



C2 Observer Program Reports

June 2023 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
Other Presenters: Jennifer Ferdinand, Dr. Craig Faunce, Geoff Mayhew, Phil Ganz, Jennifer Cahalan, Jaclyn Smith

Action Required: 1. Review the abbreviated 2022 Observer Annual Report
2. Receive presentation on draft 2024 ADP (cost efficiencies analysis)
3. Review the January PCFMAC and May FMAC Reports

BACKGROUND

(a) 2022 Observer Annual Report:

The Council is scheduled to receive a presentation on the North Pacific Observer Program 2022 Annual Report. The primary purpose of the Annual Report is to determine whether the Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) met its monitoring objectives and to provide a guide for future ADPs. Given previous Committee and Council direction for an abbreviated annual report to direct staff time to the 2024 ADP, the abbreviated report includes descriptive information on the Program, enforcement trends and outreach efforts, and agency recommendations on the 2024 ADP.

(b) Cost Efficiencies Analysis / Draft 2024 ADP

The Council will receive an oral report providing an update from agency staff on the Partial Observer Coverage Cost Efficiencies Integrated Analysis (or Cost Efficiencies Analysis). This analytical work evaluates a suite of monitoring deployment designs to achieve the Council's goal of spending observer fee revenues more efficiently such that greater coverage and/or improved data are achieved using both observers and electronic monitoring (EM). The mechanism for the cost efficiencies analysis is the 2024 ADP, meaning the stratification and allocation elements together will formulate a complete, statistically robust sampling design for the 2024 ADP. Analytical progress on this work has been presented regularly to the PCFMAC, and to the FMAC at its May 2023 meeting, and the committees (and Council) have provided recommendations to NMFS (see Committee Reports, below).

At this meeting, the Council may provide recommendations on adjustments to the final suite of monitoring designs, as there will not be sufficient time to analyze major changes to the sampling designs after this meeting. The draft 2024 ADP with draft coverage rates will be available at the October 2023 Council meeting. The final design will be recommended for implementation at that meeting, and the final ADP will be available prior to the December Council meeting.

(c) Committee Reports

Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report:

The Council's Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) met in person with a virtual component on January 31, 2023 to receive an update from NMFS

analytical staff on cost efficiencies in the partial coverage observer program. This report was posted to the Council's February agenda under staff tasking, but was not presented in full at that time.

Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report:

The Council's Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (FMAC) met in person with a virtual component on May 10-11, 2023. This meeting had several purposes:

- First, the FMAC received the abbreviated North Pacific Observer Program 2022 Observer Annual Report and provided recommendations.
- Second, the FMAC received an update from NMFS analytical staff on the draft 2024 ADP similar to what the PCFMAC received in January. Typically, the ADP is not included on the agenda at the May FMAC meeting, however, this meeting provided an opportunity for the full FMAC to provide recommendations on adjustments to the final suite of monitoring designs as there will not be sufficient time to analyze major changes to the sampling designs after the June Council meeting. The draft 2024 ADP with draft coverage rates will be available for the PCFMAC at its September 2023 meeting and for the Council in October. The final design will be recommended for implementation at those meetings, and the final ADP will be available prior to the December Council meeting.
- Third, the FMAC also met to discuss process for prioritization of EM issues and to provide an opportunity for input on other topics from stakeholders as requested.