

C-1 2022 Annual Deployment Plan

Council motion

June 10, 2021

The Council provides the following recommendations on the draft 2022 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for partial coverage fisheries:

- 1) maintain the three gear-based strata (pot, longline, trawl).
- 2) evaluate trip-based vs port-based deployment. Evaluation of port-based deployment should maintain the existing 14 ports and reflect updated COVID-19 rules (e.g., vaccination status may alleviate need for 14-day quarantine and allow movement among ports).
- 3) maintain the 15% baseline hurdle for each gear type and optimize such that all additional observer days above the baseline coverage level are placed on trawl gear. The Council supports evaluation of the FMAC suggestion to ensure optimization days if funding alone is not sufficient, as practicable.
- 4) additional fixed gear electronic monitoring (EM) vessels should be added as possible under existing funds. A vessel's ability to share EM systems in select ports should be considered as an additional criterion to prioritize new candidate EM vessels for the EM pool.

The Council further supports the May 2021 FMAC recommendations including completion of the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis in 2022 for implementation in the 2024 ADP and in time to inform and affect the next Federal observer contract. The Council priorities for cost efficiency in partial coverage remain: 1) completing a regulated program for use of EM for pelagic trawl in the GOA and BSAI; 2) integration of electronic monitoring into the overall monitoring of fixed gear; and 3) evaluation of different criteria to define the 'zero selection' pool for fixed gear. The Council recommends ongoing communication with the Council's PCFMAC during this process.