



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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D1 Trawl EM

October 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Diana Evans, Anna Henry
Other Presenters: Ruth Christiansen (United Catcher Boats), Julie Bonney (Alaska Groundfish Databank), Charlotte Levy (Aleutians East Borough)
Action Required: 1. Review Trawl EM EFP and provide feedback
2. Review Trawl EM Committee report

D1a Trawl EM EFP

NMFS received an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application from Ruth Christiansen (United Catcher Boats), in collaboration with Julie Bonney (Alaska Groundfish Databank), Beth Stewart (Peninsula Fishermen's Coalition) and Charlotte Levy (Aleutians East Borough) for Implementing Electronic Monitoring systems in the Eastern Bering Sea (EBS) and Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pollock Pelagic Trawl Catcher Vessel Fisheries. By regulation, NMFS is required to consult with the Council before issuing an EFP. Included in the EFP attachment (D1a) are the following:

- Letter to Council chairman from Dr. James Balsiger (NMFS AKR) regarding receipt of the application
- AFSC memorandum recommending approval of EFP application given additional information
- The EFP application

This EFP would exempt participating pollock pelagic trawl catcher vessels in the EBS and GOA from regulations related to vessel discard requirements and onboard observer coverage. These exemptions are necessary for participating vessels to achieve maximized retention for all harvested species and to fully test the use of EM as a compliance monitoring tool for ensuring no salmon are discarded at sea. The EFP facilitates the Council's long-term vision and ongoing commitment to a trawl EM program.

D1b Trawl EM Committee report

The Trawl EM Committee met in Portland, OR on August 21-22, 2019. The Committee Report includes Committee recommendations regarding the Trawl EM EFP application as well as updates on the current trawl EM program, EM cost metrics and a strategic review of fishery monitoring committee roles.