



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:Cons 14-003

Agenda Date2/3/2014

Agenda Number:C-12

Eric Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Electronic Monitoring Update

ESTIMATED TIME:
4 hours (all Observer Issues)

ACTION REQUIRED:
Receive update on national EM activities, and review EM cooperative research plans for 2014

BACKGROUND

A National Electronic Monitoring Workshop was held in Seattle in January 2014. The steering committee for the workshop included Council members Dan Hull and John Henderschedt, and various Alaska agency and industry stakeholders were in attendance. A short written summary of the workshop is attached to this memo, and information is also available on the workshop's website, www.EMinformation.com, <<http://www.EMinformation.com>>.

Another national initiative underway for EM is the development of Regional Electronic Technology Implementation Plans. These were called for in NMFS' May 2013 Policy Directive on Electronic Technologies and Fishery-Dependent Data Collection, and their development is being spearheaded by NMFS consultant, George Lapointe. A description of the proposed contents of the regional plans is attached to this memo. Our early indication is that the EM/ER Strategic Plan adopted by the Council in June 2013 addresses much of what is requested for the regional implementation plan, but some additional information may also need to be incorporated. At the workshop, it was identified that the goal is for these plans to be approved for each region by the end of the year.

Finally, the agency will present a summary document, attached, describing NMFS' plans for electronic monitoring cooperative research in 2014. The document describes the intention to test two different EM systems, and compares their relative merits. The paper also identifies how each system is applicable to fishery management requirements, and how the research links to the EM/ER Strategic Plan.