

**C – 8 Observer Coverage – Small catcher/processors**  
**NMFS Staff presentation 4.11.15**

**Alternative 1. No Action, maintain existing exemptions**

**Alternative 2. Action Alternative.** Revise the allowances for NMFS to place small catcher/processors in partial coverage. Under this alternative, the basic criterion for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage is the vessel’s production in a past year. Under this alternative, if a catcher/processor is required to have  $\geq 100\%$  observer coverage because of the vessel’s participation in a catch share program, the vessel would be ineligible for partial observer coverage under this action.

Element 1: What is the production threshold for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage? Council chooses one option.

Option	Measure	Threshold based on 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile approach		Threshold based on kernel density distribution approach	
		Pounds (metric tons)			
1.	Average daily production	1A.	11,000 (5.0)	1B.	15,500 (7.0)
2.	Average weekly production	2A.	42,000 (19.1)	2B.	79,000 (35.8)
3.	Maximum daily production	3A.	26,000 (11.8)	3B.	44,000 (20.0)
4.	Maximum weekly production	4A.	94,000 (42.6)	4B.	197,000 (89.4)
5.	Annual production	5A.	677,000 (307.1)	5B.	2,665,000 (1,208.8)

Element 2: What is the basis year for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage?

Element 3: If a catcher/processor has no production in the basis year as determined under Element 2, how should NMFS determine whether to place a catcher/processor in partial coverage until the catcher/processor has production in a basis year? Council chooses one option.

Option 1: Place catcher/processor in full coverage.

Option 2: Place all catcher/processor in partial coverage.

Option 3: Place trawl catcher/processor in full coverage until vessel has production history; place other catcher/processors in partial coverage until vessel has production history.

Element 4. For a catcher/processor to be in partial coverage, will the vessel owner have to choose partial coverage? Council chooses one option.

Option 1. Vessel owner must choose partial coverage for the upcoming fishing year by an annual deadline.

Option 2. NMFS places vessel in partial coverage for the upcoming year without any action by owner.

Element 5: Should NMFS modify the placement of a catcher/processor in partial coverage based on any additional factors in the Council motion? Council chooses any or all options.

Option 1. Whether a catcher/processor is a hybrid vessel;

Option 2. Whether a catcher/processor uses particular gear: trawl, hook-and-line, pot, jig gear.

Option 3. Whether a catcher/processor operates in a fishery with a PSC limit.