

**Council Motion**  
**June 7, 2019**

**Agenda Item C3: Observer Program Annual Report & FMAC Report**

1. The Council supports the NMFS recommendations listed in section 7.1 (pg. 92) of the 2018 Annual Report.
2. Based on input from the Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC), AP, and SSC the Council also recommends the following:
  - If external funds can be leveraged, expand the Electronic Monitoring (EM) selection pool in 2020 by 30 vessels and include testing of alternative EM systems and data service delivery models.
  - In the 2019 Annual Report (to be presented in June, 2020), the Council recommends that NMFS:
    - Continue to refine the cost metrics and funding information presented in Chapter 2 to better characterize costs and allow comparisons between observer and EM costs in the full and partial coverage categories.
    - Continue to include an evaluation of observer effects in pelagic and non-pelagic trawl within the trawl stratum.
    - Incorporate the analysis of observer statement incident rates (presented in Appendix D) in future reports.
  - NMFS work with the FMAC and industry prior to implementing potential future changes to the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS).
3. Regarding the Observer Analytical Tasks, the Council supports the FMAC's recommendations to:
  - Remove the task "Observer Disembark Location" and take no further action on this item.
  - Prioritize the project to assess how biological information currently collected by observers is used in stock assessment.
  - Initiate a discussion paper to scope a shoreside sampling program, in conjunction with some minimal level of at-sea observer coverage, to complement Fixed Gear EM.