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To: All Halibut, Sablefish, Rockfish, Lingcod, & Dogfish Fishery Participants

From: Greg Clapp, GHLCMP Program Coordinator

Date: Feb 19, 2010

Re: 2010/2011 Groundfish Hook and Line Catch Monitoring Program

Recently the CIC (Commercial Industry Caucus) held a competitive bidding process for the monitoring components of this year's groundfish hook and line fisheries. Archipelago was awarded the hail (call centre), dockside monitoring (DMP) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) data processing and Audit services and will continue to provide EM equipment services.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to continue to provide this suite of monitoring services to the groundfish hook and line fishery and are committed to the delivery of a high quality monitoring service. We will also continue to work with the CIC on refinements to the groundfish hook and line catch monitoring program.

We are pleased to report that DFO will continue with its cost sharing contributions for the 2010/2011 season. The CIC has elected to continue to collect program costs using the same fee recovery model used in previous years. The 2010/2011 rates provided in the Fee Summary incorporate the DFO financial contribution and have been developed in consultation with representatives of the CIC.

All program participants are required to register for the 2010/2011 season which begins Feb. 21, 2010. All trips commencing after Feb. 20, 2010 will be subject to the new rates.

Hails

Traditional call center hail services (using the Answering Service) will continue to use the same toll free number as last year (1-877-819-1888). Both DMP and EM Equipment services can also be requested using this service. Plasticized hail cards, outlining the processes for hailing or requesting service are available at our regional offices.

There are now 2 service providers taking hails in this fishery, however only one service provider can be used per trip, i.e. you must hail in to the same service provider that you hailed out with.

Logbooks

Fishermen can continue to use the Integrated Groundfish Fishing Logbook they were issued in 2009. Additional logbooks are available through our port offices or head office in Victoria.

Dockside Monitoring

Dockside piece counts are an integral data source for the audit and must continue to be given a high priority by all involved. It is a shared responsibility between the skipper, the Observer and the offloader to ensure that accurate piece counts are obtained. Skippers must take an active role during the offload to ensure that piece counts can be conducted accurately by the Observer. The same piece count requirements from last season will remain in place this year. Therefore, all rockfish and all non-directed species must be sorted, piece counted and documented by the dockside Observer.

Due to the importance of piece counts, skippers are advised that when they or their designate signs off the Validation Record they will also be signifying acceptance of the piece counts provided. The discretionary recount process implemented in the 2008/2009 fishery year will continue for this season. Please refer to our website or ask your Observer for further details on the process.

EM Equipment

The performance and reliability of our equipment remains a top priority for Archipelago. A system upgrade was made available to owners in 2009 and produced significantly improved performance. Any owners who have not had this upgrade done are strongly encouraged to do so. Please review the “Owner Upgrade Letter” and the “EM System Bulletins” on Archipelago’s web site for a detailed explanation of the upgrade, and of the development work that has been done to improve EM system reliability. **Owners should be aware that in the future Archipelago will only be providing support to systems that have been upgraded to Version 4.2.**

Vessel power supply issues continue to be a significant factor in the reliable operation of the EM system. Please refer to the “Power Requirements” document available on Archipelago’s web site. You should follow the power requirement recommendations to help you achieve complete data collection.

System availability is changing in the Hook and Line fishery and fewer systems will be available for rentals. Access to these systems will be on a first come first serve basis so customers wishing to rent a system should provide several days notice of fishing plans. Please review Section 3.2 of the Fee Schedule for more information on system availability

Service Technicians will be conducting comprehensive checks of your entire EM system prior to the first trip of the 2010/2011 season. This system service will take longer to conduct than the standard functionality test, but is an essential component in ensuring the most reliable EM system possible.

Functionality Test Certificate Numbers (FTCN) will continue to have a 30-day validity period.

EM Data Processing

Archipelago has continued to develop the Audit and Data Consolidation components of the program with direction from both the CIC and DFO.

EM sensor data processing and viewing protocols will remain unchanged as will the scoring methodologies and performance standards previously established by the CIC.

At the direction of the CIC, the criteria used to determine whether a trip is categorized as either Category 2 or 3 have been increased for 2010/2011. **Higher trip and annual scores will be required in 2010/2011 to avoid the financial consequences of a Category 2 (pooled review) or Category 3 (100% review) rating.** All trips that do not meet the standards set out in the audit process will continue to be passed to the DFO Review Board.

Please review the “Understanding the Audit” document on Archipelago’s web site for a more detailed explanation of the audit process, scoring and potential consequences.

Registration

As in previous years, Archipelago will require a registration form to be completed and signed by the licence holder and an administration fee paid in full prior to the delivery of services. To commence fishing you must complete a registration form, pay the administration fee and have a Service Technician run a comprehensive check of your EM system, after which they will provide you with an FTCN number, so you can hail out.

Registration packages, which include the 2010/2011 Fee Schedule, are available on our website (www.archipelago.ca), at any of our Regional Offices (shown below) or by email or fax (call 1-888-383-4535 to request a faxed or emailed package). Please ensure that you receive both the Standard Terms and Conditions and Microsoft End User Licence Agreement, which are available at any of our offices or by fax or email. In order to prevent potential delays to your fishing schedule you should contact Archipelago as far in advance of your planned fishing dates as possible to arrange for monitoring services.

The monitoring requirements of this program continue to evolve. In order to help fishermen become aware of new program requirements and prepare for this season, Archipelago has organized a location on our web site (www.archipelago.ca) where customers can access background documents, DFO communications, registration packages and access links to other relevant web sites.

If you have additional questions about the program please contact us at 1-888-383-4535.

Monitoring Program Management Staff

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