

Council Motion
C4 Trawl EM
June 11, 2022

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for final action and identifies Alternative 2: Electronic Monitoring is implemented on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, as the preliminary preferred alternative. The Council supports the recommendations from the Trawl EM Committee and, in particular, recommends that the analysis provide additional information on the following elements to help guide final policy decisions for the program:

- Use of 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.
- Use of the partial coverage 1.65% 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.
- 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.
- The structure for incentive plans that provide incentives to meet specific goals to avoid exceeding maximum retainable amounts and GOA pollock trip limits.

Staff should consider and address comments from the SSC to the extent practicable. The Council supports maintaining the current timeline for final action in October 2022.