

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C3 EM Integration motion
October 6, 2016

The EA/RIR/IRFA Analysis to Integrate Electronic Monitoring into the North Pacific Observer Program is ready to release for public review. Staff should address the SSC recommendations as practicable prior to release for public review.

Preferred Alternative

Alternative 2, Allow use of EM for catch estimation on vessels in the EM selection pool.

Alternative 2 includes the nine components identified in section 3.2.1 of the Analysis.

Alternative 2 would establish the process and structure for the Council to use EM as a tool for monitoring fixed gear vessels in the partial coverage category of the North Pacific Observer Program. Integral to Alternative 2 is the annual process for the Council and NMFS to make EM deployment decisions along with observer deployment decisions in the Annual Deployment Plan. Work should continue to develop the necessary annual analysis for determining the EM selection pool and balancing EM deployment with deployment of observers within budget.

Option for vessels fishing IFQ in multiple regulatory areas:

Add an option to Alternative 2 for a process to allow vessels to use EM instead of an observer for fishing IFQ in multiple regulatory areas.

Rockfish full retention:

The Council requests staff to develop a discussion paper for a subsequent action to consider requiring full retention of all rockfish species for fixed gear catcher vessels. Full retention is identified as an option under Alternative 2, however, this subsequent action would expand full retention to apply to all fixed gear catcher vessels, not just those selected to use EM as identified in the option.

2017 Pre-implementation Plan

The Council approves the draft 2017 Electronic Monitoring Pre-Implementation Plan, and supports the EM workgroup's suggestions for priorities for EM implementation.