

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting - Portland, Oregon
April 25, 2016

1. Title of Discussion: **U.S. West Coast Electronic Monitoring Program**

2. Presenter: Dave Colpo, Senior Program Manager
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

3. Objective/Purpose (Informational)

The presentation is to provide MAFAC with background information on the status of the West Coast Electronic Monitoring Program (EM). The primary focus will be the West Coast Program with limited information on the status of the Alaska program. The position of NOAA Fisheries is committed to helping establish EM as a viable option for at-sea vessel monitoring.

4. Background/Synopsis:

In 2011 the West Coast Trawl Rationalization program was implemented to manage the groundfish trawl fishery. One requirement of this program was for 100% human compliance monitoring (CM) of all vessels and dealers receiving these landings.

For the first five years of this program PSMFC, through a grant from NOAA Fisheries, provided monetary assistance to offset these costs. The payments ranged from 90% of the CM costs in 2011 to approximately 20% in 2015, the last year of the program. For perspective, the at-sea rates for observers were \$365/day with a daily subsidy of \$328.50 in 2011. The 2015 observer rates in 2015 are approximately \$450-500 with reimbursements of \$108/day.

In 2011 the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) began to explore the use of EM in lieu of at-sea compliance monitors. To that end PSMFC started working with volunteer vessels participating in the at-sea and shoreside whiting and fixed gear fleets to identify the opportunities of EM. The expectation is that EM can provide a more costly option to CMs as well as provide flexibility in smaller ports where the availability of trained individuals is more problematic. During this time all vessels participating in this work were also carrying at-sea monitors to satisfy the Federal monitoring requirements.

During 2014 four Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs) were adopted which allow a limited number of vessels to fish with EM equipment on board in the 2015-2016 fishing seasons. This presentation provides more detailed background information including cost and methodologies of this program

5. Action to be taken by MAFAC

No action is required of the MAFAC.