

Council staff briefed the Enforcement Committee on Trawl EM progress at their meeting April 2nd, 2019. Council staff provided the Enforcement Committee with copies of the most recent (March 2019) report of the Trawl EM Committee (accessible [HERE](#)) and the Cooperative Research Plan for the Trawl EM Committee (accessible [HERE](#)). The Enforcement Committee heard that EM Committee members would be preparing an application for an EFP to exempt pelagic pollock trawl CVs in the GOA and BSAI from discard regulations and allow them to operate under a maximized or optimized (nearly full) retention system. In April, staff explained that EFP may or may not include an exemption from carrying human observers and the exact number of vessels that would be involved remains to be determined.

The Enforcement Committee requested updates as things progress with the Trawl EM Committee's EFP, and ***requested that any potential development of EM for trawl CVs use the existing process for chain of custody used in the Fixed Gear EM program.***

Staff are prepared to communicate these desires to the Trawl EM Committee at the meeting in August 2019. The Council is expected to receive a formal update in October (when any potential EFP application is completed), and the Enforcement Committee might be briefed and updated at that time.