Council Motion C3 Trawl EM October 8, 2022

The Council recommends Alternative 2 as its preferred alternative, and includes the following additional clarifications on implementation:

Alternative 2: Electronic Monitoring is implemented on pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tenders delivering to shoreside processors in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, as the preferred alternative.

Opt-in approach in the GOA

The Council recommends the revised annual opt-in approach for vessels in the GOA. Under this approach, vessels participating in the trawl EM program will be required to use EM on all trips using only pelagic trawl gear. All trips using multiple gear types will remain in the partial coverage observer selection pool.

Partial Coverage Fee

The partial coverage 1.65% fee will be used to pay for EM equipment, service, and maintenance costs for vessels that do not participate in trawl catch share programs with an EM option. Additionally, the fee should be used to pay for housing and food for shoreside observers during deployments at processors to monitor partial coverage directed pelagic pollock deliveries from vessels using EM.

Incentive plans

Implement industry-managed incentive plans that provide a framework to meet annual performance standards to limit changes in fishing behavior due to the removal of MRA and pollock trip limits for vessels participating in the Trawl EM program.

BSAI EM fee

Implement a BSAI EM fee for video review. Each vessel participating in the BSAI trawl EM program will pay a fee covering the costs of EM video review calculated as the annual cost of EM review, data storage and transmission for the prior year divided by the proportion of actual annual pollock harvested in the prior year by each vessel that participates in the BSAI trawl EM program.

CDQ/AI pollock fisheries

Clarify that should CDQ or AI pollock fishery be open and prosecuted with catcher vessels they would not be precluded from the opportunity to participate in the trawl EM program.

The Council deems proposed regulations that clearly and directly flow from the provisions of this motion to be necessary and appropriate in accordance with section 303(c). The Council authorizes the Executive Director and the Chairman to review the draft proposed regulations when provided by NMFS to ensure that the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Secretary under section 303(c) are consistent with these instructions.