

# C1 PARTIAL COVERAGE FISHERY MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

KATE HAAPALA, COUNCIL STAFF

JUNE 2021



# INTRODUCING THE COMMITTEE

## Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)

- Provides the Council with recommendations specific to the partial coverage observer program (e.g., fees, observer and EM deployment, and cost efficiencies)
- **PCFMAC last met on April 19, 2021**

### Committee Members:

- Nicole Kimball (Chair)
- Bob Alverson
- Julie Bonney
- Tom Evich
- Dan Falvey
- Kathy Hansen
- Julie Kavanaugh
- Luke Szymanski
- Abigail Turner-Franke
- Caitlyn Yaeger



# ONGOING OR PENDING EM PROPOSALS

## Current projects funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

1. Portable EM systems
  - Testing portable EM systems for deployment in remote ports; and using machine learning to improve data quality
2. Trawl EM
  - Improve and expand EM systems onboard pollock mid-water trawl catcher vessels in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska

## Other potential projects

1. Scaling up the size of the fixed gear EM fleet
2. Evaluating the possibility of getting shark and/or sablefish lengths from EM data to support stock assessments
3. An industry co-op model for observer delivery service



# UPDATE ON PARTIAL COVERAGE COST EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

- **October 2019:** The Council recommended adjusting the observer fee percent to 1.65%, and prioritized several cost efficiency projects for analysis:
  - Continued support for the pelagic trawl EM EFP
  - Integrating fixed gear EM data into the baseline observer coverage levels
  - Re-evaluating the zero-selection pool
  - Optimizing the fixed gear EM fleet
- **October 2020:** The Council requested an updated timeline for partial coverage cost efficiency projects and analysis



# UPDATE ON PARTIAL COVERAGE COST EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

- There is an imbalance in resources (e.g., monitoring fee, supplemental federal funding, and staff) compared to the programs that need to be integrated into the 2022 ADP and future ADPs
- NMFS put forward a new approach to achieving the Council's priorities:
  - 2022 Draft ADP would evaluate and compare the trip-based and port-based deployment approaches as the main analytical task
  - NMFS would carry the design selected in 2022 forward into 2023, effectively creating a two-year deployment plan
  - Use the time and resources saved through a two-year deployment plan to complete a holistic analysis of cost efficiencies during 2023 for implementation in the 2024 ADP



# PCFMAC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Supports a holistic analysis of the partial coverage program, which should happen before the next Federal contracting period
- Recommends NMFS evaluate and compare the trip-based and port-based deployment approaches for cost efficiencies in the Draft 2022 ADP
- Recommends a brief workplan outlining major milestones for the holistic partial coverage analysis be completed in advance of the May 2021 FMAC meeting
  - Requests NMFS be prepared to discuss at the May FMAC meeting whether any changes to the zero-selection pool could be implemented in the 2022 ADP
- Recommends NMFS evaluate the feasibility of expanding the fixed gear EM pools in fixed gear EM pool in 2022 and/or 2023
- Recommends monitoring committee reports be made available with more notice prior to Council meetings for public comment



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# INTRODUCING THE COMMITTEE

## Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC)

- Provides the Council with recommendations about fishery monitoring for all groundfish and halibut fisheries managed by the Council
- Meets once a year in May, plus other meetings as necessary for specific Council analyses
- **FMAC last met on May 17, 2021**



### Committee Members:

- Nicole Kimball (co-Chair)
- Bill Tweit (co-Chair)
- Bob Alverson
- Julie Bonney
- Beth Concepcion
- Tom Evich
- Dan Falvey
- Kathy Hansen
- Stacey Hansen
- Michael Lake
- Mike Orcutt
- Julie Kavanaugh
- Chad See
- Abby Snedeker
- Luke Szymanski
- Abigail Turner-Franke
- Paul Wilkins
- Caitlin Yeager



# FMAC RECOMMENDATIONS - 2022 DRAFT ADP

- Recommends evaluating and comparing the trip-based and port-based deployment approaches
  - Recommends NMFS's evaluation not extend to new, smaller communities
- Agrees with NMFS recommendation that the three observer coverage strata be defined by gear type (hook-and-line, pot, and trawl)
- Recommends the 15% baseline hurdle be kept for all gear types to ensure data across gear types, and further recommends all additional partial coverage days above the baseline (optimization) be put on trawl gear
- Recommends the agency continue its support for the ongoing work of the pelagic trawl EM EFP
- Recommends NMFS maintain the current fixed gear EM pool of 169 vessels and recommends expanding the pool by an additional 30 vessels if funding is available



# FMAC RECOMMENDATIONS - PARTIAL COVERAGE COST EFFICIENCIES

- Recommends NMFS proceed with the comprehensive analysis of partial coverage cost efficiencies
  - Specific projects include integrating fixed gear EM data with observer data (including how to address biological samples needed and whether shoreside sampling is required), re-evaluating the zero-selection pool, and implementing pelagic trawl EM
- Recommends the cost efficiency analysis be completed in time to inform the next Federal contracting period
- Recommends identifying needed regulations but stresses the need for early and ongoing communication with the committees and industry when developing the cost efficiency analysis



# OTHER EM ISSUES

## 1. Federal record status of PSMFC data review

- Anticipated cost structure is that NMFS would pay for video review for partial coverage using the observer fee and NMFS would use a cost recovery authority to recover costs associated with EM video review for full coverage vessels

## 2. EM updates

- AK Region Implementation Plan
- EM innovation



**QUESTIONS?**

