C2 PCFMAC REPORT

SARA CLEAVER, COUNCIL STAFF

OCTOBER 2023

Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)

- Provides Council with recommendations specific to the partial coverage observer program (e.g., fees, observer and EM deployment, and cost efficiencies)

- Met on September 14, 2023

- Meeting Agenda:
  - Draft 2024 ADP
  - NMFS budget update
  - Proposals for changes to observer service delivery model

2023 target coverage rates

2023 target coverage rates for vessels in partial coverage are:

- Hook-and-line – 19%
- Pot – 17%
- Trawl catcher vessels – 30%
- Fixed-gear EM – 30%
- Trawl EM EFP–100% at-sea EM; plus 30% shoreside monitoring in GOA and 100% shoreside monitoring in BS

Cost Efficiencies Analysis: Stratification

- **The committee recommends the combined fixed gear-FMP (FIXED-FMP) stratification scheme for the 2024 ADP.**

The 7 recommended sampled strata for 2024 are:

1) Observed fixed gear trips in GOA (OB_FIXED - GOA)
2) Observed fixed gear trips in BSAI (OB_FIXED - BSAI)
3) Observed trawl gear trips in GOA (OB_TRW - GOA)
4) Observed trawl gear trips in BSAI (OB_TRW - BSAI)
5) EM fixed gear trips in GOA (EM_FIXED GOA)
6) EM fixed gear trips in BSAI EM_FIXED (EM_FIXED - BSAI)
7) EM trawl gear deliveries in the GOA (EM_TRW - GOA [EFP])

- **Recommendation that NMFS make clear there is no prohibition on vessels fishing both FMP areas in one trip, despite needing to choose a predominant area when logging trips into ODDS.**

Cost Efficiencies Analysis: Allocation

Allocation schemes: *Equal rates, Status quo, Cost-Weighted Boxes (CWB), Proximity*

- **PCFMAC supported the development of the proximity and cost-weighted boxes (CWB) allocation approaches**

- Both designs perform better than the equal rates or status quo under all budget scenarios that were evaluated.

- However, all designs resulted in lower coverage rates than those seen in recent ADPs

- PCFMAC did not recommend an allocation method for 2024.

Cost Efficiencies Analysis

- **Committee questioned cost estimates for fixed gear and trawl EM**

  - **Committee requested NMFS re-evaluate those costs, as they do not align with industry experience. In part, the committee recommends NMFS re-evaluate the designs without including the cost of initially purchasing the EM hardware for both EM and fixed gear.**

Cost Efficiencies Analysis

- **The committee did not want to reduce the shoreside sampling rate for trips in the pelagic trawl gear EM group in 2024, despite the cost efficiencies analysis indicating the current 33% sampling rate is not necessary to achieve data objectives.**

- **Recommended shoreside sampling rate remain at 33% for vessels in the final year of the Trawl EM EFP, given that industry is applying for NFWF funding such that it does not come out of observer fee revenues.**

- **Additionally, the committee supported additional EFP work to test the viability and cost efficiency of moving shoreside observers across processors in Kodiak.**

Looking Forward- after 2024

- **Committee recommends exploration of a revised hurdle and an analysis of how to effectively deploy days in addition to that hurdle.**

- **Committee members interested in further determining what specific level of biological data is needed for stock assessments**

Changes to Observer Service Delivery Model: Proposal

- **PCFMAC expressed support for the proposed pilot project as a way of gaining information and suggested that the proposer select a principal investigator (PI) who could write a cooperative research grant proposal and coordinate the project.**

NFWF Proposals

- **Descriptions of several proposals in report**

- **The committee agreed that these proposals are valuable and encouraged the Council to endorse them for NFWF funding.**

- **Supported EFP that would remove requirement to provide printed logbooks for fixed gear vessels participating in the e-logbook project and a discussion paper that would help inform the regulatory changes and logistical challenges associated with removing this requirement.**

Future Scheduling

- FMAC May 2024, review annual report

- PCFMAC normally meets September to review next ADP

Questions?