

Electronic Monitoring Work Group Report – Council motion

June 5, 2014

1. The Council supports the conceptual approach of the cooperative research program (CRP) described in the EM workgroup documents, and encourages the industry, agencies and EM providers to continue their work to complete the study designs and data review protocols, and ongoing field work in all tracks.

The Council also requests the SSC review the entire package of completed study designs, data review protocols, the goals of each track and their relation to each other, in order to evaluate the ability of the CRP to provide the information and results necessary to develop a regulatory amendment package for integrating EM into the Observer Program.

2. The Council requests staff continue developing decision points and timelines for the Council process, in order to prepare to initiate a regulatory amendment package.

3. The Council supports continued field work on deploying EM after June 2015, while the analytical and regulatory process is under way, to sustain capacity and continue to resolve implementation issues.

4. The Council requests NMFS provide information on funds available for each of the four research tracks to be able to evaluate prioritization of CRP efforts in the event that funding sources fall short of levels necessary to complete them as currently designed.

5. The Council requests AFSC, as time permits, assess the ways in which EM can meet monitoring objectives for the pot and trawl fisheries, in order to facilitate integration of independently funded EM projects into the Council process at some point in the future.