



C3 Trawl Electronic Monitoring

October 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Anna Henry

Other Presenters: Maggie Chan (NMFS), Melanie Rickett (NMFS), Darrell Brannan (Brannan and Associates)

Action Required: 1. Review analysis
2. Identify a preferred alternative

BACKGROUND

The Council is considering proposed management measures that would allow an EM system to supplement existing observer coverage on pollock catcher vessels (CVs) using pelagic trawl gear, and tender vessels, delivering to processing plants in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. The Trawl EM program is designed to use EM for *compliance monitoring*, meaning that EM video does not directly feed into catch accounting or stock assessments. Instead, catch accounting uses industry reported data (verified through EM) and data collected by shoreside observers. Maximized retention ensures that unsorted catch will be delivered and available to be sampled by shoreside observers, allowing for non-biased data to be collected at the trip level by shoreside observers at the processing plant. The trawl EM program has been operating under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to evaluate the efficacy of EM systems and shoreside observers since 2020. The purpose of the action is to improve catch accounting for salmon, advance cost efficiency, and monitor for compliance with discard restrictions.

At the June 2022 meeting, the Council reviewed the initial review draft of this analysis and selected Alternative 2 as the preliminary preferred alternative which would implement EM on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea (BS) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA). The Council recommended additional information on the following issues be included in the analysis to help guide final policy decisions for the program: 1) Using the partial coverage 1.65% fee to pay for EM equipment, service, and maintenance costs for vessels that do not participate in other trawl catch share programs with an EM option. 2) use of the partial coverage fee to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage directed pelagic pollock deliveries from vessels using EM. 3) A threshold approach where vessels that opt into the EM program would be required to participate in the EM program for the range of 25% to 100% of all pollock fishing trips in the GOA during a calendar year. All other trips would be in the observer trip selection pool. 4) The structure for incentive plans that provide incentives to meet specific goals to avoid exceeding maximum retainable amounts and GOA pollock trip limits. This information was included in addition to, not in place of the existing information in the document and the Council will identify specific policy directions on these issues during final action.