



D4 Trawl EM preliminary review

February 2022

Action Memo

Council Staff: Anna Henry
Other Presenters: Josh Keaton (NMFS), Melanie Rickett (NMFS)
Action Required: 1. Review Preliminary Review Draft
2. Provide feedback for future drafts

BACKGROUND

Electronic monitoring (EM) on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels (CVs) and tenders both delivering to processing plants has been operating under an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to evaluate the efficacy of EM systems and shoreside observers. The EFP exempts participating CVs from regulations that currently prevent full or maximized retention of all catch, and observer coverage requirements. The project combines EM systems that provide at-sea monitoring of CVs for compliance with fishery management objectives to achieve maximized retention, electronic reporting of catch and discard information, and shoreside observers to monitor salmon bycatch and collect catch composition and biological information at the trip level. This preliminary review is the first step towards implementing trawl EM as a regulated program.

The Trawl EM program is designed to use EM for *compliance monitoring* to ensure that catch can be sampled by observers based at processing plants. Here, compliance monitoring means the EM video would be used to verify that maximized retention requirements were followed but the EM video does not provide data for catch accounting. The data on both retained and discarded groundfish used for management would be provided by landings reports. At-sea discards are reported via logbook pages. The Trawl EM program also implements a shoreside monitoring component in the processing facilities to collect biological data, species composition information, and offload data on PSC.

This document was developed to provide the SSC an opportunity for *preliminary review* of specific design elements of the trawl EM program prior to the development of a full *initial review* analysis, which is currently scheduled for review at the June 2022 Council meeting. This preliminary review was scheduled to introduce the program design and objectives, focusing on how data are collected and used in the Trawl EM program, because they are fundamentally different from existing observer or EM programs in the North Pacific. Specifically, this document covers the following topics: 1) General program design, 2) How data are collected and what data quality checks are used to verify self-reported information, and 3) How data are used and how this impacts existing processes for catch accounting, stock assessment, and protected species.

This document is not an early draft of a full initial review analysis. This document is formatted more like a discussion paper and less like a full analytical document. Many sections that will be included in the full initial review are not included in this document. There is no economic impact analysis, or cost estimation included in this document. A full environmental assessment and regulatory impact review will be

included in the June initial review. This is not an analysis to inform managers on decision making. Decisions regarding specific, unresolved program design elements will occur at later review stages. There is no specific action or decision making associated with this preliminary review. The purpose is to provide early communication and seek feedback from the SSC regarding concerns about data types, quality, availability and priorities.