

WHAT COULD VIDEO MONITORING MEAN FOR FISHERMEN & INDUSTRY?

Fishermen and the fishing industry are important stakeholders in the use and conservation of Canadian fisheries resources. It is important for the fishing industry to be confident in the data that is being collected and may feed into management decisions. Fisheries monitoring is becoming increasingly important for fisheries management and for meeting requirements for eco-certifications such as the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

In Canada, electronic/video monitoring (EVM) is used extensively on the Pacific coast, with pilot projects beginning in Atlantic Canada using video monitoring and electronic logbooks. This is part of a move towards increased data accuracy and collection, and will be part of a National Catch Monitoring Policy. EVM does not fully replace fisheries observers, dockside monitoring or biological sampling, but it can complete many of the data collection tasks without having an additional person on your vessel.

What is EVM and how does it work?

EVM is a method of fisheries monitoring and catch data collection that uses:

- Cameras
- Pressure sensors
- Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID)
- Geographical Positioning System (GPS) to monitor and collect data on fisheries catches and interactions

Video is continuously recorded over the duration of a fishing trip and a series of 2 to 4 cameras capture all of the fishing activity. A percentage of the video is then reviewed for relevant information.

EVM can be used to collect or verify data on catch of target and non-target species. EVM can also be used to monitor Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) species interactions, fishing activities that occur within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and compliance with fisheries regulations. Outside of its basic functions, EVM can be adapted to collect various types of oceanographic data, including pH, temperature, and salinity. EVM can also be used to identify active fishing areas. Having quality fisheries dependent data can allow fishermen to engage proactively as other industries begin to use ocean space.

What can electronic video monitoring (EVM) do for fishing enterprises?

EVM can be a valuable resource for the fishing industry and can assist in the following:



CONTRIBUTE TO SCIENCE

Fishermen have a long history of contributing valuable information to fisheries science, including joint research projects with government, academia and non-government organizations. EVM can provide important data that **can be used by fishermen** and others to better understand fishing practices and fisheries resources.



SAVING MONEY

EVM can be a **cost effective data collection and monitoring tool**. Although it is important to note that EVM is not suitable for all fisheries, it has been proven to save money for many fisheries globally that have high observer coverage and/or high data collection and monitoring requirements. Potential for cost savings will depend on the particular fishery and its monitoring needs.



DEPENDABLE DATA

Using EVM as a data collection tool **can allow fishermen to contribute to fisheries monitoring**. EVM provides a way to have validated, self-collected data that can be used for science and management purposes.



CONFIDENCE IN & COLLABORATION WITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

EVM can provide **confidence to fishermen** that appropriate fisheries dependent data is being collected and used to make sustainable fisheries management decisions.

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