

# REM SUCCESS STORIES: Protecting our seas, Safeguarding livelihoods

The Fisheries Control Regulation provides tools for fishers and decision makers to count the amount of fish taken out of our seas and to monitor the impact of fishing activities on fragile marine ecosystems. Without this information, it is almost impossible to ensure well-managed, accountable and sustainable fisheries.

## But what if boats are not required to carry the technology needed to gather this information?

Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) consists of onboard cameras and net sensors that provide a comprehensive record of *the fish* that is caught and the impact of fishing activities on sensitive and protected species, like marine mammals and seabirds. Already implemented in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA, this technology is proven to not only count catch, but also provide **significant financial benefits** to the fishers that use it, through boosting marketing strategies for sustainable seafood, enhancing operating efficiency and improving the health of fish populations. Below, REM-experienced fisher, Wes Erikson, talks about the benefits that cameras bring to his fishery:

### REM enabled 200% increase in Yelloweye Rockfish Catches! *British Columbia, Canada*



Groundfish (or demersal fish) such as cod, hake and pollack are valuable commercial species and highly prized by consumers. The British Columbia groundfish fishery has received international attention as a model of sustainable, accountable and responsible fisheries management. Importantly, its success relies upon vessels having full and individual accountability for the entirety of their catch. For this, fishers are required to keep accurate logs of all trips, which are then verified by an REM system which records each fishing event.

Wes Erikson, a longtime groundfish fisher, was among the first to experience having cameras onboard a vessel. Now he barely notices them at all, and recalls first-hand the many benefits that he and his fellow fishers have enjoyed through embracing REM in the fishery for Yelloweye Rockfish, a valuable groundfish found on the Pacific coast of Canada and the USA.

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*With REM, we could begin compiling the data with accurate reporting. Over the last three years we have seen a 200% increase in Yelloweye catch limits. This would not have happened in an unmonitored, irresponsible fishery...*



*Once cameras enabled us to verify the number of fish that we catch, science and management began working with our fishing organisations and eventually increased quota opportunities to fish, which in turn improved our profitability. No longer do we battle with environmental NGOs over the certainty of our catch and we occupy the moral high ground when negotiating with other nations. This is a long-term investment that continues to pay dividends in many unforeseeable ways.”*

You can make the difference in March 2021!

**Vote to introduce REM on a mandatory basis and remove Amendment 124 of the PECH Committee report**

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Our Fish

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