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# C5 PCFMAC REPORT



SARA CLEAVER, COUNCIL STAFF  
OCTOBER 2021

PARTIAL  
COVERAGE  
FISHERY  
MONITORING  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
(PCFMAC)

- Provides the Council with recommendations specific to the partial coverage observer program (e.g., fees, observer and EM deployment, and cost efficiencies)
- PCFMAC met virtually on September 17, 2021



# ADP RECOMMENDATIONS

**The PCFMAC endorses NMFS' recommendations for 2022 and 2023 observer and EM deployment, as represented in the Draft 2022 ADP**

- Three gear-based deployment strata (hook-and-line, pot, and trawl)
- 15% + opt 95 allocation scheme (Strategy 4 in the draft ADP)
- Fixed and trawl gear EM deployment strategies
- Three trip selection limit and updated NOAA waiver policies that continue to allow NMFS to waive observer coverage on a trip-by-trip basis



# FUNDING UPDATE

- **The PCFMAC requested NMFS consider the costs of incorporating Trawl EM under the observer fee in 2024 in the Partial Coverage Integrated Analysis.**



# ELECTRONIC MONITORING

- **The PCFMAC supports the NMFS recommendation to maintain the current fixed gear EM pool of 169 vessels in 2022 and expand the fixed gear EM pool up to 200 vessels as funding allows**
- **The PCFMAC supports maintaining priorities for EM vessels as described in the Draft ADP.**



# PARTIAL COVERAGE INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

- At the April 2021 PCFMAC meeting, NMFS put forward a new approach to achieving the Council's cost efficiency priorities:
- **Comprehensive Partial Coverage Integrated Analysis**
  - Achieve a scientifically-robust sampling plan that is fiscally sustainable and achieve the Council's other goals related to cost efficiencies
  - NMFS would carry the design selected in 2022 forward into 2023, effectively creating a two-year deployment plan
  - Use the time and resources saved through a two-year deployment plan to complete a holistic analysis of cost efficiencies during 2023 for implementation in the 2024 ADP



# PARTIAL COVERAGE INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

- Port-based deployment
  - **The PCFMAC recommends the integrated analysis evaluate a port-based deployment model and understands that this approach would require a regulatory change by restricting vessels and requiring them to pick up observers and embark from a limited set of ports and then return to drop off an observer in a set of specific ports.**



# PARTIAL COVERAGE INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

- Fixed gear monitoring and size/composition of EM pool
  - The **PCFMAC** supports evaluation of a sampling approach to consider requiring a vessel to carry both an observer and **EM** on some trips, with the caveat that if pursued, **NMFS** would evaluate criteria to identify vessels that would be in a stratum to carry both **EM** and observers.
  - The **PCFMAC** continues to support re-evaluating the zero selection pool for cost efficiencies.





# PARTIAL COVERAGE INTEGRATED ANALYSIS

- 72-hour notice for observer deployment
- NMFS EM Workshop
- Timeline
  - **The Committee recommends an earlier check-in to allow additional interaction between industry and NMFS as the analysis is developed.**
  - **The Committee recommends that the Council ensure the timeline for analysis is such that it informs the new contract for the partial coverage category of the Observer Program which begins in 2024.**



# OBSERVER PROVIDER LABOR ISSUES

- Summary of the issues and potential recommendations from Alaskan Observers, Inc (AOI)
- Option to allow observers to deploy for up to 120 days instead of 90, though not a long-term solution
- Public comment specific to this item



# FUTURE SCHEDULING

- May 2022 meeting with FMAC to review the annual report and other items.
- Recommended PCFMAC meeting in February 2022 to provide input on the integrated cost efficiencies analysis. PCFMAC reiterated its support for an abbreviated 2021 Annual Report so more resources can go into the analysis.



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# Questions?

