SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL
COMMITTEE DRAFT REPORT
for
C-4 Observer Program 2017
Annual Deployment Plan

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Performance Metrics

1. Proportion of trips that are observed within each strata (coverage rate)

2. Gap analysis that considers the probability that the design will result in either greater than 1 or greater than 3 samples within each NMFS area stratum

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Key NMFS recommended characteristics of the 2017 ADP

- The sampling strata are defined to include 3 gear type (hook-and-line, pot, trawl) vessels and 2 delivery methods (tender and no tender), resulting in 6 deployment strata.

- The strata sampling rates (observer deployment rates) are determined using an optimization procedure bounded by cost and based on minimizing the variance of estimated discarded catch.

- The no-selection pool is composed of fixed-gear vessels less than 40 ft LOA and with vessels fishing with jig gear (handline, jig, troll, and dinglebar troll gear) and the electronic monitoring (EM) selection pool.

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SSC Recommendations

Endorses all NMFS Recommendations

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Preliminary deployment rates for the strata in 2017 are —
- No selection - 0%
- Hook-and-line - 11%
- Tender hook-and-line - 27%
- Pot - 3%
- Tender Pot - 6%
- Trawl - 18%
- Tender trawl - 14%

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SSC Recommendations

- Develop performance metrics related to PSC management.

- That ongoing work to improve the estimation of catch/ discard and associated variances be given a high priority

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SSC Recommendations

- That EM be integrated into the ADP as soon as possible so that trade-offs associated with EM deployment and human observer coverage can be incorporated into the survey design optimization and planning.

- That future ADPs include summaries of the cost and catch/discard variances used for optimization for each strata and allocation design alternative.

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SSC Recommendations

- **SSC is very concerned about spatial coverage gaps and the potential for bias in estimated discards, and associated impacts to fishery management. The SSC strongly recommends that the Council and/or NMFS seek additional funding sources for the observer program.**

- **3-year time lag where additional monies based on landing tax could improve deployment rates**