

Agenda Item C.7.b

Supplemental NMFS PowerPoint (McVeigh)

April 2014

NWFSC Observer Program Considerations for EM/ER implementation



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NW Fisheries
Science
Center

Jon McVeigh

Fisheries Observation Science (FOS)

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Observer Data Supports

- Stock Assessments
- Bycatch and total mortality estimates
- Protected species management
- Fisheries research
- In-season quota management for IFQ/IBQ

Core Observer Program sampling requirements to support robust science

- Unbiased, random sampling of fleets/fisheries with spatial distribution
- Ability to quantify and sample
 - IFQ species
 - Non-IFQ Groundfish
 - Certain non-groundfish species
 - Protected Resources
- Continued access to catch while sampling aboard vessels with EM systems

Scientific Observer Coverage

- Observers provide needed protected resource and biological data
- Observer sampling at sea provides tow by tow species level data and biological samples
 - Species complex data lost by mixing of tows
- Different sectors will have different needs for scientific observer coverage

Observer Program Considerations

- For now, assumption is a 20-30% coverage level for scientific observer coverage on EM vessels
 - Continued research is needed for development of new sampling plans for scientific data collection with EM
- Observer and EM programs will need to continue to evolve together to address the needs of managers and fishers
 - Both need to continue to be adaptable, flexible and responsive

Observer Coverage and Sampling Design

- Fishing sectors are currently sampled at the fleet level, not at the individual vessel level
 - Likely require new trip notification requirements for vessels
- Advanced declarations for use of EM or observers will allow for the observer program and providers to ensure adequate observer availability (ALTs 2 & 3 Options A and B)

EM implementation process

- Process is not as big of a concern as is the timeline
- Implementing a new sampling program will be a challenge for a Jan, 1 2015 start
- Observer workforce needs will be unclear until the number of participants is known

EM Alternative considerations

- Discard Requirements– Alternatives 2 & 3
 - Alternative A – Maximized Retention
 - Could reduce observer coverage levels/need
 - More sampling may be needed shoreside

EM Alternative considerations

- EM has the ability to easily collect certain data pieces that will be very useful for management
 - As EM moves forward opportunities to capture and report new and useful data should be seized
- Data Transfer Process – Alternatives 2&3
 - Logbooks or electronic logbooks
 - Electronic logbooks move ER along on the west coast

Observer providers

- Existing west coast observer providers should be considered and consulted regarding EM
- Observer provider participation may change with reduced demand for observers

Data Format, Infrastructure and Availability

- Data and data formats for EM will likely be used by fishery managers and other stakeholders
- Data will also need to be shared through systems
- IT and Data management should be involved with building EM programs

QUESTIONS?

