Project Summary  The Fisheries Sampling Branch of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center is initiating a pilot program in conjunction with Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., to test the applicability of electronic monitoring system technology to collect catch and fishing effort data aboard commercial vessels. EMS involves the use of passive electronic systems (video cameras and automated computer systems) to monitor a variety of vessel activity parameters. The goal of the study is to evaluate the utility of EMS as a means to monitor catch on a real-time basis in the Northeast groundfish sector fleet as a monitoring alternative. The project will document the entire 2010 groundfish fishing year on volunteer vessels in the trawl, longline, and gillnet fisheries.

Observer/ASM Responsibilities
- Perform all NEFOP/ASM duties as you would on any standard trip
- Limited trip responsibilities take precedence over unobstructed camera viewing
- Discard in designated area (ask Captain if unsure)
- Do not handle or interact with the equipment in any manner (adjusting, blocking, etc.)
- Avoid interaction with winch and hydraulic sensors
- Check off the “EMS Used” check box when uploading trip if observing on a EMS vessel

Participating Vessels
Miss Fitz Chatham, MA
Rugrats Chatham, MA
Barbara L. Peters Scituate, MA

Special Sampling Instructions
No additional instructions at this time

EMS Staff Contact Info.
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