

Strategies to increase coverage levels

May 16, 2017 OAC meeting

Council

- Specifies target coverage rates for various gear types to provide a reference to work towards.
Target rates can be based on:
 - Precision goals (CV's) for priority species
 - Area coverage goals (gap analysis)
 - Operational priorities of fishery participants (multi area fishing, tender deliveries, rare species precision, coop management needs, etc.)
 - Compliance with regulations (careful release, area reporting, etc.)
 - Concerns with observer effect and bias.
 - Can be refined as progress is made
- Considers need for supplemental NMFS funding during transition
- Identifies work plan and staff resources for priority alternatives.

ADP Alternatives

- Gear specific sampling strategies
 - Redefine catch accounting categories
 - Re-evaluating zero selection based in # trips or total landings/vessel to maintain or improve % of landed catch within sample frame at reduced costs.
 - Optimizing # boats in fixed gear EM stratum
 - Consider supplemental coverage for small boats every X years
 - Area specific coverage rates to fill gaps
 - Trawl EM for full retention validation
- Consider 2 sequential trip selection to reduce travel costs
- Port based deployment strategies (Julie Bonnie's "turn 'em and burn 'em--random assignment to vessels based on observer availability in a port)
- Re-evaluate Observer duties
 - Increased discard sampling focus onboard
 - Increased biological sampling of retained specie focus dockside

Observer Contract Alternatives

- Multiple providers
- Evaluate incentives to let observers stay onboard vessels between trips
- Monitoring Cooperatives??
- Length of contract during transition (Extension of current contract or limit next contract to 2 yrs rather than 5.)

Regulatory change Alternatives

- Increase existing fee
 - Consider sector specific fee increases.
- Hybrid pay as you go and fee based system

- Option 1: Fee supported per-diem program—all vessels continue to pay fee. Council sets target coverage rates by gear type, target, or area. Vessels use ODDs for random selection of trips. When selected, vessel contacts (multiple) NMFS certified observer or EM providers and arranges for best coverage option. Fees cover travel to vessel + a flat sea day rate based on fees. If total cost to vessel is different than per-diem, vessel pays the difference.
 - Option 2: only vessels in zero selection pay fees, all other vessels in pay as you go. Fees used to subsidize travel or sea day cost of observed vessels.
- Monitoring cooperatives,