



# 2025 Gulf of Alaska Trawl Electronic Monitoring Incentive Plan Agreement Annual Report

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# What is the TEM IPA?

- The Trawl Electronic Monitoring (TEM) program was developed as a compliance monitoring tool to increase monitoring on pollock catcher vessels and improve accounting precision for salmon.
- **A key element of this program is a maximum retention requirement**, which means vessels must retain all catch so harvest can be accounted for by observers at the plant, instead of sampling on the vessel. When developing the TEM program, the maximum retention requirement made exemptions necessary from some regulations which normally require at-sea discarding. These exemptions include:
  - Prohibitions against exceeding the GOA 300,000-pound pollock trip and daily limits
  - Prohibitions against exceeding Maximum Retainable Amounts (MRAs)
  - Prohibitions against vessels having on board, at any time, 20 or more crabs of any species
  - Requirements to discard halibut or crab Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) at sea on non-EM trips.
- The purpose of the IPA is to monitor behavior against these exemptions, evaluate whether behavior has significantly changed, create incentives and disincentives to fishing behaviors, and hold vessels accountable to the intent of the regulations.
- All Gulf of Alaska TEM vessels must be party to a TEM IPA, but this is currently the only available TEM IPA.

# Management of the TEM IPA

- The Gulf of Alaska Trawl Electronic Monitoring Association was created to manage the IPA. It has six Board of Directors plus the TEM IPA Representative, who acts as the seventh voting board member.
- The GOA TEM Association is responsible for designating the IPA Representative, who administers the GOA TEM IPA in coordination with participating vessel operators, processors and NMFS Alaska Region staff.
- The TEM Incentive Plan builds upon operational standards and vessel performance metrics developed during the pollock trawl EM EFP program conducted between 2020 and 2024.
- The IPA Representative monitors:
  - Vessel performance relative to pollock trip limits,
  - MRA performance standards,
  - PSC requirements, and other obligations established under the IPA.
- At the conclusion of both A and B seasons, vessels were notified of their performance. The enforcement framework includes requirements for forfeiting proceeds, liquidated damages schedules, and the potential loss of eligibility for future participation in the TEM Program.

# Vessel Incentives to Participate

- The primary incentive to participate in TEM is improved salmon accounting due to census counts of all salmon in TEM deliveries.
- Other incentives to participate include:
  - Improved monitoring data for catch accounting and compliance
  - Reduced at-sea discards through maximized retention
  - Operational flexibility under the IPA framework
  - No long wait times for vessel observers in remote ports.

# 2025 GOA TEM Pollock Harvest and PSC

- There were 964 GOA TEM pollock trips in 2025.
- 233,413,097 million pounds of pollock was harvested on GOA TEM Trips, which accounts for 78.6% of all GOA pollock harvest.
- Despite being exempted from the prohibition of having 20 or more crab on board at any time, the data clearly shows there is no changed behavior towards crab by vessels in the TEM category.

Species	Pounds	% of Pollock Harvest
Chinook Salmon	65,166	0.028%
Non-Chinook Salmon	6,307	0.003%
Halibut	904	0.0004%
Herring	124,107	0.053%
Tanner Crab	3	0.0000013%
King Crab	0	0%
<b>Total Harvest of PSC</b>	<b>196,487</b>	<b>0.08%</b>

# GOA Pollock Trip Limit Performance Standard

- The goal is to ensure vessels on TEM trips remain at or below the 300,000 pound pollock trip limit on an average basis (over the course of 4 trips).
  - Remember, if they were on non-EM Trips they would be required to discard to remain below 300,000 pounds but the maximum retention requirement in TEM prevents this.
- There are three types of trip limit calculations to monitor performance:
  - Sequential four-trip average calculations for vessels greater than or equal to 60 feet in length.
  - The egregious trip overage provision for deliveries exceeding 335,000 pounds.
  - Calendar-day delivery four trip averages for vessels under 60 feet in length.

# GOA Pollock Trip Limit Offenses and Fines

- Trip limit overages, whether 4 trip average or egregious overages, are counted consecutively across the year.
  - Example: 1 egregious overage plus one 4 trip average overage equals two offenses.
- Vessels are required to forfeit the value of the overage, plus are issued the respective fine.
- The operational reality is that no matter how close a captain is paying attention to stay under the trip limit on average, there are unavoidable circumstances and challenges that can result in overages.

<b>Trip Limit Overage Offense</b>	<b>Fine</b>
1st Overage Offense	Abandonment of proceeds plus \$750 fine
2nd Overage Offense <input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment of proceeds plus \$1,500 fine
3rd Overage Offense	Abandonment of proceeds plus \$2,000 fine
4th Overage Offense	Abandonment of proceeds plus \$2,500 fine

# TEM Fleet-Wide Performance on Trip Limit

- In 2025, there were a total of 964 TEM trips and 29 had pollock overages, representing 3% of TEM trips and 0.39% of the TEM pollock harvest (Table 4 in report).
- This indicates that the performance standard is working to prevent behavior changes from the requirement to retain pollock.

	<b>A Season</b>	<b>B Season</b>	<b>Annual Total</b>
<b>4 Trip Average Overages</b>	8	3	11
<b>Egregious Overages</b>	12	6	18
<b>Calendar Day Overages</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total Overages</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>% of TEM Trips with Overages</b>	-	-	3%
<b># of Unique Vessels with Overages</b>	14	8	20
<b>Average Overage Amount (lbs)</b>	29,756	34,280	32,018
<b>Total Overage Pounds</b>	595,111	308,517	903,628
<b>% of TEM Harvest that were Overages (% of lbs)</b>	-	-	0.39%

# GOA Maximum Retainable Amounts (MRAs)

- MRAs are the percentages of incidental species a vessel is allowed to retain when targeting a different species; this does not apply to prohibited species.
- Outside of TEM, trawl vessels are required to discard any incidental catch of an MRA species above the species-specific percentage.
- While incidental catch happens in every fishery, MRAs help prevent excessive incidental catch and are also used to trigger a “directed fishing definition” which determines how many other regulations apply.
- Since incidental catch is unavoidable to an extent, the first and second offenses for exceeding an MRA do not have an associated fine. However, vessels are still required to forfeit proceeds above \$250 for all overage offenses.

# GOA Maximum Retainable Amounts (MRAs)

<b>MRA Offense</b>	<b>Proceeds Forfeiture</b>	<b>Additional Damages</b>
1st and 2nd Offense	All proceeds for each overage, if they exceed \$250	None
3rd Offense	All proceeds, if they exceed \$250	\$1,000
4th Offense	All proceeds, if they exceed \$250	\$1,500
5th Offense	All proceeds, if they exceed \$250	\$2,000

## TEM Performance towards MRA Performance Standard

- Overall for the year, MRA overages occurred on 4.4% of TEM trips and comprised 0.17% of the total TEM pollock harvest (Table 8).
- All MRA overages were of “aggregated rockfish”; the distribution and species of MRA overages (primarily Pacific ocean perch) on GOA pollock TEM trips in 2025 was consistent with prior years.
- The data shows that the performance standard appears to be working as intended.

	A Season	B Season	Annual Total
<b>Aggregated Rockfish MRA Overages</b>	6	35	41
<b>Other MRA Overages</b>	0	0	0
<b>Total MRA Overages</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>% of TEM Trips with Overages</b>	-	-	4.3%
<b># of Unique Vessels with Overages</b>	5	18	21
<b>Average Overage Amount (lbs)</b>	3,638	20,724	17,010
<b>Total Overage Pounds</b>	18,192	373,039	391,231
<b>% of Agg Rockfish Compared to Pollock TEM Harvest</b>	-	-	0.17%

# Steller Sea Lion Forage Species & Harvest Specs

- All participating vessels remained subject to applicable Steller Sea Lion protection measures found at 50 CFR 679.22(b)(2) throughout the year.
- While this is a requirement in the IPA, it also remains a regulatory requirement that is monitored by NMFS OLE through Vessel Monitoring Systems or by review of EM video data.
- The regulations also require this annual report to address whether Trawl EM vessels fished in conflict with the harvest specifications during the fishing year.
- If any of these types of violations occurred, neither the Alaska Region or OLE notified the IPA Representative.

# Conclusion

- Trawl EM was developed to increase monitoring on pollock catcher vessels and improve accounting precision for salmon PSC, particularly in the GOA.
- The requirement to retain all species (maximum retention) means they can be accounted for accurately by shoreside observers.
- While maximum retention requirements then require exemption from other regulations such as GOA pollock trip limits and MRAs, the data indicates that the performance standards included in the TEM IPA are functioning as intended.
- When overages did occur, vessels nearly always self-reported prior to the fish ticket information being available. The IPA has created a culture of communication and accountability, despite necessary exemptions from regulations.

Questions?

