

Overview of the Council's work on Electronic Monitoring

With focus on the
Electronic Monitoring Working Group

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Northeast Region
Electronic Monitoring Workshop
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Outline

- Brief Overview of Interest in EM:
 - *Sea Scallop Fishery*
 - *Atlantic Herring Fishery*
 - *Groundfish Fishery*
- Electronic Monitoring Working Group
 - *Overview*
 - *Approach to Work*



Discussions on EM use in the Sea Scallop Fishery

- **Research/Camera-Based Approaches**
 - *Improving bycatch avoidance/communication system*
 - *Gear studies*
 - *Operational/catch efficiency*



Photos: Deirdre Boelke,
Scallop RSA trip with
VIMS F/V Celtic



Discussions on EM use in the Atlantic herring fishery



- **During the development of Amendment 5**
 - ***Compliance (e.g., slippage events)***
 - ***Maximized retention/ minimize bycatch events***
 - ***Net sensor technology***
- **Industry-funded Monitoring Omnibus Amendment**
- **No past or planned EM projects for the fishery**

Photos: Lori Steele,
Herring bait catch;
herring trawl and F/V
Dyrsten and Flicka



Discussions on EM use in the Groundfish Fishery

- **Many past and current EM projects**
- **Amendment 16**
 - ***Sector system***
 - ***Catch and discards/Compliance***
 - ***Identified sector operations/monitoring plans as the vehicle but that EM was not ready for approved use for monitoring***
 - ***NMFS would develop guidelines***
- **Further discussion**
 - ***Industry-funded monitoring***
 - ***Maximized/full retention***
 - ***Electronic Monitoring Working Group***



Council's Electronic Monitoring Working Group (EMWG)

Focus: Groundfish Fishery Sectors

Objective: To identify any existing barriers or necessary steps to NMFS approving sector operations plan(s) that rely on electronic monitoring as a primary mechanism to achieve the Council's identified compliance and catch attribution goals for this program (separate from the biological sampling program).

Tasks: Provide updates at Council meetings on existing barriers, identified next steps, respective responsibilities of each participating entity and anticipated timelines to implementation of electronic monitoring.



Workshop Questions

- *What are the goals for Electronic Monitoring in the Northeast?*
- *What are the key implementation challenges for Electronic Monitoring that need to be addressed?*
- *What Action Steps can be taken to address these challenges? Who should take the lead responsibility (i.e. a Council action? Regulatory? Industry-driven?) and when is progress realistic (i.e. by what date)?*



EMWG

Members:

Council, Groundfish Advisory Panel, industry, NOAA General Counsel, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

Approach:

- Developed a work plan as a group
- Focusing on two EM models: Maximized Retention and an Audit Approach
- Reporting to the Council



EMWG

Approach to Work :

- Identification of barriers to EM implementation
 - Categories: legal, regulatory, operational (logistical/financial), enforcement, and science/biological (assessment-based)
 - Identify specific barriers under each category
 - Discuss synergistic barriers



EMWG

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 - Identify specific barriers under each category
 - Discuss synergistic barriers
- Development of models for EM application
 - Developed two models of how EM could be placed into a sector operations/monitoring plan
 - Discuss necessary steps by barrier category (or groups of barrier categories) to overcome those barriers for each example
 - Summarize findings by example



EMWG

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 - Identify specific barriers under each category
 - Discuss synergistic barriers
- Development of models for EM application
 - Developed two models of how EM could be placed into a sector operations/monitoring plan
 - Discuss necessary steps by barrier category (or groups of barrier categories) to overcome those barriers for each example
 - Summarize findings by example
- Summarizing recommendations
 - Discuss above findings and develop list of recommendations
 - Categorize recommendations by whether they can be implemented in the short or long term
 - Synthesize into a white paper
 - Provide draft report to the Council (June 2014 Council meeting)



Summary

- **Discussion on EM use for monitoring varies by fishery, and EM is in a different stage of development for each fishery.**
- **EM goals have not been developed for most Council managed fisheries.**
- **The EMWG is working toward recommendations on how EM could be utilized by groundfish sectors in their sector operations/monitoring plans.**





Thank you.

Any questions?