Grant Request Information

Title of Project	Integrating electronic monitoring in Alaska's At-Sea Monitoring of Fixed Gear Fisheries: Pre-implementation support.
Project Description	The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has identified 2016 as a target for pre-implementation of EM on small vessels in Alaska's fixed gear fisheries. This project will support that initiative by providing a portion of the EM hardware and training needed, as well as continued participation by stakeholders in the regulatory development process.
Long Term Outcome(s) of Project	EM integration improves conservation and management by providing important fishery dependent data from small vessels. Regulations allow current fee collected to sustainably fund an integrated program.
Project Location Description	Electronic monitoring (EM) support capacity will focus on the Alaskan communities of Kodiak, Sitka, Homer, Seward, and out-port services in other, more remote communities as practicable. Vessel participation will occur in all management areas of the Gulf of Alaska.
Total Amount Requested	$175,000.00
Total Match Amount Proposed	$320,000.00
Proposed Grant Period	09/01/2015 - 08/31/2017
Organization	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
Organization Type	Non-profit Corporation 501(c)(6)
Primary Contact	Mr. Dan Falvey
Position/Title	
Street Address Line 1	834 Lincoln Street
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City, State, Country Postal Code	Sitka, Alaska, North America - United States, 99835
Region (if international)	
Phone and E-mail	907-747-3400 Ext: ; myriadfisheries@gmail.com

Matching Contribution Amount:	$300,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Pledged
Source:	At sea time from volunteer fishing vessels
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	At sea time from fishing vessels volunteering to participate in EM pre-implementation testing valued at $1,000/sea day.

Matching Contribution Amount:	$20,000.00
Type:	Cash
Status:	Pledged
Source:	Stakeholder Associations
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Matching funds in support of stakeholder travel and personnel time associated with this project.

Total Amount of Matching Contributions **$320000.0000**

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Fisheries Innovation Fund - 2015, Pre-proposal
Title: Integrating electronic monitoring in Alaska's At-Sea Monitoring of Fixed Gear Fisheries: Pre-implementation support.
Organization: Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

FIF Pre-proposal Narrative

The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.

Pre-proposal Project Narrative

Priority Addressed: Priority 4 (a): Innovations in Monitoring and Evaluation: Projects that improve monitoring and evaluation of fisheries and promote adoption of monitoring innovations including…. enhancements in observer coverage……and implementation of electronic monitoring in fisheries.

Project Location: Electronic monitoring (EM) support capacity will focus on the Alaskan communities of Kodiak, Sitka, Homer, Seward, and out-port services in other, more remote communities as practicable. Vessel participation will occur in all management areas of the Gulf of Alaska.

Methods: The ultimate goal of this project is to support the integration of EM systems in Alaska's fixed gear fisheries. This project will provide fishery dependent data from small fixed gear vessels that cannot accommodate an observer without operational disruption or introducing bias. There are unique challenges to implementing EM in Alaska that require innovative approaches, including installation, servicing and retrieving data from vessels operating out of ports that are very remote.

In 2013, following recommendations of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) implemented a new funding and deployment system for observer coverage in North Pacific fisheries. This new system provides NMFS with authority to randomly deploy observers on vessels with less than 100 percent observer coverage, and includes vessels less than sixty feet in length and vessels participating in the halibut fishery which did not previously have at-sea monitoring requirements. Deployment of observers in this "partial coverage" sector is funded through a 1.25 percent fee on the ex-vessel value of landings covered under the new system.

The Council, NMFS, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and the fixed gear industry, with support from NFWF, have been working since 2010 to develop and integrate EM into the restructured observer program, recognizing that at-sea data from all sectors is an important goal of the program and a large portion of the small boat fleet will have difficulty carrying a human observer. The 2013 NMFS Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) set an observer coverage target of 11% for fixed gear vessels between 40' and 57.5' LOA and a zero coverage rate on vessels under 40' LOA. In a September 13, 2013 letter to the Council, NMFS noted "*while an 11% sampling fraction was anticipated, a lower sampling fraction (4% to 9.5%) was actually achieved.*" The Council is committed to a cooperative research effort to integrate EM into the at-sea monitoring program in the North Pacific to improve the quality, quantity, and utility of the information received from this fleet. Recent milestones toward EM integration include the Council appointment in April 2013 of an Electronic Monitoring Work Group (EMWG) tasked with guiding cooperative research and planning for a 2016 and 2017 pre-implementation of EM on small fixed gear vessels. The Council is also initiating a concurrent regulatory process intended to culminate in final implementation of EM by regulation in 2018. However, the landing fees collected from the "partial coverage" sector of the fleet, as authorized under the Magnuson Stevens Act, cannot be used to support EM development and implementation until regulations are implemented. Achieving pre-implementation targets for 2016 and 2017 will require securing funds for EM hardware, field services, and video review from independent sources and federal appropriations. In the 2015 ADP NMFS estimates there will be 378 fixed gear vessels in the 40' to 57.5' LOA size range eligible for at-sea monitoring in 2015, and estimates a 12% sampling rate of trips will result in approximately 45 vessels carrying observers. As currently

envisioned, 2016 EM pre-implementation will target up to 40 additional vessels for EM coverage, thus significantly increasing the at-sea coverage in this sector.

Landings data indicate that the four communities of Kodiak, Seward, Homer, and Sitka account for more than 50% of delivery from the target fleet. Pre-implementation steps include building EM support capacity in these ports and providing reasonable out-port services. Fishery demographics and results from a previous NFWF funded pilot program (NFWF project # 2011-0052-012) indicate that each community will require approximately four EM camera and control systems, and sufficient wiring and sensors to service a target fleet of 10 to 12 vessels/community. To achieve pre-implementation targets for 2016 and 2017, and to support EM integration until regulations can be enacted authorizing the use of observer program fees, ALFA requests NFWF funds to support: 1) the multi-year lease or purchase of EM hardware and sensors sufficient to meet the needs of two communities, 2) training for local field service personnel to ensure quality and consistent application of program protocols, and 3) ongoing stakeholder engagement through the pre-implementation period. NMFS is a partner in this project and is seeking funds to support the remaining EM hardware needs, contract field service needs, and EM data review costs. NMFS intends to request approximately $500,000 in FY15 budgets for Alaska to develop EM as a supplement to the existing restructured observer program.

Project Outcome(s): Short term outcomes include acquisition and deployment of hardware needed for pre-implementation of EM in Alaska's fixed gear fleet, development of training procedures to ensure data quality and standardization, and continued support for stakeholder coordination and travel throughout the pre-implementation stage as lessons learned in field activities directly inform the development of regulations. EM imagery and sensor information will be used for the first time to generate catch estimates for this segment of the "partial coverage" fleet. Ultimately, adoption of regulations integrating EM in Alaska's fixed gear fisheries will improve conservation and management by providing important fishery dependent data from small vessels. Implementing regulations will also allow the current fee collection program to sustainably fund an integrated at-sea monitoring program.

Proposed Activities: The EM workgroup has created a 2015 research plan that will identify the attributes of the EM program to be expanded in 2016. This cooperative research plan is scheduled to be reviewed by the Council's Science and Statistical Committee at its February 2015 meeting to ensure that it is scientifically valid and meets Council needs. Funding for the 2015 field work has been secured. NMFS and industry have begun applying for funds and planning for 2016 pre-implementation. Once regulations are implemented, landing fees can be used to support the EM program. The necessary agreements for PSMFC to contract for EM field work and data review services are in place. PSMFC will be an active partner in this effort as they have already developed EM data review protocols and have infrastructure in place to continue this work.

Measure of Success: Success in purchasing the EM hardware and providing the necessary training for field support personnel will be measured by accomplishing these tasks as budgeted. Success in supporting stakeholder engagement will be measured by continued participation of key stakeholders at planned meetings and participation in the project by fixed gear vessels. Success in the pre-implementation years will be demonstrated by the production of defensible catch estimates for the target EM population. Success in achieving long term objectives will be measured by the Council and NMFS adopting regulations that integrate EM with the North Pacific research plan, and support that integration with a fee based mechanism.