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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

June 4, 2010

Dear Electronic Monitoring Participants,

Archipelago will be working with the Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB) of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) to initiate a pilot study to test the applicability of electronic monitoring (EM) technology to collect catch and fishing effort data aboard vessels in the Northeast groundfish sector fleet. The duration of the study will be for at least one full year, with the possibility of continuation for two additional years.

Archipelago will be responsible for EM system installations and maintenance and will ensure data is collected from vessels and delivered to FSB staff. Archipelago will be responsible for modification costs other than those associated with power source requirements. Additionally, Archipelago will collaborate with FSB in the interpretation and analysis of this data.

Archipelago will ensure that any vessel specific EM data obtained in the course of this study is treated as strictly confidential. Any and all information gathered and obtained by Archipelago shall be proprietary to NOAA. Archipelago shall forward originals and copies of any and all information gathered or obtained to NOAA as it is required. EM information may be provided to the Participant upon request.

Volunteer participants will receive \$25 for any portion of a fishing day with an EM system aboard. If participants meet project requirements, they will receive a 30% monetary bonus in addition to the daily compensation rate. Participants will be encouraged to participate in several project meetings to be scheduled throughout the project study. Participants will receive \$250 and travel expenses if applicable for meeting attendance. Participants will receive compensation within six weeks of completing at-sea study involvement and within three weeks of meeting attendance.

Project requirements are as follows:

1. Keep the EM system powered for the entire fishing trip.
2. Monitor the EM system performance via the monitor provided. Complete a function test of the system on each fishing trip (prior to fishing activity). Training and performance specifications will be provided.

3. Call the contact number 1-250-383-3203 within 24 hours of detecting a system problem.
4. Provide prompt and efficient vessel access to program staff to service EM equipment.
5. Work with program staff to develop onboard catch handling methods suitable for program.
6. Complete a vessel questionnaire after system has been removed from vessel.

Please read the Vessel Installation Preparation document included before our Service Technician visits your vessel. Please contact Maria Jose Pria, Project Manager toll free at 1-888-383-4535 or email NewEnglandEM@archipelago.ca or Amy Van Atten at (508) 495-2266 or amy.van.atten@noaa.gov if you have questions regarding participation.

Sincerely,



Amy Van Atten

Branch Chief