

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

At-sea and dockside monitoring of catch and landings play an important role in the collection of scientific data, catch accounting and enforcement of fisheries regulations. With the recent emphasis on annual catch limit (ACL) requirements as well as the implementation of catch share programs around the country, the demands for accurate and timely catch monitoring have been increasing. At the same time, the cost of these monitoring programs and the prospects for Federal funding for them in the foreseeable future demands that fisheries monitoring become more cost effective and capable of incorporating new electronic technologies (cameras and e-logbooks) referred to as electronic monitoring (EM). In the case of catch share programs, cost issues extend directly to fishery participants. The success of the electronic monitoring of vessel whereabouts via the vessel monitoring system (VMS) applications has been a basis for exploring additional applications involving catch monitoring associated with active fishing.

While interest in electronic monitoring is high, there are few on-the-water monitoring programs in U.S. fisheries that utilize electronic technologies beyond the VMS application. Even though there have been more than 20 EM pilot projects since 2002 throughout the different Council regions, EM is currently only approved for only limited compliance monitoring use in two Alaskan fisheries. However, several Council/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regions have conducted studies and initiated programs related to video monitoring and electronic reporting. In addition, NMFS has developed white papers to address the following topics:

1. Analysis of Existing Electronic Monitoring Technologies/Programs
2. Enforcement Issues/Impediments
3. Research & Development Requirements
4. Re-alignment of Management and Monitoring
5. Funding Options

NMFS is also working on an additional white paper concerning Legal/Confidentiality concerns. At the February 2013 CCC meeting, NMFS presented the completed white papers to the CCC.

The Council Coordination Committee (CCC) established an Electronic Monitoring Subcommittee (EMSC) as an outcome of the 2012 annual meeting to consider cross-cutting issues between regions in relation to the implementation of video monitoring and other forms of electronic monitoring, and to make recommendations to the CCC at its 2013 annual meeting. The EMSC met April 18 to review developments in the area of EM, preparatory to a discussion at the May, 2013 annual CCC meeting (see Agenda Item H, Attachment 1).

CCC Action:

- 1. Consider report from the Electronic Monitoring Workgroup**
- 2. Develop recommendations for developing and implementing EM programs**
- 3. Consider funding issues and opportunities for EM programs**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H, Attachment 1: Electronic Monitoring Subcommittee Report

Agenda Order:

1. Electronic Monitoring Subcommittee Report
2. Discussion and Action

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