



C1 Observer Report on 2020 Deployment during COVID

June 2021 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Dr. Kate Haapala
Other Presenters: Jennifer Ferdinand (NMFS), Dr. Craig Faunce (NMFS), Jaclyn Smith (NMFS OLE)
Action Required: 1. Review the 2020 Observer Annual Report
2. Review the April PCFMAC Report
3. Review the May FMAC Report

BACKGROUND

(a) 2020 Observer Annual Report:

The Council is scheduled to receive a presentation on the North Pacific Observer Program 2020 Observer Annual Report. The Council requested an abbreviated 2020 Annual Report at the October 2020 meeting because the primary purpose of the Annual Report is to determine whether the Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) met its monitoring objectives and guide future ADPs. It was anticipated that the 2020 Annual Report would not be especially helpful in that regard because spatial and temporal data collection, particularly in the partial coverage program, were affected by NMFS and the Council needing to change observer deployment protocols mid-season due to COVID-19. The report also includes descriptive information on the program, including enforcement trends and outreach efforts, and agency recommendations for the 2022 Annual Deployment Plan.

(b) Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report:

The Council's Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) met virtually on April 19, 2021 to discuss ongoing or pending electronic monitoring (EM) proposals with NMFS and make recommendations for continued work on cost efficiencies in the partial coverage observer program.

(c) Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report:

The Council's Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (FMAC) met virtually on May 19, 2020 to discuss the North Pacific Observer Program 2020 Observer Annual Report, an analytical workplan for cost efficiencies in the partial coverage program, and make recommendations on the 2022 Draft ADP which is scheduled to be reviewed by the Council's October 2021 meeting.