



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 271-2809  
Fax (907) 271-2817

## Action Memo

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**Agenda Date**10/5/2015

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**

Electronic Monitoring Workgroup Recommendation for 2016 EM Pre-implementation

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diana Evans

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Review the 2016 Electronic Monitoring (EM) Pre-Implementation Plan

**BACKGROUND:**

The Electronic Monitoring Workgroup (EMWG) recommends the attached Draft 2016 Electronic Monitoring Pre-implementation Plan for EM deployment in 2016. The plan prioritizes EM deployment on longline vessels 40-57.5 feet length overall which have trouble carrying an observer, due to insufficient life raft or bunk space capacity. The EMWG proposes a 60 vessel EM pool for these vessels in 2016, with four deployment time periods and a 30% target coverage level in each deployment period. Vessels participating in the EM pool will be placed in the "No Selection Pool" for human observer coverage in 2016.

The EMWG met on July 30-31<sup>st</sup> in Anchorage, and held a follow-up teleconference on September 8<sup>th</sup> (minutes attached), at which they refined the 2016 pre-implementation plan and addressed additional issues, including other EM research and development projects, the 2016 EM budget, and planning for the Council's upcoming analysis to integrate EM into the Observer Program. As described in Chapters 13 and 14 of the Plan, the EMWG recommends continuing with other EM research and development in 2016, within the confines of the budget. Research projects include developing other EM technologies, expanding EM into other fixed gear sectors, and developing infrastructure to integrate EM data into the observer database. Three to five 40-57.5 ft longline vessels will be solicited to test stereo cameras in 2016, and will be placed into the "No Selection Pool" in addition to the 60 pre-implementation vessels. Pot cod EM research will continue into 2016 through a NFWF grant to the North Pacific Fishing Association.

NMFS has prepared cost analyses for the 2016 EM pre-implementation program, using three approaches to characterize the uncertainty in the cost estimate. This analysis (primarily for SSC review) is intended to promote discussion about balancing the risk of exceeding the budget with potential costs associated with varying fleet size and deployment rate.

The background materials for both meetings are available on the NPFMC website at [www.npfmc.org/observer-program](http://www.npfmc.org/observer-program) <<http://www.npfmc.org/observer-program>>, including the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission's preliminary report on 2015 EM field research.

In August 2015, EMWG Chair Bill Tweit made a presentation at the American Fisheries Society EM Symposium, which provides an overview of the Council's progress with EM implementation. The presentation is attached.