



C4 Trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM)- Initial Review

June 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Anna Henry
- Other Presenters: Maggie Chan (NMFS), Melanie Rickett (NMFS), Darrell Brannan (Brannan and Associates)
- Action Required:
1. Review the Initial Review Draft of the EA/RIR and determine whether to release for final action
 2. Consider whether to select a Preliminary Preferred Alternative
 3. Review Trawl EM Committee, Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee, and Enforcement Committee reports

BACKGROUND

The Council is considering proposed management measures that would allow an EM system to supplement existing observer coverage on pollock catcher vessels (CVs) using pelagic trawl gear, and tender vessels, delivering to processing plants in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. The Trawl EM program is designed to use EM for *compliance monitoring*, meaning that EM video does not directly feed into catch accounting or stock assessments. Instead, catch accounting uses industry reported data (verified through EM) and data collected by shoreside observers. Maximized retention ensures that unsorted catch will be delivered and available to be sampled by shoreside observers, allowing for non-biased data to be collected at the trip level by shoreside observers at the processing plant. The trawl EM program has been operating under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to evaluate the efficacy of EM systems and shoreside observers since 2020. The purpose of the action is to improve catch accounting for salmon, advance cost efficiency, and monitor for compliance with discard restrictions.

Information posted to the Council's agenda includes: 1) The EA/RIR, which provides assessments of the environmental impacts, the economic benefits and costs and the distribution of impacts of the proposed action, and identification of the small entities that may be affected by the alternatives; 2) The Trawl EM Committee report including discussion and recommendations regarding the analysis; 3) the Enforcement Committee report; 4) The Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee also reviewed the analysis, and their report is posted under C5.