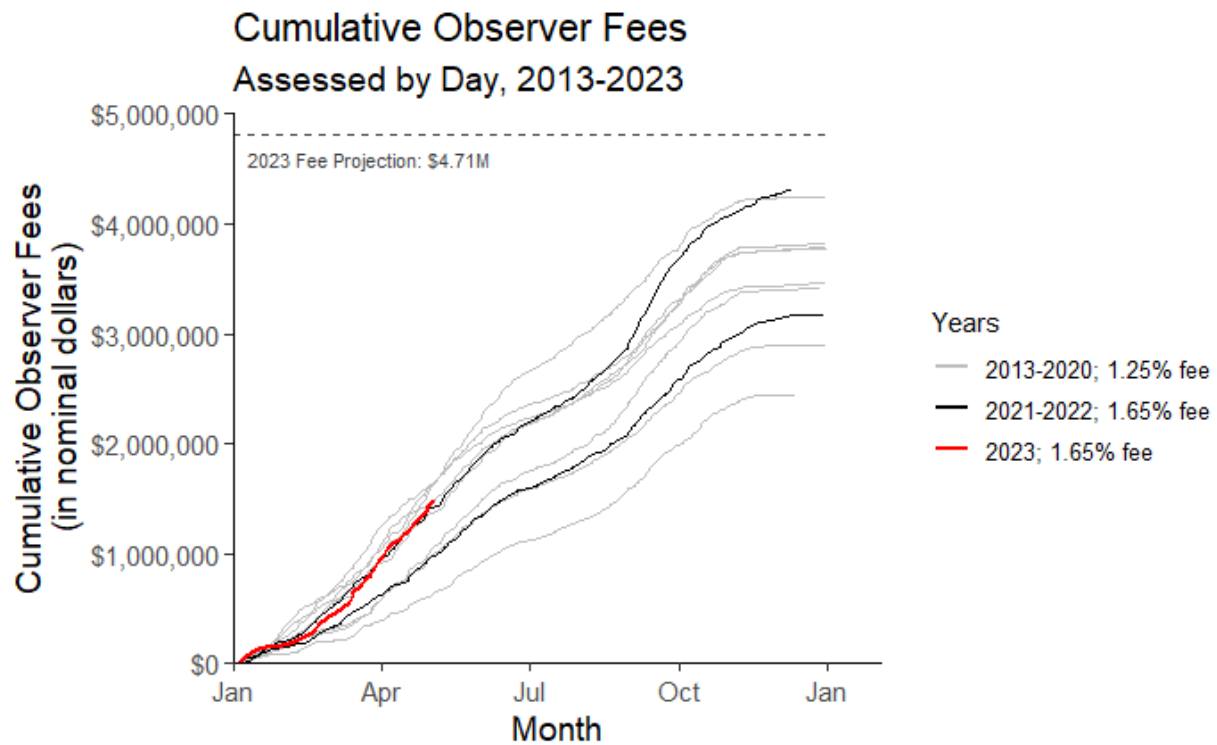


Update on 2023 Observer Fees

Prepared by the Alaska Regional Office for the FMAC

The observer fees assessed to-date for 2023 are \$1,472,837 (as of 5/5/2023). For context, this compares to \$1,426,377 at the same point in time last year, the year with the highest fee collection in this program. The following figure compares cumulative observer fees in 2023 with those in previous years.



The preliminary observer fee projection for 2023 is \$4.71M. This is based on projections of catch for halibut, sablefish, Pacific cod, and Pollock; standard prices published in the Federal Register for [2023](#); and a 1.65% fee percentage. Catch projections are based on allocations in 2023, Inseason management knowledge of harvest in the fisheries, and previous proportions of allocations harvested.

The fee projection for 2023 is greater than the fees assessed in 2022:

- Despite a decrease in IFQ and CDQ halibut allocations, the increase in halibut standard prices from 2022 to 2023 is considerable (i.e., the median halibut standard price is \$1.38 higher for 2023 than 2022).
- There are increases from 2022 to 2023 for both IFQ sablefish allocations and to fixed gear sablefish standard prices.
- Even with fairly stable standard prices, there are increases to GOA Pollock allocations, resulting in higher projections of ex-vessel value and fees in 2023.