

Electronic Monitoring Implementation Project for Atlantic Herring and Mackerel Midwater Trawl Fisheries

*Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Northeast Fisheries Science Center*

September 2016

Steps Completed

- Secure Project Funding
 - Initial NMFS grant was \$406,400
 - NMFS secured an additional \$588,600 to support this project
 - Total funding for this project equals \$995,000
- Awarded contract to Saltwater Inc. in August 2016

Next Steps

- Hold meetings with the fishing industry
- Develop vessels monitoring plans
- Begin installing EM on midwater trawl vessels
- Complete installations by October 15, 2016

Overview of EM Project Goals

- Analyze the utility of EM in monitoring fisheries to inform future EM programs
- Deploy and test EM on midwater trawl vessels
- Evaluate the range of information that can be gathered with EM
 - Verify slippage events
 - Categorize the types of slippage events
 - Verify other discard sources
 - Estimate the amount of retained catch
- Refine EM cost estimates for NMFS and the fishing industry
- EM systems will not be used to monitor compliance with existing regulations during this project

Saltwater Deliverables

- Assess the quality of image data
- Analyze vessel sensor data
- Review of 100% of the video footage collected
- Identify all fishing episodes
- Identify discarding events, including slippage, operational discards, and discarding from the grate
- Document the net/codend and its contents after pumping has been completed
- Identify interactions with protected species
- Identify any data anomalies for further investigation
- Submit EM summary reports to NMFS

Dates	EM Project Milestones
January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Approved
May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive funding for EM Project • Outreach to potential fishing industry participants
May 9- 31, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicitation to find EM service providers
June 1-15, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review panel selected EM service provider
August 12, 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract awarded to Saltwater Inc. • All other applicants notified
September - October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltwater works with vessels to develop vessel monitoring plans and install EM equipment • Vessel monitoring begins
September 2016 - September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video collected and reviewed • Best practices developed
September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel monitoring ends • EM equipment removed or purchased/leased by vessels
November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final report on EM project due