

DRAFT ideas to increase coverage rates in partial coverage fisheries.

May 17, 2017

(Council Motion in bold italics).

- ***Increase economic efficiencies in the partial coverage program***
 - Initial restructured program focused only on vessel size. To find new efficiencies, work should focus on vessel characteristics, monitoring needs, and monitoring options by gear type.
 - Hook and line—hook and line fleet is most diverse by vessel size, # trips, and # of landing ports, but has limited # target fisheries and only 1 PSC limited target. Also has EM as an option and zero selection pool. Currently 80+% of landed catch included in sampling frame. Ideas for new efficiencies include:
 - 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 EM stratum
 - Area specific coverage rates to fill gaps
 - Consider 2 sequential trip selection to reduce travel costs
 - Evaluate incentives to let observers stay onboard larger vessels between trips
 - Trawl-- trawl fleet is mostly larger vessels fishing a diverse suite of target fisheries. Most fisheries are PSC limited. This creates many potential catch accounting boxes. May need to account for differences between pelagic and bottom gear. Activity is centered around a few major ports and tender areas. There is no zero selection option for trawl vessels. Ideas for new efficiencies include:
 - Redefining catch accounting categories
 - Area specific coverage rates to fill gaps
 - EM for full retention validation
 - Consider 2 sequential trip selection to reduce travel costs
 - Evaluate incentives to let observers stay onboard vessels between trips
 - Port based deployment strategies
 - Monitoring coops.
 - Pot—Pot gear is dominated by mid to larger vessels with only a few under 40' in zero selection. Target fisheries limited to P cod and sablefish, neither of which is PSC limited. Discards in sablefish is unknown and may need focus. Has EM as an option. Ideas for new efficiencies include:

- Area specific coverage rates to fill gaps
 - Optimizing # boats in EM stratum
 - Consider 2 sequential trip selection to reduce travel costs
 - Evaluate incentives to let observers stay onboard vessels between trips
 - Port based deployment strategies
- ***Within the partial coverage contract***--Efficiencies within the contract could include:
 - Multiple providers
 - Incentives to let observers stay onboard vessels between trips
 - Limit length of contract while program is in transition.
 - Extend current contract for 1 more year until restructuring V2 is becomes clearer
 - Limit time frame of next contract to 2 yrs to allow modifications resulting from restructuring V2.
- ***Formation of monitoring coops***—
- ***Develop tools that motivate harvesters to choose least expensive alternatives***
 - Hybrid fee options
- ***Make operational changes that increase the utility of current coverage levels***
 - ***Catch accounting program modifications***
 - ?????
 - ***Re-evaluate use of the zero selection pool; including multi-year strategies***
 - Consider supplemental coverage for small boats every X years
 - ***Evaluate deployment strategies that minimize observer down-time between vessels***
 - Port based sampling strategies
 - ***Evaluate a sampling rate analysis***—It would be helpful if the Council could specify target coverage rates for various gear types and management needs 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.
 - ***Evaluate a technical report on observer performance***—Efficiencies in observer performance could include:
 - EM for full retention validation
 - Increased discard sampling focus onboard
 - Increased biological sampling of retained specie focus dockside
- ***Increase revenues for funding the program***
 - ***Existing fee***

- Consider sector specific fee increases.
- **External funds**
 - Support continued NMFS supplemental funding during transition.
- **A 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.