

Biannual progress review of implementation of NOAA Fisheries Electronic Technologies Policy

Alaska Region Progress Report November, 2016

Number of FMPs with defined fishery-dependent data collection monitoring goals:

The status has not changed since our last update: All 6 of our FMPs address fishery-dependent data collection

Number of FMPs reviewed to identify fisheries where the adoption of additional electronic technologies would be appropriate for achieving data needs:

This has not changed since our last update:

- In 4 of our FMPs (Arctic, salmon, crab, scallops) these metrics are not applicable.
- The other 2 FMPs (Groundfish in BSAI & Groundfish in GOA) have been reviewed to evaluate where adoption of additional ET would be appropriate (see Table 1).

For fisheries where additional ET is identified as appropriate, the number of FMPs with electronic technologies incorporated into fishery-dependent data collection programs.

In 2 FMPs, 22 ‘fisheries’ have been evaluated to identify where additional ER and EM would be appropriate (see Table 1):

Electronic Reporting:

- At our last update, 22 fisheries had mandatory ER already in place and 5 fisheries had mandatory ER for observer data.
- Since the last update, we finalized regulations for mandatory ER in 6 fisheries:
 - Amendment 110 to the FMP for Groundfish in the BSAI requires CVs in the BSAI pollock fishery to provide a computer and ATLAS software to observers to facilitate inseason fisheries management by improving observer data entry and transmission. Regulations were effective July 11, 2016.
 - MFS issued regulations to implement a requirement for tender vessel operators to use ER software “tLandings” to prepare electronic landing reports. Regulations will be effective January 1, 2017.
- 15 fisheries have been identified where additional ER might be suitable:
 - 8 of these 15 fisheries (yellow cells in Table 1) are currently being addressed through initiatives in the Alaska EM/ER implementation plan¹

Electronic Monitoring:

- 4 fisheries (green cells in “video” column in Table 1) have mandatory video for compliance monitoring along with other electronic monitoring tools (e.g. motion compensated flow scales)
- 10 fisheries have been identified where additional EM could be appropriate and two projects are underway involving 4 fisheries (yellow cells “Potential EM Application” column in Table 1):

Amendment 80 fishery: Work is also being conducted through an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to conduct a feasibility study to facilitate deck-sorting of halibut in an effort to reduce halibut mortality. The project includes the use of EM as a compliance-monitoring tool.

Small-boat fixed-gear fisheries: Work is being conducted 3 fisheries through the Council’s EM Workgroup² to develop & implement EM for catch estimation.

- Progress since our last update:
 - *2017 Pre-Implementation Plan:* the plan was approved by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at the October Council meeting. NMFS sent to all vessels in the partial observer category (>40 feet in length) requesting them to opt-in to the EM selection pool by September 20, 2016.

¹ <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/em/akremerimplementationplan.pdf>

² <http://www.npfmc.org/observer-program/>

- To date 93 vessels have opted in for 2017 EM Pre-Implementation: 72 longline vessels and 16 pot vessels. Pot vessels are a new category of vessels participating in EM pre-implementation.
- A combination of NMFS and NFWF funds will support the 2017 pre-implementation. NMFS funds which have been transferred to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and PSMFC has a contract with Archipelago Marine Research to pre-install EM systems on up to 90 hook and line vessels and up to 15 pot vessels. Saltwater and the North Pacific Fisheries Association were also awarded \$590,000 in NFWF funds for pot deployment. NFWF funds will support up to 15 pot vessels.
- NMFS is currently coordinating with PSMFC and Saltwater on the process for installing cameras and conducting video review for pot vessels. We anticipate splitting up the pot vessels between the 2 EM service providers.
- Vessels participating in the EM pre-implementation will be logging trips and 30% of EM trips will be selected and recorded by the EM systems.
- Vessels in the EM selection pool will not be subject to human observer coverage for 2017.
- *Regulatory development:*
 - The Initial Review Draft (EA/RIR) of the EM Analysis was presented to the Council at the October meeting. The Council approved releasing the EM Analysis for public review and is scheduled to take final action at the December meeting.
 - We are pursuing an aggressive timeline and under the current best scenario timeline regulations would be prepared in 2017 and the integrated program would be implemented for the 2018.
 - Due to the substantial lead-time required for processing large, multi-year contracts and the timing of the availability of observer fees, AFSC and AKRO have submitted a funding request for FIS/NOPAT funds for the last year of pre-implementation. These funds would carry the Alaska fixed gear EM program from pre-implementation to an operational program that will be funded by the observer fees.

Table 1. Summary of the existing monitoring tools currently implemented in the North Pacific. Catch share programs require a more intensive suite of monitoring tools for management and are therefore listed separately from the non-catch share programs³. Green cells indicate fisheries where electronic technologies have already been implemented and regulated programs are in place. Fisheries where additional Electronic Reporting (ER) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) could potentially be suitable are noted; yellow cells indicate fisheries that have been identified as high priority for implementation and have initiatives underway. (Note: AFA = American Fisheries Act; BSAI= Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands; CP = catcher/processor; CV = catcher vessel; GOA = Gulf of Alaska; IFQ = Individual Fishing Quota; IERS=Interagency Electronic Reporting System; LOA = length overall of vessel).

Program Type	Fishery	Current Requirements									Additional ER Potentially Suitable?	Potential EM Application?
		ER for Landings &/or Production (IERS)	Paper logbook ⁴	ER for logbook (elogbook in IERS)	ER for Observer data (Atlas)	Flow Scale	VMS	Video	Observer Coverage	2 nd Observer		
Catch Share	BSAI pollock trawl CP & mothership (AFA)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	Y		
	BSAI non-pollock trawl CP (Amendment 80)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	Y		Y - video to monitor deck sorted halibut PSC
	Central GOA Rockfish Trawl CP	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	Y		
	BSAI Pacific cod Longline CP	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	100%	Y		
	BSAI rationalized crab CP	Y	Y	Few- voluntary	N	Y	Y	N	100% - not NMFS	N	Y- elogbook	
	BSAI pollock trawl CV (AFA)	Y	Y	Few- voluntary	Y	n/a	Y	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook;	
	CGOA Rockfish Trawl CV	Y	Y	N	Y	n/a	Y	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	Y-compliance monitoring & estimation of halibut PSC
	IFQ Sablefish CP	Y	Y	Few- voluntary	N	N	Y- AI only	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	
	IFQ Halibut CP	Y	Y	Few- voluntary	N	N	Y- AI only	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	
	IFQ Sablefish CV	Y	Y	N	N	n/a	Y- AI only	N	Partial	N	Y- elogbook	Y- video for catch estimation.
	IFQ Halibut CV	Y	Y ⁵	N	N	n/a	Y- AI only	N	Partial	N	Y- elogbook	Y- video for catch estimation.
IFQ Halibut & Sablefish <40' LOA CV	Y	Y ²	N	N	n/a	Y- AI only	N	None	N		Y – video for catch estimation	
Non-Catch Share	BSAI Turbot longline CP	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	
	GOA Trawl CP	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	
	GOA Longline CP	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	
Non-	BSAI Pacific cod Trawl CV	Y – including	Y	N	N	n/a	Y	N	Partial; some	N	Y- elogbook	

³ Table replicated from Alaska EM/ER implementation plan available at: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/em/akremerimplementationplan.pdf>

⁴ Paper logbooks are required by NMFS for vessels >60ft

⁵ Paper logbooks are required by IPHC for vessels >26 ft fishing for halibut; vessels >60ft are also required to submit paper logbooks by NMFS and there is a shared IPHC-NMFS paper logbook.

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		ER for Landings &/or Production (IERS)	Paper logbook ⁴	ER for logbook (elogbook in IERS)	ER for Observer data (Atlas)	Flow Scale	VMS	Video	Observer Coverage	2 nd Observer		
Catch Share		tLandings for tenders							vessels 100% voluntarily			
	GOA pollock Trawl CV	Y – including tLandings for tenders	Y	N	N	n/a	Y	N	Partial	N	Y- elogbook; Atlas	Y- compliance monitoring of no discard
	GOA non-pollock Trawl CV	Y – including tLandings for tenders	Y	N	N	n/a	Y	N	Partial	N	Y- elogbook; Atlas	Y-compliance monitoring & estimation of halibut PSC
	Pot CP	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	100%	N	Y- elogbook	Y – video for catch estimation
	Longline & Pot >=40'LOA CV	Y – including tLandings for tenders	Y	N	N	n/a	Y	N	Partial	N	Y- elogbook;	Y – video for catch estimation & PSC monitoring
	Longline & Pot <40'LOA CV	Y – including tLandings for tenders	N	N	N	n/a	Y- AI only	N	None	N		Y – video for catch estimation & PSC monitoring
	Jig	Y	Y	N	N	n/a	Y- AI only	N	None	N		