

FIXED GEAR EM WORKGROUP
MOTION: April 9, 2014
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Purpose

The Fixed Gear EM Workgroup is a Council committee established so that industry, agency and EM service providers have a forum to cooperatively and collaboratively design, test and develop electronic monitoring systems that are consistent with Council goals and objectives to integrate electronic monitoring into the observer program.

The EM work group will review the current suite of EM tracks going forward in 2014 and 2015 to inform development of an analysis of alternative approaches to EM to meet Council objectives for estimating catch and discards. The EM workgroup will 1) identify a specific list of research objectives to be addressed by the CRP, what data elements are being collected to inform the objectives and whether sampling levels are appropriate; 2) review data protocols to ensure that each track will provide information to ensure comparison and synthesis of data sources; and 3) identify a timeline, milestones, and decision points for the Council in order to integrate EM into the Observer Program for the fixed gear fisheries.

The EM workgroup will be guided by and, if necessary recommend revisions to, the EM Strategic Plan that was approved by the Council in June 2013.

Composition

The Council will appoint representatives from the fixed gear fleet and EM service provider companies, who submitted letters of interest to the Council by the deadline of March 15, 2014. Representatives from the fixed gear fleet include longline and pot gear, from all vessel sizes. Council appointees may name another alternate to serve in their place.

Agency representation is anticipated from the list below, but each agency will determine on its own who will participate, depending on the workgroup agenda and needs.

Agency staff:

NMFS staff from SF, Regional office, AFSC, OLE, GC, etc.

ADF&G

PSMFC

IPHC

Council staff

Operating rules and reporting

The workgroup is a Council committee and support will be provided by Council staff.

The workgroup may recommend and the Council will set meeting times and agendas.

The workgroup chairman or facilitator will be appointed by the Council chairman.

The workgroup will operate on a consensus basis and report directly to the Council.