Monitoring Requirements for BSAI Pot CPs & Medical Transfer Limits

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Revising Monitoring Requirements for Pot CPs Participating in BSAI Groundfish Fisheries

• **BSAI Pot CP Fishery**
  - Non-CDQ vessels targeting 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

• **Today**: Seeking input from Council on draft analysis 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 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-Certified 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**

- **Recommendation:** Alternative 2
  - Would reduce likelihood of collection errors through improved experience, collaboration, and work environment
  - Industry support

- NMFS action under section 305(d) of Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Not necessary for the Council to make a recommendation for this action to move forward, but feedback is welcome, and the Council may request the review of a later draft of the analysis or draft regulations
  - If no further review requested, questions and concerns from the Council and/or public would be addressed in a draft proposed rule
**Medical Transfer Limit Waivers**

- **Medical Transfer Provision**
  - Allows IFQ transfer when a medical condition prevents participation
  - **Limitation**: not allowed if used in any 3 of the past 7 calendar years

- **2020-2021**: high rate of medical transfers during COVID-19
  - Emergency rules authorized widespread use of temporary transfers

- **April 2022 Council Meeting**: NMFS sought Council support to analyze benefits and costs of waving medical transfers approved in 2020 and 2021
  - **Today**: Seeking input from Council on draft analysis
Medical Transfer Limit Waivers

- **Alternative 1**: No action
- **Alternative 2**: Waive medical transfers in the following years:
  - **Option 1**: 2020 (326 participants)
  - **Option 2**: 2021 (67 participants)
  - **Option 3**: 2022 (unknown)
    - 351 participants used in either 2020, 2021
    - 42 participants used in both 2020, 2021
      - If used a 3rd time in 2022, will be unable to use in 2023

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Medical Transfer Limit Waivers

- **NMFS Recommendation**: Options 1 (2020), 2 (2021), and 3 (2022)
  - Would benefit at least 351 total individuals
  - Most benefit to at least 42 individuals

- Proposed under section 305(d) of Magnuson-Stevens Act
  - Authorizes Secretary to develop regulations necessary to implement FMPs

- Not necessary for the Council to make a recommendation for this action to move forward, but feedback is welcome, and the Council may request the review of a later draft of the analysis or draft regulations
  - If no further review requested, questions and concerns from the Council and/or public would be addressed in a draft proposed rule