

J Mondragon 4/24/15

**NMFS thoughts on 2 time-sensitive aspects of the proposed EM program elements:**

**1. Qualifying criteria & opt-in process for the EM Pre-Implementation in 2016:**

EM vessel pool: Longline vessels between  $\geq 40$  to  $< -57.5$  where taking an observer is problematic.

Who qualifies under "taking an observer is problematic:"

- A. The vessels that NMFS has granted temporary exemptions (TEs) for limited life raft capacity in 2015 (5 vessels with TEs as of 4/23/15)
- B. A random selection of vessels from a pool consisting of:
  - a. Option 1: Vessels that NMFS determined could be eligible for life-raft exemption in 2015. This was based on the vessel's history of 4 of crew including the vessel master (66 vessels).
  - b. Option 2: Any vessel that was granted a conditional release for life raft or bunk space in 2013 or 2014 (59 unique vessels in 2013 and 104 unique vessels in 2014; 131 unique vessel for both years combined).
  - c. Option 3: include all vessels from both option 1 and 2 (total of 39 unique TE vessels in 2015 + 131 unique vessels in 2013 & 2014 = 170).

Opt-In Process:

- Once we decide on an option for who is included in the EM vessel selection pool, NMFS would notify vessels and they could choose to Opt In to EM.
- Then NMFS would do a random selection of vessels from those that opted in, these vessels would be placed in Zero Selection under the 2016 ADP.
- The number of boats that would be selected would be determined by the EM budget.

Opt-in Timing:

NMFS needs to put vessels that are selected for EM and into the zero selection pool while the ADP is being developed. So NMFS needs to know which vessels in the EM pool have "opted-in" to EM by Sept.

- EMWG meeting July 30-31- finalize the EM deployment plan
- Send notice to qualified vessels, along with description of the EM plan, by Aug 7.
- Vessels required to 'Opt-In' by Sept 1, and NMFS does the random selection.
- ADP & EM deployment plan to Council in Oct

**2. Timing of Exempted Fisheries Permit (EFP) for full retention of rockfish**

Draft schedule to have an EFP in place by March, 2016 for the IFQ fishery.

- Experimental design completed - Sept 1, 2015
- AFSC review – Sept
- Completed application to AKRO – Oct 1
- AKRO initiates review of application & NEPA process – Oct/Nov
- Presentation of the Council – Dec
- AKRO competition of permit process – Jan/Feb
- Permit in place – March 1, 2016

**Commented [JM1]:** We recognize the month of Aug is likely time when lots of boats are fishing and thus not optimal. Can we accomplish the Sept deadline but somehow better accommodate vessels fishing timing?