



C3 Observer 2020 Annual Deployment Plan

October 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Diana Evans, Kate Haapala
- Other Presenters: Dr. Craig Faunce (AFSC), Geoff Mayhew (AFSC/PSMFC), Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC)
- Action Required:
1. Review the draft 2020 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)
 2. Review Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) report
 3. Provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2020 ADP
 4. Provide other recommendations based on the FMAC report, as necessary

BACKGROUND

The Council is scheduled to review the draft 2019 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), and provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2019 ADP. The ADP documents how the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) intends to assign fishery observers and electronic monitoring (EM) to groundfish and halibut vessels fishing in the partial observer coverage category in the North Pacific during the calendar year 2020.

NMFS' 2020 recommendation is to deploy into a fixed gear EM stratum and 3 observer strata, defined by gear type (trawl-pot-longline). Compared to 2019, the agency proposes to discontinue deployment into separate strata for trawl and pot vessels that are delivering to tenders. As with 2019, however, NMFS recommends the same deployment allocation strategy among observer strata of a baseline 15% selection rate in all strata with additional observer days allocated using an optimized strategy focusing on monitoring discarded groundfish, and halibut and Chinook PSC. Vessels under 40 ft, those fishing with jig gear, or those participating in other EM innovation research would be in the no selection pool

Based on available funding, the Draft ADP proposes an EM fixed gear selection pool of up to 168 vessels, as in 2019, with the option of adding an additional 30 vessels if additional funding becomes available. Vessels that are participating in the Trawl EM Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP), if it is approved (see also Council agenda item D1), would be required to adhere to monitoring requirements as stipulated in the EFP.

The Council's Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) [met on September 23-24](#) in Seattle, to discuss the Draft ADP, the observer fee analysis (Council agenda item C2), and other issues including:

- a strategic overview of Council monitoring committees (requested by the Council in June 2019),
- updates on trawl EM development and national EM policies,
- issues relating to observer working conditions, and
- a review of the status of observer analytical projects.

The FMAC report will be posted to this agenda item once it is available.

The recommended deployment strata were also brought to the joint BSAI and GOA groundfish plan teams during their September meeting in Seattle. Their discussion can be found in the joint groundfish plan team minutes under agenda item C5.