developed by the EM Workgroup will cover purchasing EM equipment (cameras, wiring, hard drives, etc.), field support for deployment and retrieval of the EM systems, and staff time to conduct review of imagery data.

### Available Budget/Projected Spend Plan:

- \$537,000            NMFS Office of Science and Technology EM/ER
- \$542,047           NPFA/Saltwater NFWF Funds

Total: \$1,079,047

Attachment 7 provides a more detailed budget specific to the fieldwork portion of the pot gear 2017 EM operation and deployment project.

## **EM infrastructure and staff support**

Description: Provides project management support for PSMFC employees, and costs associated with IT development of changes in NORPAC and integration of EM imagery data in the FMA database.

Available Budget: This will be included in the budget lines for hook and line deployment and pot deployment.

## **EM research and development**

Description: Field support for the R&D of stereo camera EM systems; programming support for the onboard capture of stereo camera imagery data; programming the image processing to obtain species identification and length from stereo camera imagery data; University of Washington production of on-image processing; purchasing and building the next generation of stereo cameras for field testing in late 2016 through the final year of implementation in 2017; and time for PSMFC employees to review imagery data collected during field testing. This project will also support operational testing of RFID tags, chute and stereo camera EM systems deployed onboard pot vessels and potentially catcher processors.

### Available Budget:

- \$445,224 – NMFS Office of Science and Technology (stereo camera deployment)
- \$79,790 – NMFS Office of Science and Technology (EM lite deployment)
- \$121,616 – AFSC cooperative research funding (stereo camera deployment on pot vessels)

Total: \$676,630

## **Attachment 1: Copy of EM Pre-Implementation Plan Opt-In Letter**

May 24, 2016

Dear Vessel Owner,

The North Pacific Observer Program is seeking vessels to participate in the 2017 electronic monitoring (EM) Cooperative Research Program to collect data on board commercial fishing vessels. The goal of the research is to determine whether data collected using EM technologies can be used to estimate catch and whether this can be achieved in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. We request that you let us know of your interest to “opt-in” to the 2017 EM selection pool by September 20, 2016. Any vessel that does not opt-in by September 20 will likely not be eligible for the EM pool in 2017 and will be required to participate in the partial coverage human observer pool per Federal regulations. Temporary exemptions from observer coverage due to life raft limitations or bunk space will not be issued in 2017.

At the February 2016 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting, the Council approved continued development of EM pre-implementation deployment on hook and line and pot vessels. For hook and line vessels, the Council endorsed the expansion of the pre-implementation pool in 2017 to 90 vessels of any length. First priority in this pool would continue to be given to small longline vessels (40 to 57.5 ft. LOA) and vessels that have liferaft or bunk space limitations with carrying a human observer. The Council also endorsed developing EM pre-implementation deployment on 30 pot vessels of any length for 2017. NMFS and the industry continue to seek additional funds to support the EM cooperative research program and the actual number of vessels that will be selected to participate will depend on the amount of funding received.

NMFS will select vessels that meet the 2017 EM pre-implementation pool criteria and have contacted the Observer Program by September 20, 2016 to opt-in. All vessels that are participating in the 2017 EM selection pool will not be required to carry a human observer for the entire 2017 fishing year, however these participants will be required to log their fishing trips into ODDS. Vessels may also be required to use either an electronic or a paper logbook to record basic information such as fishing location, fishing effort (i.e. hook count) and fishing duration.

An EM Pre-Implementation Plan created in 2016 can be found at <http://www.npfmc.org/observer-program/>. The plan includes specific criteria for vessel participation and other operational details to ensure effective deployment of EM systems, and will be updated in 2017 to reflect a revised deployment periods depending on funding and support capacity. Once the criteria for participating in the 2017 EM cooperative research program are approved by the Council, NMFS will notify vessel owners that are selected for the EM pool with more details about the 2017 EM cooperative research in November 2016 via their email address using an email subscription service (Constant Contact). Vessels will be given an opportunity to opt-out of the EM cooperative research prior to the start of the fishing year, but any vessels that opt-out will be subject to human observer coverage.

All EM equipment in 2017 will be provided through the EM cooperative research program. Pre-installation of EM equipment will begin in late fall of 2016 and continue as necessary. EM system installations can be routinely scheduled in a limited number of primary ports - likely Homer, Kodiak, and Sitka, AK. Secondary ports such as Juneau, Petersburg, Sand Point, King Cove, and Dutch Harbor may have periodic EM installation services on scheduled trips by primary port technicians. Vessels not available for EM pre-installation during scheduled trips to a Secondary port will be required to travel to a Primary port for EM installation services. Once installed, the EM sensors and cameras will remain on the

vessel indefinitely to facilitate future participation. Primary and Secondary ports services apply to EM installation and servicing only, there are no restrictions on where a vessel may make landings associated with this program. If you would like to opt-in to this EM cooperative research in Alaska, please contact Elizabeth Chilton at 206-526-4197 or via e-mail at [elizabeth.chilton@noaa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.chilton@noaa.gov) by September 20, 2016.

We look forward to working with you in this EM cooperative research effort.

Chris Rilling  
Director  
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

## Attachment 2: Copy of EM Pre-Implementation Plan 2017 Selection Letter

October 18, 2016

Dear Vessel Owner,

This letter is to notify you that your vessel has been selected to participate in the 2017 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Cooperative Research Program. Now that the Council has approved the 2017 EM Pre-Implementation Plan<sup>1</sup> and the draft 2017 Annual Deployment Plan<sup>2</sup>, you are being contacted to confirm your vessel's participation in the 2017 EM selection pool. Vessels participating in the EM program will be placed in the EM selection pool for the duration of 2017, and will be required to comply with EM-based monitoring requirements when their fishing trip is selected. Vessels that decide not to participate in the 2017 EM program will be placed in the human observer pool, and will be required to carry observer when their fishing trip is selected. Vessels that participate in cooperative research have several responsibilities to ensure the successful deployment of EM systems in 2017:

- Vessels must make arrangements with the EM service provider for the EM system installation to be completed before **January 1, 2017** to schedule a sensor, wiring, and camera installation appointment at least two weeks prior to your first fishing trip. Failure to complete the installation will prevent your ability to log a fishing trip in ODDS.
- Vessel owners with installed EM systems must register each 2017 fishing trip in ODDS (<http://odds.afsc.noaa.gov>) 72 hours prior to the start of fishing trip using the ODDS User ID and password or by calling 1-855-747-6377 and providing your User ID, password and fishing trip information.
- Vessels must fully comply with their Vessel Monitoring Plan which outlines EM system performance requirements and catch handling responsibilities. The EM system must be fully operational prior to departure for a fishing trip and the vessel operator may be required to remain in port for up to 48 hours to give the EM service provider an opportunity to conduct repairs.
- Failure of an EM system during a fishing trip will not cause the vessel to end their trip, however the malfunction must be repaired prior to departing on subsequent selected fishing trips.
- The primary service ports for hook and line vessels are Homer, Sitka, and Kodiak, AK. The primary service ports for pot vessels are Homer, Kodiak, and Sand Point, AK. EM installations and services in other ports will be limited.

Section 7 of the 2017 EM Pre-Implementation Plan<sup>1</sup>, *Operator Responsibilities on Vessels Carrying EM Systems*, describes specific criteria for your vessel's participation and other operational details to ensure effective deployment of EM on your vessel.

After reviewing the program requirements detailed in the 2017 EM Pre-Implementation plan, please let us know by **November 15, 2016** if you do **NOT** wish to participate in the EM selection pool in 2017. This is the final opt-out date for all vessels. This advance notice is critical for NMFS to create the EM selection pool in ODDS and to ensure sufficient time for an EM service provider to install the necessary EM equipment before January 1, 2017. In 2017, vessels in the observer pool will not be granted a conditional release or temporary exemptions for limited bunk space or life raft capacity, because the EM Pre-Implementation Plan provides a monitoring alternative.

<sup>1</sup> <http://npfmc.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=a006e0ce-399a-41e1-ae62-53ed14f74a5d.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://npfmc.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=e818d3bb-a22f-4830-ac79-5fe5e01f502f.pdf>

The *preliminary* 2017 deployment rates for fixed gear vessels selected to carry an observer or an EM system are as follows:

Electronic monitoring on fixed gear vessels <sup>3</sup>	30%
Hook and Line tender <sup>4</sup>	27%
Hook and Line gear	11%
Pot gear tender <sup>4</sup>	6%
Pot gear	3%

<sup>3</sup>This deployment rate is final for EM and will not change.

<sup>4</sup>Delivery to tender instead of returning to FPP port for offload.

The final deployment rates for vessels in the observer pool will be provided in the Final Annual Deployment Plan in early December 2016. Please note that the success of EM Cooperative Research Program in 2017 is dependent upon your cooperation and active participation in this program. As such, we ask that you carefully read this letter and review the draft EM Pre- Implementation plan to understand all of the obligations, requirements, and dates required to participate in this cooperative research effort.

To notify NMFS of your intent to opt-out of the 2017 EM selection pool or for any other questions regarding participating in the EM cooperative research please contact Liz Chilton by email at [elizabeth.chilton@noaa.gov](mailto:elizabeth.chilton@noaa.gov).

Chris Rilling  
Director  
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center



## Attachment 5: Sample vessel feedback reporting forms.

### Sample AMR Vessel Scorecard as completed with field technician (DRAFT)

Note, this will be updated for 2017 to include the EM system's Data Integrity Report.

Data Set Details			
Vessel name:		Operator Name:	
Data Set Start:	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>	ADF&G Number:	
Data Set End:	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>	Current Port:	

Logbooks Completed		Requirement
EM Program Effort Logbook	Y N	Yes
Verified IPHC Logbook (photo or e-log printout)	Y N	Optional
Fish Ticket (photo)	Y N	Optional
Duty of Care		Comments
Function test run at the start of each trip?	Y N	
Sensor data complete throughout trip	Y N	
Initial image quality assessment	H M L	
Initial catch handling assessment*	1 2 3	

\*Guide to catch handling assessment: 1) All catch was handled out of view; 2) Some catch was handled within view, and some out of view; 3) All catch was handled within view.

## Attachment 6: Hook and Line EM Budget Forecast

The following is a forecast of the budget for the hook and line pre-implementation program for 2017. The 2017 program will be funded by a combination of NMFS and industry (NFWF) funds.

Expense Category	NMFS	Industry	Total
<b>Field Program (AMR)</b>			
Labor	158,001	158,200	316,201
EM Products	399,800	80,900	480,700
Travel	35,000	0	35,000
Other Expenses	29,500	15,500	45,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>622,301</b>	<b>254,600</b>	<b>876,901</b>
<b>Data Analysis (PSMFC)</b>			
Labor	117,108	0	117,108
Other	10,000	0	10,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>127,108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>127,108</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>749,409</b>	<b>254,600</b>	<b>1,004,009</b>

## Attachment 7: Pot Gear EM Budget Forecast

In 2017, there will be two service providers working with the pot fleet. The NMFS funding has been granted to PSMFC, who is working with AMR and will service EM systems on 8 pot vessels. The NFWF funding is granted to the North Pacific Fishing Association working with Saltwater, Inc., who will service EM systems on 10 pot vessels. The following is a forecast of the two budgets for the pot gear pre-implementation program for 2017.

NMFS/AMR budget	
Expense Category	Budget
EM Hardware	\$179,000
Program Labor	\$291,000
Shipping	\$12,000
Training (Labor, materials, travel)	\$55,000
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$537,000</b>

NFWF/SWI budget	
Expense Category	Budget
EM Hardware	\$150,000
Labor	\$198,589
Travel	\$22,696
Other	\$35,025
Admin	\$37,715
Research and Development	\$98,022
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$542,047</b>