

 <p data-bbox="215 533 454 571">Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels</p>	<p data-bbox="491 241 1406 280">Sixth Meeting of the Seabird Bycatch Working Group</p> <p data-bbox="628 300 1406 338"><i>Punta del Este, Uruguay, 10 - 12 September 2014</i></p> <p data-bbox="523 414 1366 510">Strategic Plan for Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting in the North Pacific</p> <p data-bbox="507 533 1394 616"><i>M.R. Loefflad, F.R. Wallace, J. Mondragon, J. Watson, and G. A. Harrington</i></p>
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SUMMARY

The United States National Marine Fisheries Service developed a strategic plan for guiding the future of electronic monitoring for certain commercial vessels operating in North Pacific fisheries. The strategic plan document synthesizes background on electronic monitoring and provides steps that will help advance the use of electronic means in monitoring the North Pacific groundfish and halibut fisheries.

Plan estratégico para el monitoreo electrónico y la presentación electrónica de datos en el Pacífico Norte

El Servicio Nacional de Pesca Marina de los Estados Unidos elaboró un plan estratégico para orientar el futuro del monitoreo electrónico en ciertos buques comerciales que operan en las pesquerías del Pacífico Norte. El documento de dicho plan estratégico sintetiza los antecedentes del monitoreo electrónico e incluye medidas que ayudarán a avanzar con el empleo de un medio electrónico para monitorear los caladeros y pesquerías de halibut del Pacífico Norte.

Plan stratégique pour la surveillance électronique et le système électronique de communication des rapports dans le Pacifique Nord

Le Service de la pêche en mer des États-Unis a développé un plan stratégique visant à guider la future surveillance électronique de certains navires commerciaux opérant dans les pêcheries du Pacifique Nord. Le document du plan stratégique résume le contexte de la surveillance électronique et fournit les différentes étapes qui aideront à promouvoir l'utilisation de moyens électroniques dans la surveillance des pêcheries démersales et du flétan dans la Pacifique Nord.

In the United States, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

- (1) Provide a strategic planning document for electronic monitoring (EM) that identifies the Council's EM management objective of collecting at-sea discard estimates from vessels associated with Individual Fishing Quota and that are between 40 and 57.5 feet in length, and the timeline and vision for how the EM pilot project in 2013 and future years' projects will serve to meet this objective, including funding; and
- (2) Report to the Council on other EM options that may be appropriate to replace or supplement human observers.

NMFS developed an EM strategic plan, available at:

<http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-276.pdf>

The plan outlines two approaches: 1) EM for compliance monitoring; and 2) EM to collect data for management and science. Clearly defining the monitoring objectives is essential to program development.

The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the current environment were examined. The vision for the future is: "A future where electronic monitoring and reporting technologies are integrated into NMFS North Pacific fisheries-dependent data collection program, where applicable, to ensure that scientists, managers, policy makers, and industry are informed with fishery-dependent information that is relevant to policy priorities, of high quality, available when needed, and obtained in a cost-effective manner."

A suite of goals, objectives, strategies and actions are outlined to guide future work. This forms the strategic plan's core.

An implementation plan follows, outlining the steps NMFS is taking to develop and implement EM technologies. Field work, innovations, dissemination of results, and a timeline are discussed.

Appendices provide further information: 1) a summary of existing Alaskan monitoring tools; 2) different compliance approaches; 3) a comparison of logbook/audit and catch estimation approaches; and 4) an assessment of current observer monitoring activities.

Agencies considering the use of EM in fisheries monitoring are encouraged to review the document for items that may be relevant to their program.