

## **Memo To All Sablefish Licence Holders and Fishery Participants**

I am writing this letter to pass on suggestions to the sablefish trap fleet on how to efficiently deal with Electronic Monitoring requirements and the audit process. My objective is to ensure fishermen know what they can do to increase the likelihood of passing their audits and avoiding additional audit costs.

The specific EM monitoring objectives for the sablefish trap fishery are:

- Piece counts of retained non-directed catch
- Piece counts and utility (legal/sublegal or marketable/unmarketable) of released non-directed catch
- Piece counts of discarded sablefish

The challenges with trap fishing arise due to variable deck operations and fish that come on board in mass. The key to passing the audit is to ensure the logbook is accurate and fishing operations are properly captured by the EM system so that when imagery is reviewed we can accurately document what was retained and released.

### **12 Steps You Can Take To Pass Your Audits and Avoid Extra Cost**

1. DFO requires all traps to be emptied into a hopper, even if they only contain bait. Traps cannot be emptied overboard or on deck, both of which can cause discrepancies in the data.
2. The skipper should review the camera views with the EM Service Technician so they understand where releases have to occur to be able to be captured by the EM system.
3. On some vessels, fish are released in such a way that makes it impossible to determine what they are and in many cases the viewer will miss the discard completely. Ideally, a designated discard area (like a discard chute) should be established where all released fish pass through that has a clear camera view and is not blocked by equipment or crew. This makes identifying and counting released fish significantly easier and reduces discrepancies.
4. Develop a process where offal is not discarded through this designated discard area so there is no confusion with released fish.
5. Ensure the crew knows how to deal properly with released fish and offal. It is important the crew know where not to stand to ensure they do not block the camera view.
6. Ensure the measurement of released fish is done correctly and in view of the camera.
7. Keep camera domes clean and free of salt and grime, as these can greatly distort imagery.
8. Ensure the logbook is legible. Don't write over a number; instead cross out the error and write the correct number to one side or in the comments with clear notes indicating what it corresponds to.
9. Accurately record the number of released sablefish and non-directed catch in your logbook.
10. If released dogfish are not measured they should be recorded as "Marketable" in the logbook.
11. Do not freeze rockfish in blocks as this makes it impossible to get accurate piece counts.
12. Be actively involved in the piece count process during dockside monitoring and ensure that you are confident with the piece counts, before you sign off on the validation record.

Please call me at 1-888-383-4535 if you have any questions about this document.

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EM Manager and Client Representative