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Fixed Gear Electronic Monitoring Program VMP Trends

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Notice Letters, 2021

- Have been distributed to participants deemed to have multiple/repeat VMP compliance issues in 2019 and 2020
- Noncompliance may result in disapproval in 2022
- These letters fostered great back-and-forth communication and problem solving dialogue between owner/operators and NOAA Fisheries
- In looking at the data, we noted some fleetwide trends



Trends of Concern

- The proportion of issues that are self-reported is low and trending lower
 - Below 15% self-reported for each of the 3 years
- Issues “under vessel control” more than doubled from 2018 to 2020: from >30% to >60%
 - Camera lens dirty
 - Camera view obstructed
 - Catch handled out of camera view
 - **Catch handling inconsistent with VMP (Pot and LL)**
 - Power interrupted (by vessel action)
 - Insufficient lighting
 - Prohib mishandling/Careful release issues
 - Streamer lines not used
 - Seabirds not presented to camera



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Ways to Encourage Voluntary Compliance

- OLE has noted prior success with distributing outreach and education letters to industry owner/operators
- OLE's Goal is to support program success and collection of high quality data
 - Achieved through adherence to VMP
- We encourage dialogue on how best to achieve this



Thank you for your time!

