



Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Program

NFWF CONTACTS

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PARTNERS

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$12 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Fishing boat in Alaska

BACKGROUND

The Electronic Monitoring and Reporting (EMR) grant program was established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in 2015 with support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The program funds projects that modernize fisheries data collection and management systems to support science-based management and productive fisheries.

For 2026, Congress appropriated \$3.5 million to EMR to expand the use of proven electronic technologies in new fisheries, extending their economic and conservation benefits. Since its launch, EMR has awarded more than \$40.6 million to 139 projects across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Caribbean, Gulf, Pacific Coast, Alaska, and Hawai'i. These grants leveraged more than \$58.6 million in matching contributions, generating a total conservation impact of \$99.2 million. The program builds on NFWF's earlier investments in electronic fisheries technology through the Fisheries Innovation Fund from 2010 to 2015.

Electronic technologies can reduce monitoring costs, improve the speed, reliability, and transparency of fisheries data, and help fishermen and managers address both management and business challenges. High-quality, timely data are essential for maintaining strong U.S. fisheries, enabling scientists to assess stock status and recommend annual harvest limits.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The EMR program focuses on two core goals: increasing the use of electronic technologies in fisheries data collection and modernizing fisheries data management systems. NFWF supports both pilot projects testing new ideas and efforts to scale proven technologies across fleets or multiple fishing communities.

The EMR grant program is a national program that considers proposals from all U.S. state and federal fisheries, including commercial, recreational and for-hire sectors. While NFWF seeks to support work in key fisheries such as Gulf reef fish, New England and West Coast groundfish, Alaska halibut and groundfish, and highly migratory species, proposals from other fisheries are also eligible and encouraged to apply for funding.