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FISHERIES

C5 – Monitoring Requirements for BSAI Pot CPs

Dr. Mason Smith & Alicia M. Miller
Sustainable Fisheries Division,
NMFS Alaska Region

Revising Monitoring Requirements for Pot CPs Participating in BSAI Groundfish Fisheries

- **BSAI Pot CP Fishery**

- Vessels fishing non-CDQ Pacific cod
- NMFS concerned with data availability for management
 - Small fishery, short seasons
 - Errors in data collection have large impact on catch estimates

- **Feb. 2021 Council Meeting**

- Council supported NMFS work on improving observer data collection through NMFS authority under section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and report back at a later date

- **June 2022 Council Meeting**

- Endorsed this action moving forward under MSA 305(d) authority



What's new since June 2022?

- NMFS developed a proposed rule package
- Addition of housekeeping changes
 - consolidate Freezer Longline, Deck sorting, and new Pot C/P regulations into Subpart I
- Council Chairman and Executive Director reviewed a draft proposed rule in December 2022.
- NMFS requested formal Council action in a letter dated January 5, 2023.
- **Today:** Seeking Council action to revise monitoring requirements



Alternatives

- **Alternative 1: No Action**
- **Alternative 2: Implement additional monitoring requirements for pot CPs participating in the BSAI groundfish fisheries**
- Two required elements:
 - **Element 1: Require a min. of one Level 2 observer on board at all times**
 - Reduced collection errors through experience
 - Small possibility of reduced observer availability
 - **Element 2: Require vessel comply with pre-cruise notifications**
 - Opportunity for conversation: AFSC FMA staff, vessel crew and a newly assigned observer
 - Reduced collection errors through clarified expectations, advice about anticipated sampling scenarios, and communication strategies
 - Costs of vessel time and personnel



Alternatives Cont.

- **Element 3:** Additional *voluntary* monitoring options:
 - **Option 1:** Allow a NMFS-certified observer sampling station with motion compensated platform (MCP) scale for the observer's use
 - Organized workspace; more precise weight estimates
 - Costs of installation, maintenance, and inspection
 - **Option 2:** Allow a motion-compensated, NMFS-Approved Scale (e.g. flow scale) to measure total catch of Pacific cod, in conjunction with an MCP scale for testing, electronic logbook, and video monitoring
 - Removes uncertainty when extrapolating haul samples to total catch
 - Costs of installation, maintenance, and inspection
 - **Option 3:** Allow a vessel to carry additional onboard observers
 - Shared workload; more hauls sampled
 - Costs of additional observer; observer availability
- Although voluntary, regulations for these options would include requirements necessary to ensure data quality for management



NMFS Recommendation

- **NMFS recommends the Council select Alternative 2 (including Elements 1, 2, and 3) as it's preferred alternative for Council final action.**
 - This action would reduce the likelihood of data collection errors through improved experience, collaboration, and work environment
 - Industry support
 - NMFS would include the additional housekeeping regulatory changes as identified in section 2.2 of the Analysis.



Questions?

- Alicia M Miller: Alicia.m.miller@noaa.gov
- Dr. Mason Smith: Mason.Smith@noaa.gov



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