



New England Fishery Management Council

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Ernest F. Stockwell, *Acting Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 13, 2013
TO: Mr. Terry Stockwell, Acting Chairman NEFMC
FROM: Electronic Monitoring Working Group (EMWG)
SUBJECT: Progress report from the EMWG

Summary

- The focus of the EMWG is electronic monitoring (EM) in groundfish sectors.
- The EMWG proposes an approach to their work that occurs in three phases:
 - 1) Identification of barriers to EM implementation,
 - 2) Development of models for EM application, and
 - 3) Summarizing recommendations.
- The EMWG developed an approach to their work and tentative timeline.
- The group anticipates updating the Council on progress at forthcoming Council meetings.

Activity

The EMWG held two conference calls (August 23, 2013 and September 13, 2013). The working group participant list and attendance on the calls can be found in the Appendix. The EMWG also developed a document library to share information within the group relevant to completing their scope of work.

Scope of Work

NEFMC Motion, April 2013 Meeting

That the Council convene an electronic monitoring working group consisting of 2 current members of the Council, 2 NERO representatives chosen by the Regional Administrator and 2 NEFSC representatives chosen by the Science Director, 2 members of the Groundfish Advisory panel, NOAA General Counsel, a representative from NOAA enforcement and 2 members of the industry.

The objective of this working group would be 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).

The working group will provide a brief progress update at the June Council meeting and will present a full overview at the September Council meeting of existing barriers, identified next steps, respective responsibilities of each participating entity and anticipated timelines to implementation of electronic monitoring.

Overview of Discussions

During the first conference call, Mr. Dempsey and Dr. Cournane provided an overview of the working group process and reviewed the scope of work (see above) for the EMWG. The intent of the group is not to create a parallel process or duplicate national efforts but rather be a focused working group aiming to identify barriers to implementing electronic monitoring (EM) in groundfish sectors. The EMWG recognizes that other EM endeavors are also underway (e.g., National Workshop in January 2014, scoping efforts from NOAA Headquarters led by George Lapointe, National Strategies for implementation of monitoring; NOAA working group on monitoring costs/cost-sharing) and aims to link into those processes as appropriate.

The EMWG then discussed possible approaches to their work and expectations that working group participants prepare work ahead of meetings to ensure productive and efficient use of all members' time. The group expects to work for about six months to complete its tasks.

On the second call, the EMWG continued to develop an approach to their work (see below). The group plans to meet in person prior to the November Council meeting to work on Phases 1 and 2 of the project. Preliminary progress on Phase 1 and Phase 2 has been made through the conference calls. The group plans to continue its work via conference calls and in person when appropriate. The group anticipates updating the Council on progress at forthcoming Council meetings.

The EMWG also recognized that experts (outside of the EMWG) might be asked to provide information, as necessary. The ongoing NEFOP/NEFSC/industry EM projects will be a valuable source of information in addition to EM examples from other regions.

Approach to Work (with tentative timeline)

Phase 1: Identification of barriers to EM implementation

- Create/decide on broad categories to group barriers: legal, regulatory, operational (logistical/financial), enforcement, and science/biological (assessment-based)
- Identify specific barriers under each category
- Discuss synergistic barriers
- Summarize findings in tables
- Report on findings to the Council (November 2013 Council meeting)

Phase 2: Development of models for EM application

- Develop at least three models of how EM could be placed into a sector operations/monitoring plan
- Use Phase 1 tables to inform discussion of barriers
- Discuss necessary steps by barrier category (or groups of barrier categories) to overcome those barriers for each example
- Summarize findings by example
- Report on findings to the Council (January 2015 Council meeting)

Phase 3: Summarizing recommendations

- Discuss Phase 2 findings and develop list of recommendations
- Categorize recommendations by whether they can be implemented in the short or long term
- Synthesize Phase 1-3 findings into a white paper
- Provide final report to the Council (April 2015 Council meeting)

Appendix

<u>Electronic Monitoring Working Group Members</u>		
<u>Organization</u>	<u>Members</u>	
Council Members	Thomas Dempsey	Vincent Balzano ^A
Council GAP	Geoffrey Smith	Hank Soule ¹
Council Staff	Jamie Cournane, PhD	Fiona Hogan, PhD
NEFSC	Susan Gardner ²	Amy Van Atten
NERO	Melissa Hooper	Barry Clifford
NOAA GC	Mitch Macdonald	
NMFS OLE	Logan Gregory	
Industry non-AP	Frank Mirarchi ²	Daniel Salerno
	Joseph Heckwolf (non-member, but supports Mr. Gregory)	
Attendance		
1= First Call only		
2= Second call only		
A= Absent from both calls		