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FISHERIES

Electronic Monitoring Program Manual

West Coast Region Groundfish

Electronic Monitoring Program Manual

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Background

In 2000, the West Coast groundfish fishery was declared a federal disaster due to overfishing. This resulted in large fishing area closures and prohibitive trip limits implemented by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). A 2003 federal buyout program reduced the fleet size through permit consolidation in an effort to ease some of the burden, yet more work was needed.

In 2011, NOAA Fisheries implemented a catch share program for the West Coast groundfish trawl fishery. The Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery's Trawl Catch Share Program (Trawl Rationalization Program), consists of an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for the shorebased trawl fleet and cooperative programs for the at-sea mothership and catcher/processor trawl fleets.

The catch share program divides the amount of catch allocated to the trawl fishery into shares controlled by individual fishermen or groups of fishermen (cooperatives). Under this program, fishermen have more flexibility for harvesting their catch than under the previous management structure.

One characteristic of the catch shares program is individual accountability, which includes 100-percent at-sea monitoring of all fishing trips. **Observers** were originally the only approved method to satisfy the at-sea monitoring requirement. Beginning in 2024, **electronic monitoring (EM)** may be used as an alternative to meet this requirement. At-sea monitoring holds individuals accountable for discards that do not make it to port. For the shorebased sector, **catch monitors** verify vessel landings at a licensed **first receiver**.

Observers are NMFS-certified, independent fisheries biologists deployed aboard working fishing vessels to collect scientific data on fishing operations, catch composition, protected resources, and biological sampling. **Observers** are deployed on:

- Vessels participating in the IFQ program, including whiting and non-whiting groundfish trawl and non-trawl vessels;
- Motherships participating in the at-sea whiting fishery;
- **Mothership catcher vessels (MS/CV)** participating in the at-sea whiting fishery; and
- Catcher-processors participating in the at-sea whiting fishery.

EM may be deployed on:

- Vessels participating in the IFQ program, including whiting and non-whiting groundfish trawl and non-trawl vessels; and
- MS/CV participating in the at-sea whiting fishery.

In order to collect the biological samples and other data that cannot be obtained from using EM systems alone, non-catch share observers provided by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) may be deployed to a vessel participating in EM, specifically when there is potential for sorting and discarding at sea. Catch monitors also play a crucial role by verifying retained species and collecting samples at the dock.

EM Program Overview

EM trip timeline:

1. Before a trip, the **vessel operator** of an **EM-authorized vessel** makes the proper declarations to the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), and the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP). The vessel captain or WCGOP staff opens an EM trip in the database, which would be shared with the vessel's EM service provider.
2. Following the trip, the vessel operator closes out the trip with WCGOP and submits copies of their discard and retained logbooks to their certified **EM service provider**. The vessel operator also submits the hard drive/EM data to the EM service provider.

3. The EM service provider enters the logbook data and submits it to NMFS **within seven business days from receipt of the discard logbook from the vessel**. NMFS uses the logbook data to debit at-sea discards.
4. Portions of trips may be reviewed. In fisheries where the review rate is not 100%, specific hauls will be randomly selected using NMFS selection criteria.
5. If the logbook passes the initial comparison, the logbook data will stand as the discard source used to debit the vessel account. If the logbook does not pass, the EM data will be used to debit the vessel account and review of additional video may be required of the service provider for the trip. Logbook and EM review discard data is compared, with final discards debited to IFQ or at-sea cooperatives.
6. Following the review, the provider will submit a feedback report which captures feedback from the review for the vessel owner, operator, and NMFS. Feedback reports should also be submitted within 60 days from the date of hard drive receipt. The service provider will also store EM data, conduct review of EM data, and provide summary data to NMFS. The service provider is expected to submit EM summary of discard data to NMFS no later than 60 days from the date of hard drive receipt.
7. Providers will also be required to notify NMFS of EM system malfunctions or other requests for technical assistance if they affected a trip.
8. For the NMFS secondary review, WCGOP may review a portion of data previously reviewed by the service provider. WCGOP will direct the provider to submit raw EM data and annotation records.

Vessel owners and operators

As an EM service provider, you are partnering with vessel owners and operators participating in the shorebased trawl IFQ and/or catcher vessels in the whiting mothership cooperative to provide EM equipment, maintenance, and data services.

To participate in the trawl catch share EM program, vessel owners' and operators' responsibilities include¹ to:

- Maintain a valid trawl-endorsed limited entry permit (**LEP**) assignment on the vessel;
- Have an active **vessel account**, if participating in the shorebased IFQ sector;
- Obtain an **EM Authorization** from NMFS;
- Procure services from a NMFS-certified EM service provider;
- Obtain an **EM system certification** after EM system installation; and
- Maintain a NMFS-accepted **vessel monitoring plan (VMP)**.

Once approved, pre-trip responsibilities of the vessel owner and operator include to:

- Make a declaration report to OLE;
- Provide notice to the WCGOP (and accept a WCGOP observer, if selected);
- Ensure they have logbook and hard disk space for the trip;

- Conduct a pre-trip **function test** of the EM system; and
- Contact the service provider to resolve any issues before departure.

During an EM trip, the vessel operator must:

- Monitor the EM system and its components to ensure it is in compliance with the VMP;
- Ensure crewmembers follow the catch handling protocols and discard rules as described in the VMP;
- Immediately notify the EM service provider of EM system malfunctions; and
- Fully and accurately report catch data and discards in the appropriate logbook.

Post-trip responsibilities for the vessel owner and operator include:

- Submit the logbook to EM service provider;
- Submit the EM data (hard drive) to EM service provider; and,
- Respond to EM service provider and NMFS feedback and requests.

Shorebased Plants and Catch Monitors

For shoreside deliveries, the EM vessel delivers retained catch to a licensed **first receiver**. There, all catch is offloaded, sorted, identified, and weighed. The catch monitor verifies the first receiver information and is responsible for the shorebased component of 100% IFQ monitoring. The EM system must be operational and recording until the offload begins. The catch monitor will take over monitoring duties at that time.

For EM trips, the catch monitor will sample retained salmon or other biological data otherwise sampled by an at-sea catch share observer.

EM Service Providers

To become an EM service provider, you must first submit an application to the NMFS West Coast Region Fisheries Permit Office. More information about the application process, including forms and templates for the **EM Service Plan**, can be found online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/resources-fishing/electronic-monitoring-west-coast>

The EM Program Guidelines provide best practices and flexible frameworks for creating an EM Service Plan and vessel monitoring plans, which together explain the complete EM services for vessel and provider. There are gear-specific catch handling and sorting requirements which must be followed across vessels, and EM service providers must be able to review and report EM summary data for IFQ discards to NMFS using standardized methods. The details of the EM service provider's role are provided in this manual.

Permits and Monitoring Branch

Staff in the Permits and Monitoring Branch of the West Coast Region's Sustainable Fisheries Division manage permits associated with the catch shares program, including EM. They coordinate with vessel

owners and operators, co-op managers, EM service providers, WCGOP, OLE, and others to ensure the program meets the regulatory requirements.

Permits and monitoring staff are responsible for:

- Processing EM service provider permit applications and issuing service provider permits;
- Processing vessel EM authorization applications and issuing EM authorizations;
- Reviewing EM system certification forms;
- Providing assistance in the creation of vessel monitoring plans, and reviewing final plans;
- Managing the service provider feedback and technical reports online reporting system; and,
- Serving as the initial point of contact for reports of potential harassment, conflicts of interest, system tampering, and other compliance issues.

West Coast Groundfish Observer Program

The [West Coast Groundfish Observer Program](#) (WCGOP) manages EM summary data submitted by EM service providers and ensures that EM service providers follow the species identification and discard estimation protocols for the video review. EM service providers submit EM summary data to WCGOP, who provide the technical framework for data submission needs. WCGOP also performs a secondary review of a portion of the trips reviewed by an EM service provider to evaluate EM service providers' and video reviewers' performance.

WCGOP is responsible for:

- Providing haul selection criteria;
- Quality assure/quality check (QA/QC) of the data summary and/or report discard data for catch accounting purposes;
- Conducting secondary review and debriefing of the EM service provider;
- Storing video and annotated data from the secondary review;
- Data analysis and reporting as needed;
- Database and application maintenance and support; and,
- Deploying non-catch share observers to selected EM trips.

EM Service Provider Responsibilities

An EM service provider has many responsibilities under the EM program, divided into two categories EM Field and Technical Support and EM Data Services. In general, the EM service provider:

- Installs and certifies a vessel's onboard EM system;
- Provides information for the vessel owner/operator to complete the VMP;
- Provides technical (remote and field) services for the EM system and EM data;

- Provides hard drives (or other approved media) for transferring data from the vessel to the EM service provider;
- Receives raw EM data recorded by the EM system;
- Receives vessel logbook data submitted by the vessel captain;
- Stores EM and logbook data;
- Reviews raw EM data and creates annotations;
- Submits EM summary data to NMFS for at-sea discards;
- Gives feedback to the vessel operator post-review; and,
- Submits to a NMFS secondary review as requested.

Field and Technical Support

An approved EM service provider must provide field and technical support services to vessels with which they have a contract. This includes managing EM systems, installation, maintenance, and technical support, according to the NMFS-accepted EM Service Plan. (regulatory excerpts in the following sections are shown in **bold**).

The *EM system* is the on-board technology that records fishing activity. For the west coast program, the system records the activity using video cameras, GPS, and gear sensors. Computer hardware writes these *raw EM data* onto removable or transferable storage (hard drives are currently the most accepted method, although wireless transfer is emerging). The vessel captain monitors the status of the system, including camera views and recording status, in real time through one or more video monitors.

A vessel owner that applies for and passes initial eligibility for the EM Authorization, may procure and install an EM unit from a NMFS-permitted provider.

At the time of installation, the EM service provider must:

- (i) Install an EM system that meets the performance standards under § 660.604(j);**
- (ii) Ensure that the EM system is set up, wires run, system powered, and tested with the vessel in operation;**
- (ii) Brief the vessel operator on system operation, maintenance, and procedures to follow for technical support or field service;**
- (iii) Provide necessary information for the vessel operator to complete the VMP, such as images and diagrams of camera views and vessel layout, specific information about system settings, and designated discard control points; and,**
- (iv) Complete an EM System Certification Form for the vessel owner.**

EM System Performance Standards, from § 660.604(j):

The specifications (*e.g.*, image resolution, frame rate, user interface) and configuration of an EM system and associated equipment (*e.g.*, number and placement of cameras, lighting) used to meet the requirements of this section must be sufficient to:

- (1) Allow easy and complete viewing, identification, and quantification, of catch items discarded at sea, including during low light conditions;**
- (2) Continuously record vessel location (latitude/longitude coordinates), velocity, course, and sensor data (i.e., hydraulic and winch activity);**
- (3) Allow the identification of the time, date, and location of a haul/set or discard event;**
- (4) Record and store image data from all hauls/sets and the duration that fish are onboard the vessel until offloading begins;**

- (5) Continuously record and store raw sensor data (i.e., GPS and gear sensors) for the entire fishing trip;**
- (6) Prevent radio frequency interference (RFI) with vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and other equipment;**
- (7) Allow the vessel operator to test and monitor the functionality of the EM system prior to and during the fishing trip to ensure it is fully functional;**
- (8) Prevent tampering or, if tampering does occur, show evidence of tampering; and,**
- (9) Provide image and sensor data in a format that enables their integration for analysis.**

The employee of the EM service provider who installed the EM system must complete an EM Certification Form to attest to the system's functionality and adherence to program standards. The form requires that the technician test the EM system under different conditions to identify common technical issues (e.g., radar interference). The form is available online at:

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/resources-fishing/electronic-monitoring-west-coast

Following installation, the EM service provider must provide certain information to the vessel owner to enable completion of the vessel monitoring plan (VMP), such as images and diagrams of camera views and vessel layout, specific information about system settings, and designated discard control points. The VMP provides documentation on the EM system and how the approved configuration allows for the vessel operator and crew to handle catch appropriately, in order to collect useful EM data. The vessel owner is responsible for preparing and submitting the VMP to NMFS, but a vessel owner may contract with an EM service provider to prepare the VMP on their behalf. NMFS has published VMP Guidelines and templates to assist vessel owners and service providers in preparing VMPs. These documents are also available on NMFS's website at the above web address.

Throughout the fishing season, the EM service provider has the following responsibilities. The way each service provider intends to carry out these duties must be described in the service provider's EM Service Plan (see EM Service Plan Guidelines, available online).

From §660.603(k):

- **The EM service provider must communicate with vessel operators and NMFS to coordinate service needs, resolve specific program issues, and provide feedback on program operations.**

- **The EM service provider must provide maintenance and support services, including maintaining an EM equipment inventory, such that all deployed EM systems perform according to the performance standards at § 660.604(j) and that field service events are scheduled and carried out with minimal delays or disruptions to fishing activities. The EM service provider must provide technical assistance to vessels, upon request, in EM system operation, the diagnosis of the cause of malfunctions, and assistance in resolving any malfunctions. Technical support must be available 24-hours per day, seven days per week, and year-round.**
- **The EM service provider must submit to NMFS reports of requests for technical assistance from vessels, including when the call or visit was made, the nature of the issue, and how it was resolved.**

The Permits and Monitoring Branch provides EM service providers with access to a web application where they can log technical service requests from vessels and their resolutions, in addition to logging the review feedback requirements (including feedback reports). See the feedback report section of this manual for more information on the web application.

Technical Assistance and Litigation Information

As a requirement of its permit, the EM service provider must provide the following to NMFS or authorized officers, upon request (from §660.603(l)):

- Assistance in EM system operation, diagnosing and resolving technical issues, and recovering corrupted or lost data.**
- Responses to inquiries related to data summaries, analyses, reports, and operational issues with vessel representatives.**
- Technical and expert information, if the EM system/data are being admitted as evidence in a court of law. All technical aspects of a NMFS-approved EM system may be analyzed in court for, inter alia, testing procedures, error rates, peer review, technical processes and general industry acceptance. To substantiate the EM system data and address issues raised in litigation, an EM service provider must provide information, including but not limited to:**
 - If the technologies have previously been subject to such scrutiny in a court of law, a brief summary of the litigation and any court findings on the reliability of the technology.**
 - All software necessary for accessing, viewing, and interpreting the data generated by the EM system, including maintenance releases to correct errors in the software or enhance the functionality of the software.**
 - Notification to NMFS of any change of management or contact information or a change to insurance coverage.**
 - A copy of any contract between the service provider and entities requiring EM services.**
 - Proof of sufficient insurance.**
 - Copies of any information developed and used by the EM service provider and distributed to vessels, including, but not limited to, informational pamphlets, payment notifications, and description of EM service provider duties; and,**

EM data and associated metadata, and other records specified in the regulations.

The EM service provider must also notify NMFS within 24 hours after the EM service provider becomes aware of the following (§660.603(l)(5)):

Any information, allegations, or reports regarding possible harassment of EM provider staff;

Any information, allegations, or reports regarding possible EM system tampering;

Any information, allegations, or reports regarding any action prohibited under §§ 660.12(f) or 660.602(a)(13); or,

Any information, allegations or reports regarding EM service provider staff conflicts of interest.

The EM service provider will directly contact the EM Program Coordinator to notify NMFS of the above information, allegations, or reports.

Harassment is defined as when EM service provider staff feel threatened or feel that their work or work environment is being compromised.

Data Services

The EM service provider must process vessels' EM data according to a prescribed sampling scheme, as specified by NMFS, and determine an estimate of discards for each sampled haul using standardized estimation methods. This section describes the EM service provider's responsibilities in processing, reporting, and storing vessels' EM data, and the standard sampling and estimation methods that must be used.

Overview of the Logbook Audit Model

Under a *logbook audit model*, EM is used to validate the self-reported logbook discards submitted by the vessel operator. Vessel operators are expected to accurately report catch and discards with estimated weights and correct species identification. During EM review, the EM service provider will create independent discard estimates for sampled hauls, and based on the comparison of the two, either EM or logbook data is used for the final discard estimate to debit the vessel's IFQ account.

The following steps outline the logbook audit process:

1. The vessel operator declares an EM trip.
2. After an EM trip, the vessel operator submits the retained and discard logbook.
3. Upon receipt of the hard drive, the EM Service Provider will then confirm trip level EM data matches the logbook. This includes verifying that the number of hauls reported on the logbook matches the number of hauls reported by the EM system. The EM service provider will work with the vessel operator to resolve discrepancies.
4. The EM service provider will review the trip based on approved sampling rates for gear type and sector. Initially, there will be no escalation protocols for additional primary review due to EM program compliance issues (including issues for catch handling, unallowable discards, or for instances where the vessel discard logbook and EM review estimates do not match). NMFS anticipates ensuring compliance through feedback communication and enforcement. However, NMFS plans to iteratively

assess program metrics, and will work with providers and vessels on review escalation procedures if needed in order to ensure program-wide success.

- a. The sampling unit is at the haul level, with either all or a percentage of hauls reviewed on each trip.
 - i. Shorebased whiting – 100% of hauls
 - ii. MS/CV - 100% of hauls
 - iii. Non-whiting midwater trawl – (100% of hauls for maximized retention, minimum 10% of hauls for optimized retention)
 - iv. Bottom trawl - (100% of hauls for maximized retention, minimum of 10% of hauls for optimized retention)
 - v. Fixed gear – minimum of 10% of hauls
5. The EM service provider conducts the *primary video review* for hauls selected for review, which includes:
 - a. Review of all raw sensor and image data to determine completeness.
 - b. Review of sensor data to annotate haul start and end times and locations, and to identify the total number of hauls in a trip.
 - c. Annotate discard events.
 - d. Submit an *EM summary report* to NMFS.

Discard Logbook Data Processing

Vessel captains are responsible for documenting EM trips and discards in their logbook. The type of discard logbook depends on the fishery and gear type used. Bottom trawl, fixed gear, and midwater trawl vessels each have different logbook reporting requirements. All are required to report IFQ or unsorted discards with estimated weight and reason.

Additional details are available in the section *Providing Summary Data*.

EM Data Processing

EM service providers train their data processing staff to accurately identify and quantify discard events. EM service providers use software to ingest and process the raw EM data and format it in a way to make EM review possible. There is no NMFS certification for training data processing staff, but NMFS provides the tools needed for species ID, weight estimation, fate determination, and data formatting. Individual reviewer performance may be evaluated by NMFS as part of the secondary review process. As a certified EM service provider, your staff will have the experience needed to complete the following tasks (From 50 CFR 660.603(m)):

***Data services.* For vessels with which it has a contract (see § 660.604(k)), the EM service provider must provide and manage EM data processing, reporting, and record retention services, as described below and according to a NMFS-approved EM Service Plan, which is required under § 660.603(b)(1)(vii), and**

as described in the EM Program Manual or other written and oral instructions provided by the EM Program, and such that the EM Program achieves its purpose as defined at § 660.600(b).

(1) The EM service provider must process vessels' EM data and logbooks according to a prescribed review methodology, as specified by NMFS in the EM Manual on its website.

(2) The EM service provider must ensure that its data processing staff are fully trained in:

- (i) Use of data processing software;
- (ii) Species identification;
- (iii) Fate determination and metadata reporting requirements;
- (iv) Data processing procedures;
- (v) Data tracking; and,
- (vi) Reporting and data upload procedures.

Species Identification

EM data reviewers working for a service provider must be trained for accurate species identification and be knowledgeable of fishing operations for the west coast groundfish fishery.

Because the IFQ program requires accurate reporting of the weights of discarded IFQ species, reviewers must be able to distinguish between IFQ and non-IFQ species, and identify IFQ species to the lowest taxonomic level allowed. In the best practices learned from the EFP program, periodic testing of reviewers and multiple reviewers confirming the ID or weight for certain events helps to ensure accurate data reporting. Additionally, review staff working under the EFP were either previously (and in good standing) or concurrently certified as west coast groundfish fishery observers or catch monitors, thus having first-hand knowledge of fishery operations and species encountered in the field.

As a certified EM service provider, WCGOP will direct you to the approved protocols and guides to use when determining the appropriate level of identification of IFQ species, prohibited species, protected species, and other allowable and non-allowable discards. WCGOP trains and certifies human observers for species identification and fisheries data quality standards, and has the expertise to set standards for meeting these needs with EM.

Appendix A. List of Species summarizes the species covered by the Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery management plan. This list further breaks down the composition of the IFQ species groupings previously shown in Table 1. EM data processing staff should expect to encounter any number of the species listed during EM review.

In addition, the following field guides are recommended as species identification resources:

- *Pacific Coast Fishes*, Eschmeyer
- *Coastal Marine Fishes of California*, Miller & Lea
- *Marine Mammals and Turtles of the U.S. Pacific*, Wynne
- *A Field Guide to Western Birds*, Peterson

For information regarding west coast observer training and certification, please refer to the WCGOP page:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/fisheries-observers/west-coast-groundfish-and-sea-hakeobserver-data-collection-quality>

Data Tracking and Processing

A provider will describe procedures for tracking hard drives and/or data files throughout their use cycle in their service plan. At any time, the service provider should be able to report where a given hard drive is located, for example, by assigning it a unique ID and documenting its deployment, transit, receipt, data wiping, and redeployment.

Vessel operators and EM service providers will coordinate efforts so that a vessel has sufficient storage capacity prior to embarking on an EM trip. After completing the fishing trip(s) and at the start of the final offload, the vessel operator will submit the EM data (using a shipping method with tracking if a hard drive is mailed).

Once a hard drive (or other acceptable data transmission) is received by the EM service provider, the original data files must be stored following the minimum retention requirements (see section 2.3.7). Any annotation or further processing of the data must not alter the original files.

EM Data Review

Once the service provider has taken possession of the EM data set, the logbook audit may be completed. The first step of the audit is to verify that the number of records from EM and logbook data match. Second, hauls are selected for review. Third, discard estimates are made. Finally, summary data is submitted to NMFS.

Initially, the EM data is checked for completeness, by checking for *time gaps* and by verifying the number of hauls for each trip. The number of hauls may be verified using *interval annotations*.

Interval Annotation

Interval annotations mark the start and end points of a fishing event in the service provider's EM review software. Trips, hauls, and haul processing events may have interval annotations which flag the start/end points of those events in the data timeline. EM review staff, through data processing software, may be able to indicate these points in the data by identifying characteristics in vessel speed, hydraulic pressure or other gear sensor data; or a combination of one or more of these data sources.

Interval Annotations:

- Trip: mark all trip start and end points
- Haul/set: mark all haul start and end points

All trips from a drive should be reviewed for completeness, to identify potential data gaps.

Time Gaps: Are reported along with the interval annotations. At this level, data gaps would include gaps which affected your ability to create the interval annotations. Gaps may be attributed to delayed system start, power loss, hard drive swap, or failure of one or more EM cameras. Additionally, for shoreside trips you must verify that the EM system recorded until the start of the offload. (If there are multiple offload points for a single trip, recording must continue until the final offload begins.)

Initial Logbook Verification

Through the logbooks submitted by the vessel operator, the EM service provider is given the number of hauls for each trip. The interval annotations should agree with the number of trips on a drive and the number of hauls for each trip. If there are discrepancies, the EM service provider will work with the vessel operator to reconcile and submit corrections as needed.

Sampling frame

Once the number of hauls are confirmed and submitted, hauls are randomly selected for review as applicable. NMFS will randomly select the hauls for review. Providers may obtain a report of the hauls selected for review, from the “Task Management” report in Obs-web application.

Maximized retention fisheries require 100% review and reduced review rates will be used for bottom trawl and fixed gear vessels.

Review for Discards and Catch Handling: Point Annotations

Point annotations will capture individual discard events and include weight, species identification, and discard type. Creating point annotations allow the service provider and NMFS to pinpoint discard events in the EM data and confirm the characteristics of that event. The point annotations will be used in creating the summary report.

The following sections give instructions by gear type, for the point annotations reviewers are expected to create. The annotation methods used here were largely designed, tested, and refined by PSMFC under a NMFS grant for the EM EFP operating from 2015 through 2023. Service providers will compile the point annotations to create the EM summary report, and submit the summary data to NMFS used for catch accounting.

It is important to note that point annotations are used for the service provider to create the EM summary data, and are not necessarily submitted to NMFS as part of routine data submission. API instructions and data tables showing the data fields required for EM summary data are discussed in later sections. EM service providers are required to submit annotation files for trips selected for NMFS secondary review.

All weights from logbook and review annotations (discard and/or retained) must be reported in pounds.

POINT ANNOTATIONS: FIXED GEAR

For fixed gear vessels, gear consists of either pot/trap or longline. Defining a set of conventional longline or pot gear is straightforward. A set begins at a buoy and ends at a buoy. The set includes all of the

hooks or pots in between the two buoys. Generally, conventional longline sets have thousands of hooks and span two or more miles. Pot sets range from 10 to 50 pots per string. All hooks or pots set together in a string, even those lost prior to retrieval, are considered a set and included.

Fixed gear vessels will have all discarded IFQ fish and retained priority species annotated for hauls selected for review under reduced review rates.

Discarded invertebrates and non-IFQ fish will not be annotated, with exceptions listed below.

Annotate all discarded protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals (including live animals, carcasses and bones), and green sturgeon [with the exception of Dungeness crab]). Marine mammal interactions resulting in a discard event must be annotated, such as: marine mammal is brought up in gear and on deck, or marine mammal is tangled in gear outboard and released.

Annotate all retained protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals (including live animals, carcasses and bones), Dungeness crab (WA and OR, CA south of Pt. Reyes), and green sturgeon). Contact NMFS for questions.

HAUL/SET:

- **Haul/Set** begins when the buoy is brought onboard the vessel and ends when the buoy at the end of the set is brought onboard the vessel (the haul interval).
- **Video Hauls** encompass the sorting, processing and stowing of catch.
 - i Video Haul begins when the buoy is brought onboard the vessel.
 - ii Video Haul ends when all of the catch has been sorted and stowed in the fish holds, and the hatches are closed. Unlike the haul interval, the video haul does not end with the retrieval of gear.

a. Retained:

- i. Record an annotation for each pot brought onboard. Each pot should have a count of 1.
 - a If a pot is lost, record it as a lost pot. Lost gear may not always be obvious.
- ii. Annotate retained counts for priority rockfish species.
- iii. Annotate any retained protected species with Piece Counts: sea birds, turtles, marine mammals, green sturgeon, and Dungeness crab.
- iv. Record **disposition**
 - 1. Retained

b. Discarded IFQ/IBQ:

- i. Record the **Species** to the lowest identifiable taxonomic level. If using general grouping codes such as roundfish unidentified or flatfish unidentified, contact NMFS

- ii. Record length in centimeters of discarded species, if individual is held up to a measuring board.
 - 1. Only record length if head and tail are still attached to each other
 - 2. Record total length (in CM)
 - 3. If a length is recorded for an IFQ species, do not record a weight estimate
- iii. Record a piece **Count** estimate, if able.
- iv. Record a round weight estimate in pounds, if unable to obtain a length or count
 - 1. Example: depredated fish or carcasses where standard length cannot be obtained.
- v. Record **disposition**
 - 1. Retained
 - 2. **Discarded**
- vi. Record the **Fate** code
 - Avoid making assumptions about the discard fate.

Options for fate:

- 1. Unintentional Discard: Catch that was not deliberately removed from the gear by crew, but fell out/off of the fishing gear.
- 2. Unknown: Catch taken out of view of the camera or unsorted catch on deck when camera fails.
- 3. Discarded – General: Catch released. No damage apparent that would deem catch unmarketable, no state of decomposition apparent.
- 4. Discarded – Damaged: Catch with scavenger predation or general damage, deeming catch unmarketable, which is released. Count required for IFQ species AND for decomposed fish that are indistinguishable from IFQ.
- 5. Throwback: Catch previously identified as retained and has now been discarded or utilized on-board.
- 6. Utilized On-board: Catch is consumed/intended to be consumed by crew, or used as/intended to be used as bait. It might be filleted onboard. This catch will not show up on a fish ticket with retained catch. Fish with this fate are treated as discards in the database.
- 7. Drop-off: Hook and line gear. Catch drops off the line at the roller and is not brought on board.

POINT ANNOTATIONS: PACIFIC WHITING & NON-WHITING MIDWATER TRAWL – MAXIMIZED RETENTION

Annotate all discarded protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals (including live animals, carcasses and bones), and green sturgeon [with the exception of Dungeness crab]). Marine mammal interactions resulting in a discard event must be annotated, such as: marine mammal is brought up in gear and on deck, or marine mammal is tangled in gear outboard and released.

Annotate all retained protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals (including live animals, carcasses and bones), Dungeness crab (WA and OR, CA south of Pt. Reyes, CA), and green sturgeon). Contact NMFS for questions.

HAUL:

2) **Haul** begins when the doors go into the water and ends when the doors return to the vessel. A haul will appear in the sensor data as a drop in speed, with an increase in either hydraulic pressure or drum rotation or both.

- a. If the vessel is making a turn the doors may come back up for the turn and then go back down to resume fishing. Do not end the current haul. Record the two or more segments as a single haul.
- b. If at the end of a haul the vessel does not empty the codend and instead resets the net along with the contents of the codend for a second haul, annotate two separate hauls with comments.
- c. If you suspect that an annotated haul may not match up with logbook records (as can happen with water hauls and other unusual hauling activity), leave a comment at the haul level.
- d. Non-fishing hauls

Non-fishing hauls may occur when the crew is cleaning out or straightening the net. They may be characterized by: open nets (zipper not closed) and trawl doors not deployed. These hauls should not be reported.

- e. Water hauls

Fishing hauls that result in zero catch should still be reported.

3) **Video Hauls** encompass the sorting, processing and stowing of catch.

- a. Video Haul begins when the doors return to the vessel at the haul annotation end.
- b. Video Haul ends when all of the catch has been sorted and stowed in the fish holds, and the hatches are closed.

- i. If the catch handling of the haul is incomplete before the next haul is brought onboard, end the video haul when the new net is dumped. Start the next video haul at that time.

1. Create annotations for the catch, specific to each haul within the associated video haul

CATCH:

All shoreside and MSCV whiting vessels will have all fish that are discarded/utilized onboard annotated. **All weights must be reported in pounds.**

Annotate all discarded protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals, and green sturgeon [with the exception of Dungeness crab]). Annotate all **retained** protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals, *Dungeness crab (WA and OR, CA south of Point Reyes)* and green sturgeon).

Each vessel has its own codend(s) with a specific design, total capacity, number of straps, and number of pounds that can fill each strap. This capacity may be used to estimate discards. Codend capacities are available in discard logbook data submitted to the EM service provider by the vessel operator. These capacities should be made available to the reviewer in a way that ensures blind review, so that other fields of the discard logbook are not made available to the reviewer.

Discards:

Record **ALL** discard events

- If fish thought to be discards are shoveled into an empty codend and then placed into the water, these will be included with the next haul. Do not record any retained or discard weight for these fish for the current haul, but comment on the situation.
- If fixed gear pots are included in the whiting catch and the contents are discarded, annotate as selective discards. The fish included in the pot should be identified down to species level if possible, and a visual estimation of the weight recorded in the annotation. Include a comment in the video haul annotation with the number of pots.
- It may be necessary to calculate large volume discards by using the estimated capacity of the codend. To calculate a weight per strap value, divide the codend capacity by the total number of straps on the net.

Annotating discards:

- IFQ and non-IFQ fish (less than 6 ft) discards that have been deliberately separated from the rest of the catch, whether it is sorted to species or not.
- Record the **Discard Fate** code
 - Avoid making assumptions about the discard reason.

Options for discard fate:

1. Unintentional Discard: Catch that was not deliberately removed from the gear by crew, but fell out/off of the fishing gear.
2. Unknown: Catch taken out of view of the camera or unsorted catch on deck when camera fails.
3. Discarded – General: Catch released. No damage apparent that would deem catch unmarketable, no state of decomposition apparent.

4. Discarded – Damaged: Catch with scavenger predation or general damage, deeming catch unmarketable, which is released. Count required for IFQ species AND for decomposed fish that are indistinguishable from IFQ.
 5. Throwback: Catch previously identified as retained and has now been discarded or utilized on-board.
 6. Utilized On-board: Catch is consumed/intended to be consumed by crew, or used as/intended to be used as bait. It might be filleted onboard. This catch will not show up on a fish ticket with retained catch. Fish with this fate are treated as discards in the database.
- Discards that have not been deliberately sorted from the rest of the catch (mixed catch). These discard events may have the same species composition as the total catch. Catch may have been shoveled off deck, deliberately discarded from codend, catch cinched-out of a mothership net. Catch may have bled out of the net or released through a net blow- out panel.
 1. Record unsorted/unidentified
 2. Record an **Estimated Weight**
 3. Record the **discard fate**
 - Examples of situational discard estimates for Pacific whiting
 - a. Catch is on deck:
 - i. Visually estimate how many round baskets the fish would fill.
 - ii. One round basket filled with hake weighs approximately 80lb. Multiply the estimated number of baskets by 80 to get an estimated weight of discard.
 - iii. Example: Pile of fish looks like it might fill 7 round baskets. $7 * 80 = 560$ lbs of non- selective discard
 - b. Catch spilled while zippering the codend for mothership transfer:
 - i. Based on how far back the bag is cinched, estimate how many straps the fish that are not included in the cinched codend would fill ii. Multiply the number of straps by the number of pounds per strap for that codend
 1. Example: Fish spilled filled 3 straps prior to cinching.
 - a. $3 \text{ straps} * 3,500 \text{ lbs/strap} = 10,500$ lbs of non-selective discard
 - c. Discarded straps of catch:
 - i. Do not count straps that are immediately released as “retained”
 1. This catch may be brought near or on the stern of the vessel during hauling
 - ii. Use codend capacity/strap weights to determine how many straps are being discarded at each percentage (or estimate a weight if this strategy does not fit the situation) and determine the Discarded weight

- d. Net bleeds/Blowout Panel – Catch in the water with net reference:
- i. Make an estimate of fish in the net prior to the bleed based on the number of full straps, how full the straps are and how many pounds per strap that codend would represent.
 - ii. After the bleed, estimate the catch following the above steps.
 - iii. Record the difference between the estimated weight of fish before and after the bleed iv. Example:
 1. Before bleed: 19 straps * 100% full * 3000 lbs/strap = 57,000lbs
 2. After bleed: 17 straps * 75% full * 3000 lbs/strap = 38,250 lbs
 3. **Discarded amount:** 57,000 lbs – 38,250 lbs = **18,750 lbs** of nonselective discard
- e. Net Bleeds/Blowout Panel – Catch in the water with no net reference: Estimate the number of round baskets the fish on the surface would fill.
Multiply total number of baskets by 80 lbs/basket
- f. Entire net spill:
- i. Assume the codend is slightly overfilled causing the codend failure
 - ii. If this trip contained full or overflowing hauls prior to this haul, use the two most recent full or overflowing hauls.
 1. Take the total retained catch + the total non-selective discarded catch for each of the two hauls to obtain the total catch of each haul
 2. Calculate the average of those two haul values
 3. Record the average total catch value as a non-selective discard for this haul
 - iii. If this trip did not contain full or overflowing hauls
 1. Take the known codend capacity of the vessel and add 10%
 2. Example: Vessel has a codend capacity of 160K lbs, codend is spilled as it is pulled up to the vessel, record the discard as 176K lbs.

POINT ANNOTATIONS: BOTTOM TRAWL & NON-WHITING MIDWATER TRAWL – OPTIMIZED RETENTION

Annotate all discarded protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals (including live animals, carcasses and bones), and green sturgeon [with the exception of Dungeness crab]). Marine mammal interactions resulting in a discard event must be annotated, such as: marine mammal is brought up in gear and on deck, or marine mammal is tangled in gear outboard and released.

Annotate all retained protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals (including live animals, carcasses and bones), Dungeness crab (WA and OR, CA south of Pt Reyes), and green sturgeon). Contact NMFS for questions.

HAUL AND VIDEO HAUL:

1) **Haul** begins when the doors go into the water and ends when the doors return to the vessel. A haul will appear in the sensor data as a drop in speed, with an increase in either hydraulic pressure or drum rotation or both.

- a. If the vessel is making a turn the doors may come back up for the turn and then go back down to resume fishing. Do not end the current haul. Record the two or more segments as a single haul.
- b. If at the end of a haul the vessel does not empty the codend and instead resets the net along with the contents of the codend for a second haul, annotate two separate hauls with comments.
- c. If you suspect that an annotated haul may not match up with logbook records (as can happen with water hauls and other unusual hauling activity), leave a comment at the haul level.
- d. Non-fishing hauls

Non-fishing hauls may occur when the crew is cleaning out or straightening the net. They may be characterized by: open nets (zipper not closed) and trawl doors not deployed. These hauls should not be reported.

e. Water hauls

Fishing hauls that result in zero catch should still be reported.

2) **Video Hauls** encompass the sorting, processing and stowing of catch.

- a. Video Haul begins when the doors return to the vessel at the haul annotation end.
- b. Video Haul ends when all of the catch has been sorted and stowed in the fish holds, and the hatches are closed.
 - i. If the catch handling of the haul is incomplete before the next haul is brought onboard, end the video haul when the new net is dumped. Start the next video haul at that time.

1. Create annotations for the catch, specific to each haul within the associated video haul

CATCH:

Annotate all discarded protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals, and green sturgeon [with the exception of Dungeness crab]). Annotate all **retained** protected species with counts (sea birds, turtles, marine mammals, dungeness crab (WA, OR, CA south of Pt. Reyes), and green sturgeon). **All weights must be reported in pounds.**

3) Retained:

- a. Only priority fish species (yelloweye rockfish) need to be annotated as “**Retained**” with **Piece Counts** for all individuals. If for some reason a count is unable to be obtained (a large amount of yelloweye rockfish are caught), a total weight should be determined instead and contact NMFS.
 - b. Annotate any retained protected species with Piece Counts: sea birds, turtles, marine mammals, green sturgeon, and Dungeness crab (If able).
 - c. Record **disposition**
 - i. Retained ii. Discard
- 4) Annotate all **Discarded IFQ** fish species
- a. Enter the **Species** to the lowest identifiable taxonomic level. If using general grouping codes such as roundfish unidentified or flatfish unidentified, contact NMFS
 - b. Record a round **Weight** estimate in pounds
 - c. Record **Length** of discarded species if held up to a measuring board
 - i. Only record length if fish is whole
 - ii. Record total length in centimeters
 - d. Record **disposition**
 - i. Retained ii. Discard
 - e. Record the **Fate** code
 - Avoid making assumptions about the discard reason.

Options for fate:

1. Unintentional Discard: Catch that was not deliberately removed from the gear by crew, but fell out/off of the fishing gear.
2. Unknown: Catch taken out of view of the camera or unsorted catch on deck when camera fails.
3. Discarded – General: Catch released. No damage apparent that would deem catch unmarketable, no state of decomposition apparent.
4. Discarded – Damaged: Catch with scavenger predation or general damage, deeming catch unmarketable, which is released. Count required for IFQ species AND for decomposed fish that are indistinguishable from IFQ.
5. Throwback: Catch previously identified as retained and has now been discarded or utilized on-board.
6. Utilized On-board: Catch is consumed/intended to be consumed by crew, or used as/intended to be used as bait. It might be filleted onboard. This catch will not show up on a fish ticket with retained catch. Fish with this fate are treated as discards in the database.

5) Halibut discards - viability

Pacific halibut discards use a default 90% discard mortality rate (DMR) on board bottom trawl vessels. However, NMFS will apply a vessel-specific DMR calculation, initially using the DMR from four previously sampled hauls where the time on deck model is used. In order for NMFS to apply the vessel-specific time on deck model, the EM service provider will:

1. Keep track of time starting from when the catch is brought on board until the individual halibut is discarded.
2. Annotate the length of individual halibut (when crew are measuring properly)
3. Annotate the time of discard
4. Annotate catch handling (good or poor)

6) Volumetric references

The following container weights can be used for the respective species groups:

1. **Round Basket** [Volume= 0.0422 m³] (100% Full):
 - a. Flatfish: 80 lbs.
 - b. Roundfish: 80 lbs.
 - c. Rockfish: 60 lbs.
2. **Tote** [Volume= 0.079 m³] (100% Full):
 - a. Flatfish: 150 lbs.
 - b. Roundfish: 150 lbs.
 - c. Rockfish: 120 lbs.
3. **Observer Basket** [Volume= 0.04 m³] (100% Full):
 - a. Flatfish: 76 lbs.
 - b. Roundfish: 76 lbs.
 - c. Rockfish: 60 lbs.
4. **20 Gal Containers** [Volume= 0.07571 m³] (100% Full):
 - a. Roundfish: 144 lbs.
 - b. Rockfish: 115 lbs.
5. **32 Gal Containers** [Volume= 0.1211 m³] (100% Full):
 - a. Roundfish: 203 lbs.

Providing Summary Data

EM Service Providers are required to submit annotated data to NMFS database for catch accounting and secondary review. All logbook and EM video reviewed data is submitted using the Application Programming Interface (API) to ensure the data format and requirements are met.

NMFS will randomly select hauls from bottom trawl and fixed gear vessels for review based on the hauls provided on the logbook submission. Providers should query the API or use the NMFS provided report with the randomly selected hauls for the primary review.

API instructions and documentation are found online at: <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/trips/instructions>

NMFS may request data resubmission to resolve errors or resolve inseason catch accounting issues. If a resubmission is requested, the provider should resend using the API as soon as possible.

Contact WCGOP for additional details about the required fields and access: Neil.Riley@noaa.gov or (206) 861-7607.

Feedback Reports and Feedback Loop

The EM Service Provider must communicate with vessel operators and NMFS to coordinate data service needs, resolve specific program issues, and provide feedback on program operations. The EM service provider must provide feedback to vessel representatives, field services staff, and NMFS regarding:

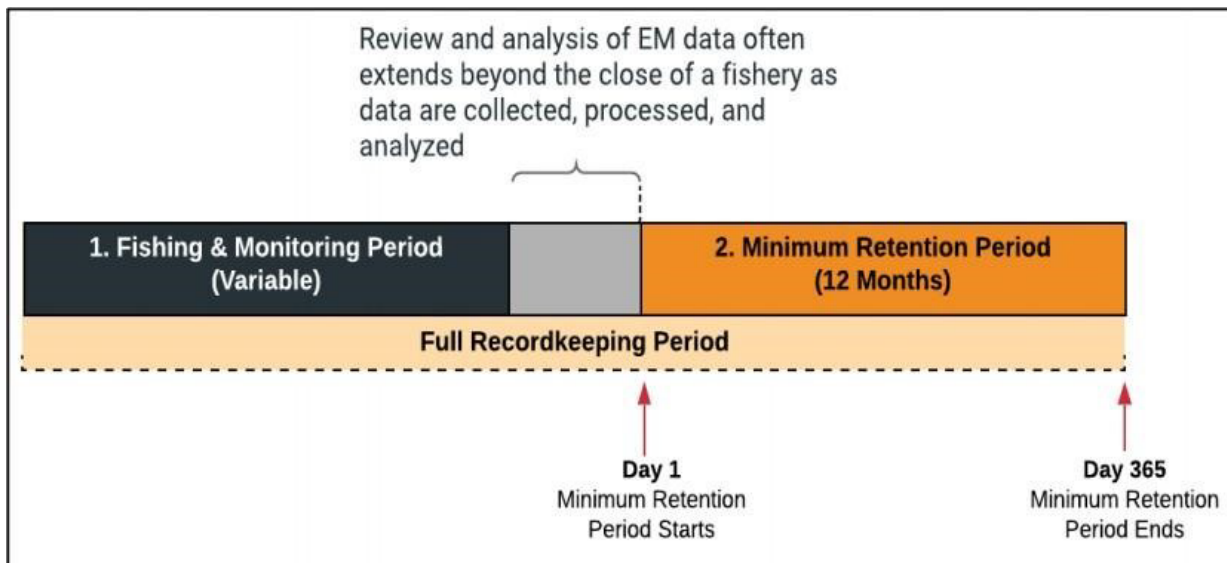
- (i) Adjustments to system settings;
- (ii) Changes to camera positions;
- (iii) Advice to vessel personnel on duty of care responsibilities;
- (iv) Advice to vessel personnel on catch handling practices; and,
- (v) Any other information that would improve the quality and effectiveness of data collection on the vessel.

Summary reports for each drive will be created by the service provider using a NMFS drive report web application called DREM. These reports capture potential compliance issues, malfunctions, and repairs or other corrective action taken. They may also highlight exemplary data collection.

Certified EM service providers are given access to DREM. Service providers assign roles to each individual EM reviewer and manager to create, edit, and submit feedback reports to vessel operators and owners. Contact the EM program coordinator to set up access.

Data Storage and Access

Regulations require that EM raw data, reports, and other records must be stored for 12 months from when data is finalized for a given fishing year. For the groundfish trawl fishery, data for the fishing (calendar) year are typically finalized by April of the following year.



EM data may be stored locally on hard drives, local servers, or using cloud storage services.

NMFS expects most requests for access or submission of EM data and other records associated with a specific EM trip will be made during the year in which that trip was taken (January 1 – December 31) and until data is finalized for that year (on or about March 1 of the following year). EM data files may be transmitted to NMFS via a secure website from which NMFS and authorized officers can download the data files, or by mailing a hard drive, CD, or other medium containing the data files. The provider may wish to take this information into account when planning for and comparing the costs and accessibility of different storage options.

Secondary Review to Ensure Data Quality

NMFS must ensure the quality of information used for fisheries science and management, and in EM programs, an independent analysis of the raw EM data is an important tool for assessing the quality of the data. There are several aspects that can drive the amount of secondary review that may be necessary to validate the quality of the data, and an EM service provider with experience with the requirements outlined in this manual will likely be able to meet the standards. However, a new EM service provider in a program, a new individual video reviewer employed by any EM service provider, new vessels in an EM program, and/or other factors may warrant increased validation of the data quality being submitted to NMFS. If data quality standards and program requirements are being met as the EM program matures, NMFS expects the secondary review to be minimal and reduced over time.

The [West Coast Groundfish Observer Program](#) (WCGOP) is responsible for completing the QA/QC of the EM summary data. Upon request, the EM provider will provide all video, sensor, annotated data files and logbook images to the NMFS for secondary review. The secondary review process provides an audit and feedback loop of the service provider and their review technicians to ensure EM service provider requirements are met.

NMFS staff will compare the logbook annotations to the image provided from the vessel to the provider, when applicable. EM video annotations will be reviewed using the provider's software. NMFS will follow the sampling rules utilized by the providers in the EM Program Manual. Annotations are verified to ensure protocols are followed. All discrepancies will be noted and feedback will be provided to the EM service provider. The intent is not to recreate the annotations, but to verify accuracy.

Glossary

Active sampling unit: the portion of the groundfish fleet in which an observer coverage plan is being applied.

Annotation: Information associated with a particular data point in an EM data set, created during either primary or secondary video review.

Discard control point: the location on the vessel designated by a vessel operator where allowable discarding may occur.

Discard event: a single occurrence of discarding of fish or other species.

Electronic Monitoring (EM): the use of an electronic monitoring system (EMS) to passively monitor fishing operations through observing or tracking.

Electronic Monitoring Authorization: the official document provided by NMFS that allows a vessel with a limited entry trawl permit to use electronic monitoring under the provisions of this subpart.

Electronic Monitoring System (EMS): a data collection tool that uses a software operating system connected to an assortment of electronic components, including video recorders, to create a collection of data on vessel activities.

Electronic Monitoring System Certification Form: the official document provided by NMFS, signed by a representative of a NMFS-permitted electronic monitoring service provider that attest that an EM system and associated equipment meets the performance standards defined at § 660.604(j) of this subpart, as required by § 660.604(e)(3)(i).

EM data: the information output of the Electronic Monitoring System (*e.g.*, imagery, sensor data, and other associated data files).

EM data processing: the review, interpretation, and analysis of EM data and associated meta data.

EM dataset: a collection of EM data from a single EM trip or group of EM trips.

EM Program: the Electronic Monitoring Program of the West Coast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service.

EM Service Plan: the document required under § 660.603 that describes in detail how the EM service provider will provide EM services.

EM service provider: any person, including their employees or agents, that is granted a permit by NMFS to provide EM services for vessels as required under § 660.603 and § 660.604.

EM technician: an employee of the EM service provider that provides support for EM systems and technical assistance.

EM trip: any fishing trip for which electronic monitoring is the declared monitoring type.

Harassment: EM service provider staff feel threatened or feel that their work or work environment is being compromised.

Initial Administrative Determination (IAD): a formal, written determination made by NMFS on an application or permit request that is subject to an appeal within NMFS.

Net Cleaning: crew cleaning/picking out previously caught fish from the net at the end of a trip or prior to an extended period of not fishing as part of gear maintenance. Fish that are discarded during net cleaning should not be recorded as discards.

Net Picking: crew picking out fish from the net during setting or retrieval of a haul during fishing hauls. Net picked fish are generally attributed to the previous haul and should be recorded as discards if picking occurs during an annotated video haul.

Non-trawl shorebased IFQ vessel: a vessel on a declared limited entry groundfish non-trawl, shorebased IFQ trip.

Maximized retention: A vessel does not sort at sea and retains all catch from a trip until landing, with certain exceptions.

Optimized retention: A vessel sorts at sea and retains all IFQ and certain non-IFQ species until landing, with exceptions.

Pacific whiting fishery: Pacific whiting primary season fisheries described at § 660.131. The Pacific whiting fishery is composed of vessels participating in the C/P Co-op Program, the MS Co-op Program, or the Pacific whiting IFQ fishery.

Pacific whiting IFQ fishery: vessels on Pacific whiting IFQ trips.

Pacific whiting IFQ trip: a trip in which a vessel uses midwater groundfish trawl gear during the dates of the Pacific whiting primary season to target Pacific whiting, and Pacific whiting constitutes 50 percent or more of the catch by weight at landing as reported on the state landing receipt. Vessels on Pacific whiting IFQ trips must have a valid declaration for limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting shorebased IFQ.

Shorebased IFQ Program or Shorebased IFQ sector: the fishery described at § 660.140, subpart D, and includes all vessels on IFQ trips.

Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP): the document that describes how fishing operations on the vessel will be conducted and how the EM system and associated equipment will be configured to meet the performance standards and purpose of the EM Program.

Appendix A: List of Species

List of groundfish species covered by Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCG FMP) (§ 660.11 General definitions):

- Sharks: leopard shark (*Triakis semifasciata*); soupfin shark (*Galeorhinus zyopterus*); spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*).
- Skates: big skate (*Raja binoculata*); California skate (*R. inornata*); longnose skate (*R. rhina*).
- Ratfish: ratfish (*Hydrolagus colliei*).
- Morids: finescale codling (*Antimora microlepis*).
- Grenadiers: Pacific rattail (*Coryphaenoides acrolepis*).
- Roundfish: cabezon (*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*); kelp greenling (*Hexagrammos decagrammus*); lingcod (*Ophiodon elongates*); Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*); Pacific whiting (*Merluccius productus*); sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*).
- Rockfish: in addition to the species listed below, longspine thornyhead (*S. altivelis*) and shortspine thornyhead (*S. alascanus*), “rockfish” managed under PCG FMP include all genera and species of the family *Scorpaenidae* that occur off Washington, Oregon, and California, even if not listed below. The *Scorpaenidae* genera are *Sebastes*, *Scorpaena*, *Scorpaenodes*, and *Sebastolobus*. Where species below are listed both in a major category (nearshore, shelf, slope) and as an area-specific listing (north or south of 40°10' North latitude) those species are considered “minor” in the geographic area listed.
 - Nearshore rockfish includes black rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) and the following minor nearshore rockfish species:
 - § North of 40°10' N. lat.: Black and yellow rockfish (*S. chrysomelas*); blue rockfish (*S. mystinus*); brown rockfish (*S. auriculatus*); calico rockfish (*S. dalli*); China rockfish (*S. nebulosus*); copper rockfish (*S. caurinus*); gopher rockfish (*S. carnatus*); grass rockfish (*S. rastrelliger*); kelp rockfish (*S. atrovirens*); olive rockfish (*S. serranoides*); quillback rockfish (*S. maliger*); treefish (*S. serriceps*).
 - § South of 40°10' N. lat., nearshore rockfish are divided into three management categories:
 - Shallow nearshore rockfish consists of black and yellow rockfish (*S. chrysomelas*); China rockfish (*S. nebulosus*); gopher rockfish (*S. carnatus*); grass rockfish (*S. rastrelliger*); kelp rockfish (*S. atrovirens*).
 - Deeper nearshore rockfish consists of black rockfish (*S. melanops*); blue rockfish (*S. mystinus*); brown rockfish (*S. auriculatus*); calico rockfish (*S. dalli*); copper rockfish (*S. caurinus*); olive rockfish (*S. serranoides*); quillback rockfish (*S. maliger*); treefish (*S. serriceps*).
 - California scorpionfish (*Scorpaena guttata*).

- Shelf rockfish includes bocaccio (*Sebastes paucispinis*); canary rockfish (*S. pinniger*); chilipepper (*S. goodei*); cowcod (*S. levis*); shortbelly rockfish (*S. jordani*); widow rockfish (*S. entomelas*); yelloweye rockfish (*S. ruberrimus*); yellowtail rockfish (*S. flavidus*); and the following minor shelf rockfish species:

§ North of 40°10' N. lat.: Bronzespotted rockfish (*S. gilli*); bocaccio (*S. paucispinis*); chameleon rockfish (*S. phillipsi*); chilipepper (*S. goodie*); cowcod (*S. levis*); dusky rockfish (*S. ciliatus*); dwarf-red (*S. rufianus*); flag rockfish (*S. rubrivinctus*); freckled (*S. lentiginosus*); greenblotched rockfish (*S. rosenblatti*); greenspotted rockfish (*S. chlorostictus*); greenstriped rockfish (*S. elongates*); halfbanded rockfish (*S. semicinctus*); harlequin rockfish (*S. variegatus*); honeycomb rockfish (*S. umbrosus*); Mexican rockfish (*S. macdonaldi*); pink rockfish (*S. eos*); pinkrose rockfish (*S. simulator*); pygmy rockfish (*S. wilsoni*); redstripe rockfish (*S. proriger*); rosethorn rockfish (*S. helvomaculatus*); rosy rockfish (*S. rosaceus*); silvergray rockfish (*S. brevispinis*); speckled rockfish (*S. ovalis*); squarespot rockfish (*S. hopkinsi*); starry rockfish (*S. constellatus*); stripetail rockfish (*S. saxicola*); swordspine rockfish (*S. ensifer*); tiger rockfish (*S. nigrocinctus*); vermilion rockfish (*S. miniatus*).

§ South of 40°10' N. lat.: Bronzespotted rockfish (*S. gilli*); chameleon rockfish (*S. phillipsi*); dusky rockfish (*S. ciliates*); dwarf-red rockfish (*S. rufianus*); flag rockfish (*S. rubrivinctus*); freckled (*S. lentiginosus*); greenblotched rockfish (*S. rosenblatti*); greenspotted rockfish (*S. chlorostictus*); greenstriped rockfish (*S. elongatus*); halfbanded rockfish (*S. semicinctus*); harlequin rockfish (*S. variegatus*); honeycomb rockfish (*S. umbrosus*); Mexican rockfish (*S. macdonaldi*); pink rockfish (*S. eos*); pinkrose rockfish (*S. simulator*); pygmy rockfish (*S. wilsoni*); redstripe rockfish (*S. proriger*); rosethorn rockfish (*S. helvomaculatus*); rosy rockfish (*S. rosaceus*); silvergray rockfish (*S. brevispinis*); speckled rockfish (*S. ovalis*); squarespot rockfish (*S. hopkinsi*); starry rockfish (*S. constellatus*); stripetail rockfish (*S. saxicola*); swordspine rockfish (*S. ensifer*); tiger rockfish (*S. nigrocinctus*); vermilion rockfish (*S. miniatus*); yellowtail rockfish (*S. flavidus*).

- Slope rockfish includes darkblotched rockfish (*S. crameri*); Pacific ocean perch (*S. alutus*); splitnose rockfish (*S. diploproa*); and the following minor slope rockfish species:

§ North of 40°10' N. lat.: Aurora rockfish (*Sebastes aurora*); bank rockfish (*S. rufus*); blackgill rockfish (*S. melanostomus*); redbanded rockfish (*S. babcocki*); roughey rockfish (*S. aleutianus*); sharpchin rockfish (*S. zacentrus*); shorttraker rockfish (*S. borealis*); splitnose rockfish (*S. diploproa*); yellowmouth rockfish (*S. reedi*).

§ South of 40°10' N. lat.: Aurora rockfish (*Sebastes aurora*); bank rockfish (*S. rufus*); blackgill rockfish (*S. melanostomus*); Pacific ocean perch (*S. alutus*); redbanded rockfish (*S. babcocki*); roughey rockfish (*S. aleutianus*); sharpchin

rockfish (*S. zacentrus*); shortraker rockfish (*S. borealis*); yellowmouth rockfish (*S. reedi*).

· Flatfish: Arrowtooth flounder, also called arrowtooth turbot, (*Atheresthes stomias*); butter sole (*Isopsetta isolepis*); curlfin sole (*Pleuronichthys decurrens*); Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*); English sole (*Parophrys vetulus*); flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*); Pacific sanddab, (*Citharichthys sordidus*); petrale sole (*Eopsetta jordani*); rex sole (*Glyptocephalus zachirus*); rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*); sand sole (*Psettichthys melanostictus*); starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*).

Vessel Name Endless Summer Departure: Date 9 - 12 - 2015 Time 0600 Port Astoria, OR
WOC Logbook Page # 42955 Return: Date 9 - 14 - 2015 Time 0920 Port Astoria, OR

DATE (mo/day)	SET TIME	DISCARDED—Estimated pounds discarded each tow, enter the 4 letter code from the species list provided										RETAINED — Priority Species					
			DOVR	ARTH	EGLS	PWHT	PHLB	PDAB					BOTH REQUIRED	CNRY	CWCD	BCAC	YEYE
09/12	13:30	<u>Pounds</u> (Required)	10	100	----	1000	15	15					<u>Pounds</u>			45	
		Count	35	---	----	----	1	---					<u>Count</u>			11	
09/12	17:20	<u>Pounds</u> (Required)	5	20	500	10	1000	40					<u>Pounds</u>			100	
		Count	3	15	---	8	75	---					<u>Count</u>			35	
9/13	00:30	<u>Pounds</u> (Required)	100	5	2	300	---	---					<u>Pounds</u>				
		Count	---	8	3	---	---	---					<u>Count</u>				
9/13	05:09	<u>Pounds</u> (Required)	---	---	10	---	---	150					<u>Pounds</u>				
		Count	---	---	34	---	---	---					<u>Count</u>				
9/13	10:15	<u>Pounds</u> (Required)	---	---	---	---	28	10					<u>Pounds</u>				8
		Count	---	---	---	---	2	---					<u>Count</u>				2
9/13	15:08	<u>Pounds</u> (Required)	20	---	50	---	---	---					<u>Pounds</u>	5	3		
		Count	---	---	---	---	---	---					<u>Count</u>	1	1		
		<u>Pounds</u> (Required)											<u>Pounds</u>				
		Count											<u>Count</u>				
		<u>Pounds</u> (Required)											<u>Pounds</u>				
		Count											<u>Count</u>				
		<u>Pounds</u> (Required)											<u>Pounds</u>				
		Count											<u>Count</u>				

Example of EM trawl discard logbook page

Appendix C: Example Feedback Report Template

Incident Type	Vessel Type	Incident	Low Priority	High Priority
Functionality Issues	All vessels	Function test was not completed		Before departing port
Functionality Issues	All vessels	Vessel did not stop fishing when a Critical malfunction occurred (Note: they are allowed to complete the tow if gear is already deployed)		Any instance
Data Quality Issues	All vessels	Catch handled outside of camera view or inconsistent with VMP, camera view obstructed, lighting inadequate, etc., resulting in an inability to identify the species of fish caught and/or discarded or the fate of the catch		Any instance
Data Quality Issues	All vessels	Time gaps in sensor or video data		Any instance
Data Quality Issues	All vessels	Any evidence of tampering or other damage or disruption to the EM system		Any instance
Reporting Issues	All vessels	Hard drive not submitted or submitted with incomplete data set		Any instance
Reporting Issues	All vessels	Logbook not submitted or submitted incomplete		Any instance
Reporting Issues	All vessels	Offload was delayed, but video was not turned on to record the time in port		Any instance
Other Fishing Regulations	All vessels	Gear deployed or retrieved in a closed area		Any instance
Catch Related Issues	All vessels	Discarded outside designated control point		Any instance

Catch Related Issues	All vessels	Discarded for a mechanical or safety issue		Any instance
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Catch Related Issues	All vessels	Discarded salmon or undersize lingcod		Any instance
Catch Related Issues	Non-whiting vessels	Retained Pacific halibut, marine mammal, seabird, sea turtle, eulachon, Dungeness crab seaward of WA/OR/CA S of Pt Reyes, or green sturgeon		Any instance
Catch Related Issues	Whiting vessels	Discarded fish other than 1 tote/haul of operational discards, animals larger than 6-ft		Any instance
Catch Related Issues	Bottom trawl	Discarded IFQ species or non-IFQ species (other than 1 tote/haul of operational discards, animals larger than 6-ft, invertebrates)		Any instance
Catch Related Issues	Fixed gear vessels	Discard of IFQ species or non-IFQ species (other than animals larger than 6-ft, invertebrates, depredated fish)		Any instance

Appendix D: Addendum - List of 2025 Manual Updates

Updates from the 2024 manual to 2025 version (page numbers in parentheses)

- (17): refined instructions where providers may obtain a report for haul review selection in Obs-web.
- (17): clarified that all weights must be reported in pounds.
- (18, 19, 23): refined guidance on annotating protected species interactions, catch events and discards
- (18, 25): added instructions to contact NMFS if using general grouping codes when identifying IFQ/IBQ species to lowest taxonomic level
- (18): included lengths are reported in centimeters
- (18): prioritized length and weight estimation types
- (20, 24): added non-fishing haul and water haul annotation instructions
- (28): added details on secondary review protocols
- (29): added net cleaning and net picking definitions to glossary
- (34): added note on electronic logbook requirements for non-trawl gear vessels
- (38): added Appendix D: Addendum – List of 2025 Manual Updates