



Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Program

NFWF CONTACTS

Gray Redding

Senior Manager,
Fisheries Conservation
gray.redding@nfwf.org
202-595-2438

Annabel Chase

Coordinator,
Regional Programs
annabel.chase@nfwf.org
202-595-2430

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

1625 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C., 20006
202-857-0166



Fishing boat in San Juan Islands

OVERVIEW

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announce the 2026 slate of projects for the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting (EMR) Program. Thirteen new grants totaling \$3.4 million were awarded. The awards leveraged \$4.2 million in matching contribution from grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$7.6 million.

EMR supports innovation and electronic technologies implementation in U.S. fisheries to modernize data collection and data management systems for science and management that support productive fisheries. This year's grant slate funds projects to transfer proven concepts and technology to new fisheries, spreading the economic and conservation benefits of electronic technologies further. The following 13 projects address two key strategies to advance electronic technology implementation in U.S. fisheries: 1) test and deploy e-technology in fishery data collection and 2) modernize data management systems. In many cases, projects address both strategic priorities.

(continued)

Advancing the Use of Electronic Monitoring in the U.S. Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery (MA, NC, NJ)

Grantee: Coonamessett Farm Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$489,900

Matching Funds:..... \$756,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,245,900

Advance electronic monitoring in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery by adding cameras on new vessels, improving bycatch measurement, and piloting industry incentives related to effort tracking and closed area transit. Project will refine electronic monitoring tools to quantify scallop catch and groundfish bycatch, convene stakeholders, and produce a practical roadmap for cost-shared, fleet-wide electronic monitoring adoption across multiple ports.

AI-Enabled Catch Accounting and Data Integration for the Gulf Charter Headboat Fishery (AL, FL, TX)

Grantee: Gulf Fisheries Research Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$399,000

Matching Funds:..... \$401,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$800,700

Build a six-vessel electronic monitoring study fleet in the Gulf charter headboat fishery equipped with broadband offshore data transmission, multi-angle cameras, standardized fish measurement stations and environmental data loggers. Project will use AI-video processing tools to quantify reef-fish catch and discards, validate these results against human-observer data, and deliver summarized information for fisheries managers, reducing costs and improving data collection.

Developing a Data Management Platform for Pacific Salmon to Inform Fisheries Management (WA)

Grantee: Lummi Indian Business Council

Grant Amount:..... \$311,200

Matching Funds:..... \$311,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$622,400

Modernize salmon population and fisheries data management across the Nooksack River by building a secure database and web interface to integrate juvenile and adult data from tribal and regional partners. Project will support co-management of Chinook salmon, provide timely data access for annual treaty-rights fisheries management, and ensure synthesis and data reliability for long-term conservation planning.

Development of AI-assisted Electronic Monitoring Review for New England Groundfish (MA, ME, NH, RI)

Grantee: Fathom Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$187,400

Matching Funds:..... \$213,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$401,200

Continue development of AI-assisted electronic monitoring video review for New England groundfish audit-model monitoring. Project will refine algorithms and user tools to detect and classify trawl discards, engage stakeholders for implementation and pilot AI video review to lower costs and improve consistency in catch accounting across New England fleets.

Electronic Creel Surveys and Reporting for Data-poor Fisheries (CA, OR)

Grantee: GOLDSTREAM Publishing Inc. dba Angler's Atlas / MyCatch

Grant Amount:..... \$361,100

Matching Funds:..... \$728,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,089,200

Deploy a newly developed electronic survey tool to digitize creel surveys and integrate data with partner databases for more timely and informed fisheries management. Project will produce validated catch and harvest estimates from paired surveys of recreational fishermen and voluntary electronic reporting and test a statistical approach to improve the value of standalone voluntary electronic reporting in data-poor fisheries.

Electronic Logbook Oceanographic and Fishery Data Collection in the Southeast Alaska Troll Fishery

Grantee: Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$293,600

Matching Funds:..... \$300,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$593,600

Expand electronic logbook and industry led oceanographic data collection in the Southeast Alaska salmon troll fishery by deploying temperature and depth loggers paired with real-time satellite data transmission. Project will work with 20 vessels to gather data on Chinook salmon, halibut, lingcod and rockfish; capture oceanographic signals; and deliver near real-time information to managers to improve stock assessments and adaptive fishery decision making and management.

Enhancing Fisheries Conservation in Puerto Rico through Electronic Reporting in the Charter Fishery

Grantee: Shellcatch

Grant Amount:..... \$123,800

Matching Funds:..... \$123,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$247,600

Adapt Puerto Rico's electronic reporting system, already used widely in the commercial sector, for charter vessel data collection and validate fishery landings with paired port sampling. Project will recruit captains; capture catch and effort for pelagic, reef and inshore species; and integrate data with regional and national partners' systems to modernize the management of Puerto Rico's fisheries.

Evaluating Electronic Monitoring in the South Atlantic Commercial Shark Fishery (FL)

Grantee: Mote Marine Laboratory

Grant Amount:..... \$232,300

Matching Funds:..... \$232,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$464,600

Pilot electronic monitoring in the South Atlantic commercial shark fishery to generate high-quality data on shark catch, bycatch, handling and effort. Project will process electronic monitoring videos to meet management and science user standards, deliver secure dashboards for business use of

(continued)

data by captains and inform economic decision making in the shark fishery.

Implement Electronic Monitoring Data Collection in the Tilefish Fishery (NJ, NY, RI)

Grantee: Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$111,900

Matching Funds:..... \$127,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$239,400

Pilot voluntary electronic monitoring in the Northeast commercial tilefish fishery with a three-vessel research fleet. Project will collect measurements for golden and blueline tilefish across at least 45 fishing trips, refine catch handling and video review protocols, and develop a whole fish and fillet length-weight conversion factor to collect high-quality data while improving efficiency and economic value for fishermen.

Modernizing Alaska's Recreational Salmon and Groundfish Charter Electronic Logbook

Grantee: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Grant Amount:..... \$294,900

Matching Funds:..... \$327,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$622,600

Develop a purpose-built phone and table electronic logbook application to replace the current web-based tool and improve charter reporting and management for salmon, Pacific halibut and rockfish in Alaska. Project will enhance data accuracy, ensure compliance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and provide user training, outreach and testing of the application to support timely stock assessments and sustainable harvest decisions.

Sharing Lessons Learned from Users of Electronic Monitoring and Reporting via Nationwide Platform

Grantee: Fathom Consulting

Grant Amount:..... \$146,000

Matching Funds:..... \$150,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$296,000

Grow an existing nationwide electronic monitoring and reporting online network to accelerate adoption of electronic technologies and best practice sharing between technology users. Project will publish user stories, host workshops, and expand a resource library to increase awareness and acceptance of technologies that improve catch accounting, cost efficiency, bycatch tracking, and data stewardship across U.S. fisheries, supporting durable, scalable conservation outcomes.

Shoreside Electronic Monitoring for West Coast Groundfish and Pacific Hake Fisheries (OR, WA)

Grantee: A.I.S.

Grant Amount:..... \$288,800

Matching Funds:..... \$297,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$586,300

Test shoreside electronic monitoring for Pacific hake and groundfish trawl fishery offloads in the Pacific Northwest

that complement existing on-vessel electronic monitoring efforts. Project will deploy cameras in processing plants willingly participating in the project, pilot AI-assisted species identification and anomaly detection, and deliver verifiable catch composition records that reduce monitoring costs and advance automated catch accounting for fisheries management.

Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles with AI Video Processing to Improve Salmon Counts in Bristol Bay (AK)

Grantee: Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association

Grant Amount:..... \$188,300

Matching Funds:..... \$188,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$376,600

Pilot the use of unmanned aerial vehicle video recording and AI video processing to improve sockeye salmon escapement counts in the Wood River system, Bristol Bay, Alaska. Project will compare results against traditional methods, like visual tower counts, to explore the technology's ability to deliver timely and accurate data on salmon run-timing and spawning activity to support fisheries managers' in-season decision making.



Fishing boat in Rhode Island