C5 PCFMAC & FMAC REPORTS
SARA CLEAVER, JUNE 2022
Status Update on Partial Observer Coverage Cost Efficiencies Integrated Analysis

- The committee recommends meeting again when the sampling designs are available for review. (September)

- The committee recommends additional informal check-ins during the sampling design development process, where analytical staff can provide more detail on the analytical approach and committee members and stakeholders can provide feedback to analytical staff.

- Examples of PCFMAC questions on analytical assumptions:
  - How to determine the amount of precision needed in average weights
  - Will EM data be applied to zero selection?
  - Will EM species composition data be used for the observed strata where there are space/time gaps in observer coverage?
  - What metrics will be used to evaluate stock assessment needs?
  - How will EM equipment replacement costs be incorporated?
Status Update on Partial Observer Coverage Cost Efficiencies Integrated Analysis

Feedback on potential program elements:

- Relative per unit cost
- Role of shoreside observers in integrating fixed-gear EM
- Port-based deployment
  - The committee does not support continued evaluation of port-based deployment that requires vessels to travel to select ports to pick up an observer.
- Multi-trip selection
Other committee business

- Public comment/request: Discussion paper for multiple-provider approach
- Update on fixed-gear EM project
  - The committee requests a standalone briefing on potential changes to EM data review protocols be provided annually to the FMAC.
Abbreviated 2021 Observer Annual Report

Committee discussion and recommendations on:

- 2023 Annual Deployment Plan
  - The committee supports the NMFS recommendations on pages 77-78 of the 2021 Observer Annual Report, including that the elements of the 2022 ADP be carried forward to the 2023 ADP, per the Council’s previous direction.

- Fixed gear EM cost estimates
  - The committee supports the agency providing updated estimates using the full year of fixed gear EM data review and costs for the final 2021 annual report.
  - The FMAC supports the new cost reporting categories and amortization schedule developed by the Cost Reporting Subgroup, in place for the 2022 EM data review.

- Deployment summary

- Enforcement and compliance
Committee discussion on:

• Range used for estimated per day cost of shoreside observers for partial coverage processing plants in the GOA
• Estimate of Trawl EM Program cost in partial coverage fees
• Distributional impacts across sectors

• The committee recommends that GOA partial coverage trawl CVs be treated the same as fixed gear EM participants in that the fee would pay for the costs associated with service provider fees and overhead and EM equipment maintenance and upkeep.
Other committee business

- NMFS Procedural directive on Applicability of Information Law to EM Data
- Public comment/request: Discussion paper for multiple-provider approach
- Public comment/request: Definition of a trip for those delivering to tenders
- NFWF proposals:
  - The committee recommends supporting all three NFWF proposals to sustain the final year of the Trawl EM Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) and to advance new efforts in electronic technologies and monitoring.
QUESTIONS?