Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

Electronic Monitoring

Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)

Fixed Gear

| Vessel Name | Documentation Number | Trawl Limited Entry Permit Number |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

Gear Types Used:

☐ Trap/pot, shorebased IFQ

☐ Bottom longline, shorebased IFQ

☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Contact Information:

Vessel Owner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Operator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Operator 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

EM Service Provider: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A NMFS-accepted vessel monitoring plan must be onboard the vessel at all times that the vessel is fishing on an EM trip or when fish harvested during an EM trip are onboard the vessel. By operating under this VMP, the vessel owner and operator acknowledge and agree that they have read and understand the instructions contained herein and will comply with the NMFS-accepted vessel monitoring plan.

Version Date: 12/28/2023

**VESSEL MONITORING PLAN**

**Fixed Gear**

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**OPERATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

# Before Trip

* Confirm that you have the right declaration with OLE for IFQ/EM:

888-585-5518

* + Declaration remains until changed**.**
* Contact the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) at least 48 hours prior to **EVERY** trip:  
  + **Call: 866-780-8064**
  + If you are selected to carry a scientific observer, you will be contacted and must wait for observer before departing on a fishing trip.

# Trip Start

* Manually turn on camera system,
* Run a functionality test at the start of each trip.
  + See the Malfunction section if there is a problem.
* Check that the hard drive has adequate space to store data for the entire trip and that a spare drive is available onboard (Tip: keep track of how much hard drive space is used after each trip (GB and %) to determine an average).
* Confirm that you have required [electronic non-trawl groundfish logbook](https://www.psmfc.org/program/logbooks#:~:text=Non%2Dtrawl%20Groundfish%20Logbook,%2C%20effective%20January%201%2C%202023.) application, have already established an account, and understand the logbook instructions for data collection and submission.
* If you have a scientific observer onboard provide them with this VMP.
  + Observer Instructions:
    - Perform all WCGOP duties as you would on any standard trip.
    - Do not handle or interact with the equipment in any manner (e.g., adjusting, blocking, cleaning).
    - Avoid interaction with winch and hydraulic sensors.
    - Use the monitor in the wheelhouse to get a sense of where cameras are pointing on the deck. Think about body positioning relative to the camera focused on your work area to avoid blocking view of the fish.
    - Any discarding of catch must be done **in full view of a camera, if safe.** All vessels have designated “discard control points”. Refer to the vessel’s Individual Vessel Monitoring Plan to learn where these are. Please use these locations on the vessel when discarding sampled catch.
    - Skippers are required to fill out logbooks as part of the EM Program. If asked, and you have information or expertise that might be useful in this process (identification, weight estimation, etc.), please provide what assistance you can, as time allows.

# Daily during trip

* Maintain uninterrupted electrical power to the EM unit while vessel is underway.
* Check the video feed screen and confirm that cameras are clean and positioned correctly (consistent with the images shown in Appendix A).
* During haul and catch handling, use video feed screen to confirm that cameras are recording, not blocked by crew, covered with water spots or otherwise dirty, etc.
* Note the date/time and system status in the logbook.

# Trip End

* Do not manually turn off cameras until after offload begins.
* Provide logbooks to your EM Service Provider within 24 hours of landing for each trip (or next business day if the landing occurs on a weekend or holiday).
* After offload is complete, perform a data drive swap and mail hard drive to your EM Service Provider. Hard drives must be postmarked within 72-hours of landing (or next business day if the landing occurs on a weekend or holiday) and no later than 10 days after the end of the 1st trip on the hard drive.
* Hard drives must be mailed using a method that a method that documents time, date, and location of transmission and receipt, such as certified mail, UPS, or FedEx.
* If you need additional hard drives, contact your EM Service Provider.

**Logbook Requirements**

* **Fixed Gear** (Fill out all sections)
  + Requires the electronic [Fixed Gear Logbook](https://www.psmfc.org/program/logbooks#:~:text=Non%2Dtrawl%20Groundfish%20Logbook,%2C%20effective%20January%201%2C%202023.)
  + Report if it is an EM trip
  + Report number of skates, tubs, or pots per set for every haul
  + Report lost gear for every haul
  + Report delivery date for every haul
  + Report all retained priority species (Yelloweye) estimated weights and exact counts per haul
  + Report all IFQ species retained and discard weights and counts per haul.
  + Report depredated fish weights as whole weights (what the fish would weigh before predation)
  + Log discards of all non-IFQ species including marine mammals, sharks, crab etc.
  + Report fish ticket number(s) on logbook
  + Thoroughly complete trip begin and end date, time, port, and dealer information
  + Comment on any equipment malfunctions or gear/catch issues if applicable
  + Comment on any additional video recording due to delay in offloading or offloading at multiple first receivers.
  + Record any interactions with marine mammals and complete a [Marine Mammal Authorization Program mortality/injury report form](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program#reporting-a-death-or-injury-of-a-marine-mammal-during-commercial-fishing-operations)

**Discards and Catch Handling:**

**General Catch Handling**

* Any and all sorting must occur in clear view of the camera.
* Crewmembers must not block camera views while sorting.
* All discards must occur at a discard control point designated on the vessel diagram in Appendix A.
* All catch handling must be complete before the next haul is brought onboard.
* Vessel operator must provide adequate lighting for cameras.
  + Lighting must not shine directly at cameras and impede video reviewers’ ability to view fishing activity.

# Prohibited Discards (must be retained)

* All s**almon** must be retained.
* All **yelloweye rockfish** (a priority species) must be retained. Yelloweye must be sorted into an individual tote or approved container in a way that enables EM video reviewers to obtain accurate counts.
* If you encounter an endangered **short-tailed albatross**, refer to Appendix D in this VMP (or regulations 660.21(c)(1)(v)) for handling and disposition requirements.

# Allowable Discards

* Allowed to discard (with proper catch handling, display, measuring, and logbook recording):
  + All IFQ and non-IFQ fish, except salmon.
* All IFQ species must be measured and displayed to camera before discarding.
  + Show all sides of fish, spread dorsal spines of thornyheads, and show any unique characteristics for accurate species ID.
* **Pacific Halibut**- All halibut must be placed in view of the camera and on or near a measuring tool for measurement prior to discarding.
* **Mutilated and predated fish** – Predated and mutilated fish, including sablefish, which are intended to be discarded must be placed in a tote together before discarding at the end of the haul. This will help when counting fish.
* Place carcasses that have a head and tail on measuring area before discarding.
* Individual skulls must also be measured prior to discarding.
* Invertebrates, debris (trash, mud, rocks, and other inorganic debris), **Prohibited and Protected Species**, and non-IFQ fish must be discarded in camera view at a designated discard location (see vessel diagram in Appendix A).
  + Prohibited and Protected Species (**must discard**):
    - Dungeness crab caught seaward of Washington or Oregon or outh of Point Reyes, California
    - Green Sturgeon
    - Eulachon
    - Non-ESA listed seabirds (dead short-tailed albatross must be retained – see Appendix E
    - Sea turtles
    - Marine mammals

\*\*ALL SALMON MUST BE RETAINED\*\*

* **Unavoidable discard** that is the result of an event that is beyond the control of the vessel operator or crew, such as a safety issue or mechanical failure, is allowed.
  + Record weight by species, reason for the discard, and the location of haul in the logbook.
* **Heads and Guts from Processing at Sea**: (For Sablefish J-Cut at sea)
  + cut the fish in clear camera view
  + tote the heads and guts in camera view
  + discard tote contents at control point