

# Update on Partial Observer Coverage Cost Efficiencies Integrated Analysis

September 2021

For Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee



# How to integrate data collection and improve cost efficiency in partial coverage

## Analysis Goals

The purpose of the partial coverage integrated analysis is a draft ADP with a scientifically robust sampling plan that would be fiscally sustainable. In addition, the analysis would seek to achieve the following Council goals:

- Cost efficiency: Spend the limited, available funding more efficiently such that more coverage (both EM and observers) is achieved for the available budget;
- Increase monitoring on trawl-fisheries for PSC accounting;
- Monitoring that has least impact on fishing operations;
- A partial coverage program that isn't contentious.



# Fisheries monitoring - current implementation methods

- Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) / Annual Report
- Regulations
- Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)
- Contract
- Agency administration



# Overview of how it works now

Data Need	Data collection methods	Implementation
At-sea discards of groundfish and PSC	At-sea observers	ADP, Regs, Contract, NMFS Admin
	EM + average weights from observer data	ADP, VMP, Regs, NMFS Admin
Other bycatch (ecosystem, protected species, etc)	At-sea observers	ADP, Regs, Contract, NMFS Admin
Average weights & biological data of BOTH retained and discard catch	At-sea observers	ADP, Regs, Contract, NMFS Admin



Program Element		Current Implementation	Changes to regs?
<b>Pelagic Trawl EM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EM on pollock trawl CVs</li> <li>- Shoreside observers</li> <li>- Notification of landing</li> <li>- Some at-sea observers</li> <li>- elogs (?)</li> <li>- EM in processing plant (?)</li> </ul>	Currently operating under an EFP	<b>Yes.</b>
<b>Integrated fixed gear monitoring</b>	<b>Modify at-sea observer tasks focus data can't be collected with EM</b> (e.g. biological data, ave weights, protected species)	Observer training manual	<b>No.</b> Could be accomplished through agency administration.
	<b>Require vessel to carry both EM and observer on <i>some</i> trips</b>	ADP defines which vessels are in the Observer trip selection and the EM selection pool.	<b>No.</b> ADP could define when vessels are in both pools.
	<b>Collect video on all EM trips &amp; post-select trips for video review</b>	Random pre-selection of EM trips in ODDS.	<b>No.</b> Could use ODDS to post-select trips to mail hard drives.

Program Element		Current Implementation	Changes to regs?
Integrated fixed gear monitoring	Observer sampling in processing plants	Regulations define requirements of a processing plant in partial coverage when an observer is present.	<b>No.</b> Definition of the sampling plan for processing plants in partial coverage can be defined in ADP. <i>However... would require change to Observer Provider contract</i>
	Hail-in system for CVs to enable observers to sample offloads in plant	Halibut & sablefish IFQ requires PNOL. EM vessels close their tips in ODDS (post landing).	<b>Yes.</b> Notification of landing is not consistent across the entire partial coverage fleet.
	Higher coverage rates on partial coverage CPs to fill data gaps.	Currently, CPs in partial coverage are included in the strata that are defined by gear.	<b>No.</b> A new strata and sampling rates could be defined through the ADP. <i>However... removing option for partial coverage CPs would require reg change.</i>
Optimize EM pool	Change definition of Zero Selection	Currently, ADP defines vessels <40ft in zero selection.	<b>No.</b> Definition of zero selection in the ADP could be modified.

Program Element		Current Implementation	Changes to regs?
<b>Optimize EM pool</b>	<b>Target participation in the EM pool</b>	Eligibility for EM based on criteria specified in ADP Eligible vessels opt-in.	<b>No.</b> Different criteria could be defined in ADP and NMFS can approve/disapprove vessels that opt in. <i>However... Reg change would be necessary if “opt in” approach was removed.</i>
	<b>Use EM on vessels that fish both trawl &amp; fixed gear</b>	It isn't yet clear if the EM set up and VMP for trawl gear will work for fixed gear.	<b>No.</b> Could be implemented through changes to VMPs and definitions of EM selection pools in the ADP.



# Summary

Data Need	Data collection methods	Current Implementation	Reg change needed?
At-sea discards of groundfish, PSC	At sea observers	ADP, Regs, Contract, NMFS Admin	No
	EM + average weights from observer data		No. Yes if remove opt in
Other bycatch (ecosystem, protected species, etc)	At sea observers <i>(potentially on both EM and non EM vessels)</i>		No
Average weights & biological data of BOTH retained and discard catch	Shoreside observers + Maximized retention, verified with EM + some at-sea observers	EFP	Yes: Hail in system; EM; Maximized retention
	Shoreside observers + some at-sea observers	n/a	Yes: Hail in system

EM opt in?

Pelagic Trawl EM

New Reg?



Program Element		Current Implementation	Changes to regs?
Cost Implications of Flexibilities	Longer notice for deploying at-sea observers	72 hour advance notice required.	<b>Yes.</b> Would need to change regs if the time to log trips was changed.
	Port-based deployment	Vessels can operate out of any port with FPP.	<b>Yes.</b> New regulation would be required if vessels had to pick up / return observers to specific ports.



# Timeline & Milestones

Project	2022				2023				2024
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Integrated Analysis</b>		PCFMAC FMAC		PCFMAC		PCFMAC FMAC		PCFMAC	
<b>Annual Report / ADP</b>		2021 Annual Report		2023 ADP			2022 Annual Report	2024 ADP	
<b>Trawl EM</b>	Initial Review	Final Action		Proposed Rule			Final Rule		Fishing starts
<b>BSAI CV pcod LAPP</b>		Proposed Rule			Final Rule	Pre-implementation (cooperative formation, issue quota, etc)			Fishing starts
<b>Partial Coverage Contract</b>	NMFS works on Performance Work Statement		RFP for new contract				New contract awarded		

