

**SUBJECT:**

Electronic Monitoring Development - EM Workgroup Report

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

- (a) Review minutes from Electronic Monitoring Workgroup meeting

**BACKGROUND:**

The Electronic Monitoring Workgroup met by teleconference over the summer, and in person September 23-24, 2014 (minutes for both meetings are attached). The Workgroup made considerable progress with outlining a framework for the regulatory amendment package to integrate EM as part of the Observer Program, with a rough draft of elements of a purpose and need statement, alternatives, decision points, and implementation strawmen. The Workgroup proposes to continue working on this framework over the next couple of months, and refine the 2015 Cooperative Research Plan (CRP) to be responsive to the decision points and information needs of the analytical framework. To that end, the Workgroup has renamed the research 'tracks' of the research plan into a series of research projects, which are described in the attached CRP projects table. The Workgroup also received study plans for the logbook project (former Track 4), and for research on pot vessels (as part of former Tracks 2 and 3), which are attached. All materials reviewed by the EM Workgroup are available on the Council website, [www.npfmc.org/observer-program/](http://www.npfmc.org/observer-program/).

In June 2014, the Council asked the SSC to review the Cooperative Research Plan, including specific study designs, in order to inform the Council as to whether the research will provide the necessary information and. While that review was initially scheduled for the October Council meeting, the EMWG determined in September that more development of the 2015 research program is warranted. As a result, SSC review is proposed for February 2015. This should accommodate the preparation of a more complete research plan, but still allow SSC feedback to be addressed before the onset of the 2015 fieldwork.