

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**AFSC PROCESSED REPORT 2019-07**

# North Pacific Observer Program 2018 Annual Report

**MAY 2019**

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

June 4 – 8, 2019



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# 2018 Annual Report Overview

- Retrospective look at 2018 and recommendations for the coming year
- Will inform the 2020 Annual Deployment Plan presented to the Council in October
- Provides information, analyses, and recommendations on the methods used for deploying and funding partial coverage observers in the North Pacific Observer Program
- Includes information on Fees and Budget, Deployment Performance Review, Descriptive Information, Compliance and Enforcement, Outreach, and Recommendations for future ADP

# 2018 Program Summary

- 4,423 trips (41.6%) and 492 vessels (45.4%) were monitored by either an observer or EM
- 413 individual observers were trained, briefed, and equipped for deployment
  - 40,512 observer days:
    - 36,729 full coverage days (91%)
    - 3,783 partial coverage days (9%)
  - 408 vessels and 7 processing facilities
- EM was integrated into the Observer Program under regulations
  - 141 vessels in the EM selection pool
    - 134 Vessel Monitoring Plans (VMP)



# 2018 Program Summary

- 27 Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division (FMA) staff completed a total of 688 debriefings in Seattle, Anchorage; and Dutch Harbor
- The Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS) performed as expected with no service interruptions for **5,734** trips logged by vessels >40 feet
- NMFS held **13** outreach events in 2018 in Seattle, and Kodiak, Dutch Harbor to inform industry about changes to the program, vessel responsibilities, EM, and observer sampling



# Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) Hierarchical Sampling

Random selection of trips

Selection determined by Observer Program (ADP)

Research Projects  
Special Data Collections

Random sample of hauls

Fishing Effort and Location  
Protected Species Data

Random sample of the catch of each haul

Species Composition Data  
Inclusive of protected species in catch  
Ecosystem components  
Higher Resolution Species Identification (subsamples)

Random sample of individual fish

Length and Age distributions  
Maturity data  
Data for ecosystem modeling (diet)  
Other Biological Specimens



# 2018 ADP Selection Rates

Programmed into the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS) application were as follows:

- No selection (*zero coverage*) – 0%
- Electronic Monitoring (*EM*) – 30%
- Trawl (*TRW – No Tender*) – 20%
- Hook-and-line (*HAL*) – 17%
- Pot (*POT – No Tender*) – 16%.
- Tender trawl (*TRW - Tender*) – 17%
- Tender pot (*POT - Tender*) – 17%

# Fees, Budgets, and Costs

- Expenditures for partial coverage observer deployment was \$4,425,144 for 3,207 days
  - \$3,742,511 in fee funding received in 2018 (from 2017 landings)
  - \$682,633 carryover of funds already on the contract
- Average cost per partial coverage observer sea day was \$1,380 (based on the cost of \$4,425,144 to procure 3,207 observer days)
- Average cost per EM sea day was between \$956 and \$1,527 per day depending on “amortization” schedules for hardware



# Partial Coverage Contract Schedule

<b>FISHING/ CALENDAR YEAR</b>	<b>2017</b>												<b>2018</b>												
<b>FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR</b>													<b>FFY 2018</b>												<b>FFY 2019</b>
<b>CONTRACT YEAR</b>						<b>CONTRACT YEAR 4</b>												<b>CONTRACT YEAR 5 -----&gt;</b>							
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	



# Fees, Budgets, and Costs

- Partial coverage contract started 2019 calendar year with \$997,845 in 2017 fee funding and \$412,307 in federal funding
- Fee billing statements for 2018 were mailed to 102 processors and registered buyers in January 2019 for a total of \$3,407,658 in observer fees
  - These 2018 fees will be added to the contract for the remainder of 2019
- 2018 observer fees by species landed: 39% Pacific Halibut, 35% Sablefish, 10% Pacific Cod, 13% Pollock, and 2% all other groundfish species

# Table 2-1. – Summary of funding for the partial coverage observer contract

Calendar year	Funding category	Funds sequestered (% of fees received)	Observer fees received	Observer fee collections received late	Prior year sequester funds received	Funds obligated to contract	Observer sea days at the start of the year	Observer sea days purchased during the year	Total observer sea days used during the year
2013	Fees								
	Federal Funds					\$1,885,166	4,535	1,913	3,533
2014	Fees	\$306,047 (7.2%)	\$4,251,451			\$3,044,606	2,915	4,368	4,573
	Federal Funds					\$1,892,808			
2015	Fees	\$350,400 (10.2%)	\$3,456,458		\$306,047	\$3,058,036	2,710	5,330	5,318
	Federal Funds					\$2,700,000			
2016	Fees	\$231,200 (6.8%)	\$3,897,938	\$370,915	\$350,400	\$5,144,983	2,722	5,277	4,749
	Federal Funds					\$ 390,800			
2017	Fees	\$273,930 (7.9%)	\$3,592,750	\$151,606	\$231,200	\$3,542,196	3,322	5,285	2,591
	Federal Funds					\$1,398,531			
2018	Fees	\$304,356 (7.9%)	\$3,468,580		\$273,930	\$2,396,040	5,858	2,350	3,207
	Federal Funds								
2019	Fees					\$997,845	5,001		
	Federal Funds					\$412,307			

## Table 2.5.-- Average annual observer coverage sea day costs from 2014 to 2018

Year	Funds expended	Number of observer sea days realized	Average sea day cost
2014	\$4,937,414	4,573	\$1,080
2015	\$5,758,268	5,318	\$1,083
2016	\$4,186,303	4,677	\$895
2017	\$3,146,111	2,749	\$1,144
2018	\$4,425,144	3,207	\$1,380
<b>5-year</b>	<b>\$22,453,240</b>	<b>20,524</b>	<b>\$1,094</b>

# Electronic Monitoring Costs

- Simplified fully-loaded daily rate was calculated for the EM program, including amortized equipment costs, recurring operational costs, and video review
  - Total cost was \$1,535,130 (for 1,005 days or \$1,527/day)
  - Amortized, total was \$961,131 (for 1,005 days or \$956.35 per day)

**Table 2.6.— Costs of the 2018 fixed gear EM program**

Cost Category	One time	Recurring	Amortized	2018 Total	Prior years amortized	Adjusted annual cost
Project Coordination	\$70,483	\$246,439		\$316,922		\$ 246,440
Data Review, Processing, and Analysis	\$294	\$191,961		\$192,255		\$191,961
EM Equipment Services		\$36,019	\$684,853	\$720,872	\$171,553	\$344,542
Field Technical Services		\$118,690	\$186,391	\$305,081	\$21,926	\$177,894
<b>Project Totals</b>	<b>\$70,777</b>	<b>\$593,109</b>	<b>\$871,244</b>	<b>\$1,535,130</b>	<b>\$193,479</b>	<b>\$961,131</b>

# EM Video Review

- EM data collected on 250 HAL and 45 POT trips
- PSMFC completed review on 174 HAL trips for catch accounting, for 770 hauls
  - Sensor data was complete for 97% of the trips
  - Video was complete for 68% of the trips
  - 84% of the hauls had complete video for catch handling
- POT data was not reviewed for catch accounting in 2018



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# Deployment Performance Review of the 2018 North Pacific Observer Program

2018 Observer Science Committee

Presented by

*Fishery Monitoring and Analysis Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle*  
*Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Regional Office, Juneau*

# The Analytical Team

Analyses were performed by the Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division in consultation with experts with practical knowledge of observer data. The Division convenes its Observer Science Committee annually. This years members included:

- Phil Ganz (Formerly: PSMFC/FMA, Now: AKRO/SF)
- Craig Faunce (AFSC/FMA)
- Steve Barbeaux (AFSC/REFM)
- Jennifer Cahalan (PSMFC/FMA)
- Jason Gasper (AKRO/SF)
- Sandra Lowe (AFSC/REFM)
- Ray Webster (IPHC)

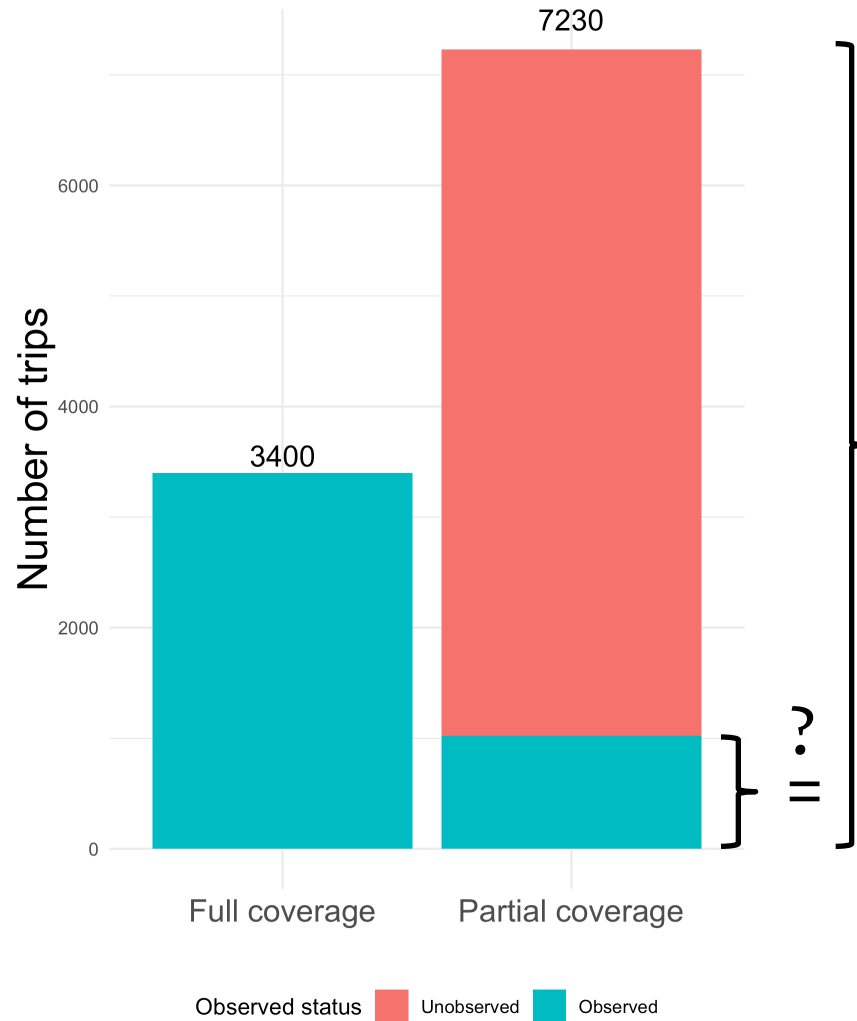
This review is intended to inform the FMAC, the Council, and the public of how well various aspects of the program are working and lead to recommendations for improvement (based on the data). OSC recommendations do not need to equate to official NMFS recommendations or actions for future ADPs.

# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

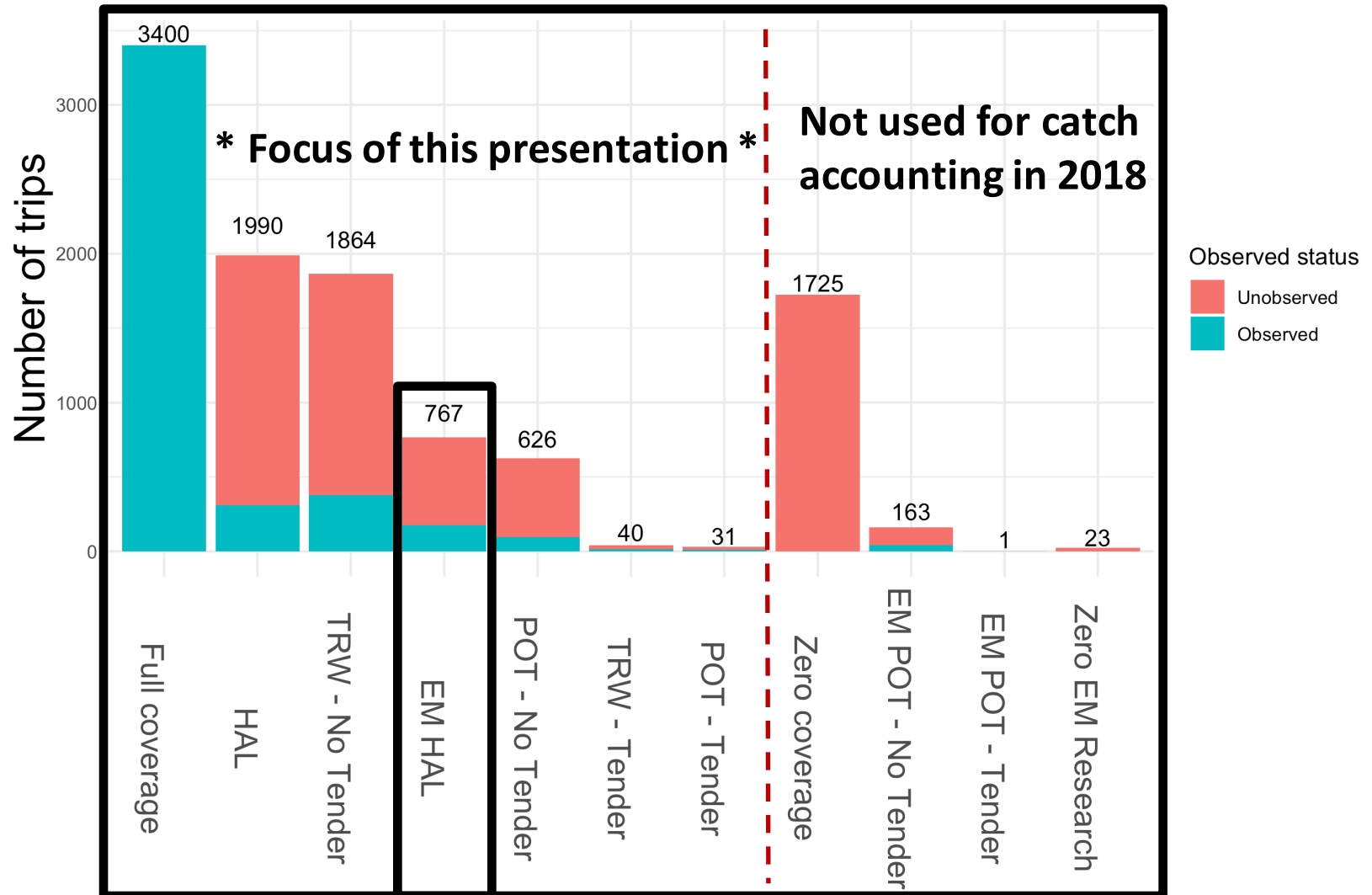
- 1) Did we meet expectations for deployment rates in each stratum?
- 2) Were our samples representative?
  - Dockside monitoring of salmon
  - Temporal and spatial bias
  - Observer effects
- 3) Was our sample size adequate?



# Trips by Coverage Type



# Trips by Strata



# Changes in Deployment Methods Since 2017:

- *HAL – No Tender* and *HAL – Tender* stratum combined into one *HAL* stratum in 2018
- *EM HAL* stratum used for catch accounting in 2018
- 15% minimum coverage hurdle used in 2018, not in 2017

# Coverage Rates

From Table 3-5

	Full	No Tender				Tender		Zero	Zero EM Research	No Tender	Tender	All
		HAL	EM HAL	POT	TRW	POT	TRW			EM POT	EM POT	
Total Trips	3,400	1,990	767	626	1,864	31	40	1,725	23	163	1	10,630
% Observed	100.0	15.5	22.7	15.5	20.3	29.0	35.0	0.0	0.0	25.2*	100.0*	41.2
% Expected	100.0	17.3	30.0	16.2	20.2	17.4	16.7	0.0	0.0	30.0	30.0	
Meets Expectations?	Yes	No (Low)	No (Low)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (High)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

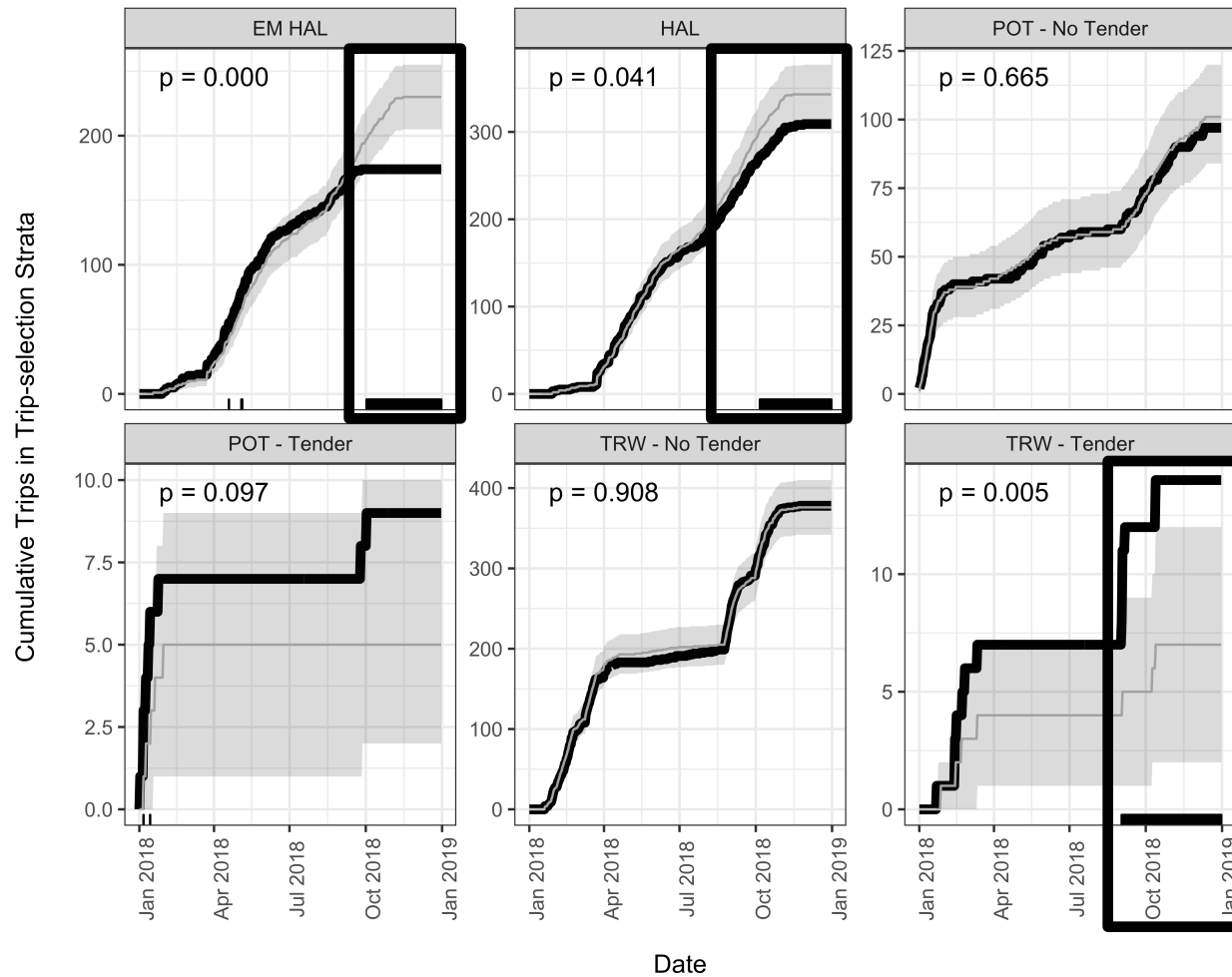
\* Represents hard drives *received*, not data *reviewed*.  
EM POT strata were under pre-implementation in 2018.

# Recommendations

- **We recommend that draft 2020 ADP stratification designs include a re-examination of tendering strata.**
- **We do not recommend stratification by type of trawl gear (i.e., NPT and PTR strata).**

# Temporal Bias

Figure 3-3



# Recommendations

- We recommend that draft 2020 ADP stratification designs include a re-examination of tendering strata.
- We do not recommend stratification by type of trawl gear (i.e., NPT and PTR strata).
- **We recommend that the ODDS trip logging and cancellation rules be re-evaluated and communicated to the Council and industry as soon as possible.**

# EM HAL

- PSMFC did not review 62 selected EM trips
- PSMFC received data for 53 of those 62 trips
- Considerable lag-time between receipt of video by PSMFC and delivery of data to NMFS
  - 2016 (pre-implementation): Average = 8 days
  - 2018 (implemented): Average = 60 days

From Table 3-6

Gear	Data reviewed?	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
EM HAL	Yes	3	5	19	42	41	21	10	17	16	0	0	0	174
EM HAL	No	0	0	0	3	2	4	3	5	14	29	2	0	62



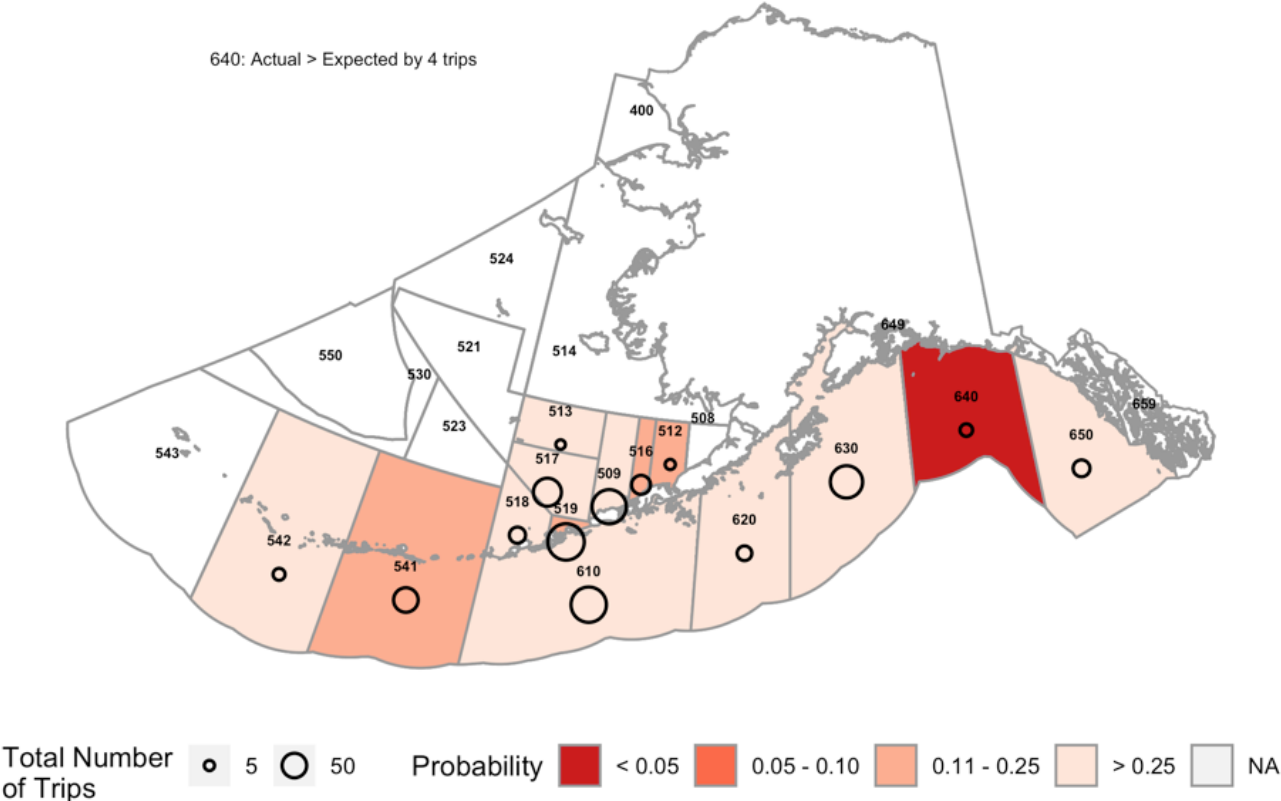
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- We do not recommend stratification by type of trawl gear (i.e., NPT and PTR strata).
- We recommend that the ODDS trip logging and cancellation rules be re-evaluated and communicated to the Council and industry as soon as possible.
- **We recommend that EM review rates are set to ensure that the entire year is sampled and review is timely enough so that data from EM can be used for catch accounting and fisheries monitoring as envisioned by the Council.**

# Spatial Bias

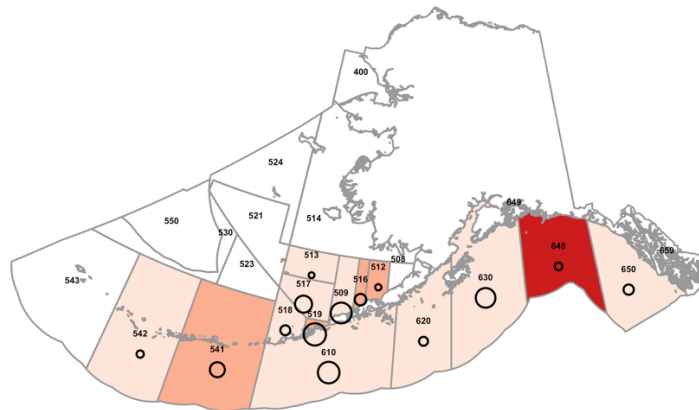
Figure 3-7

POT - No Tender 2018



# Spatial Bias

	No Tender				Tender	
	HAL	EM HAL	POT	TRW	POT	TRW
Number of NMFS Areas Fished	19	14	14	9	6	4
% of NMFS Areas Where Coverage Rates as Expected	84%	93%	93%	78%	83%	50%
Absent of Spatial Bias?	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No



# Dockside Monitoring

Table 3-7

FMP	Coverage category	Port	Total deliveries (N)	Observed deliveries (n)	% Observed
Bering Sea	Full	Akutan	817	817	100.0
		Dutch Hbr.	1,121	1,121*	100.0*
		IFP	2	2	100.0
		King Cove	81	81	100.0
		Sand Point	12	12	100.0
<b>Total</b>	Full		2,033	2,033	100.0*
Gulf of Alaska	Partial	Akutan	78	18	23.1
		King Cove	1	0	0.0
		Kodiak	1,087	216	19.9
		Sand Point	273	46	16.8
<b>Total</b>	Partial		1,439	280	19.5**

\* Corrected from the published report: all full coverage offloads were observed

\*\* For reference, the programmed rate of deployment for the TRW – No Tender stratum was 20.18%.

# Observer Effect

Observed difference (%), significant areas highlighted:

From Table 3-9

Strata	NMFS areas	Days fished	Vessel length (ft)	Species landed	pMax species	Landed catch (t)
EM HAL	0.267	-2.179	0.684	9.700	-0.824	2.108
HAL	2.158	-14.345	-1.037	1.372	0.946	-15.593
POT - No Tender	-1.821	-2.337	2.732	14.296	0.743	5.632
POT - Tender	11.631	-5.792	14.580	2.646	-0.424	29.994
TRW - No Tender	-3.040	-9.403	-1.750	-1.657	1.590	-4.549
TRW - Tender	6.969	27.262	5.800	5.806	-0.407	51.755

# Observer Effect

Observed difference, significant areas highlighted:

From Table 3-9

Strata	NMFS areas	Days fished	Vessel length (ft)	Species landed	pMax species	Landed catch (t)
EM HAL	0.003	-0.113	0.361	0.387	-0.007	0.143
HAL	0.024	-0.760	-0.568	0.049	0.008	-1.048
POT - No Tender	-0.019	-0.103	2.098	0.288	0.007	1.842
POT - Tender	0.131	-0.510	12.449	0.061	-0.004	49.863
TRW - No Tender	-0.032	-0.256	-1.480	-0.096	0.015	-4.352
TRW - Tender	0.071	1.819	3.593	0.308	-0.004	122.714

# Observer Effect

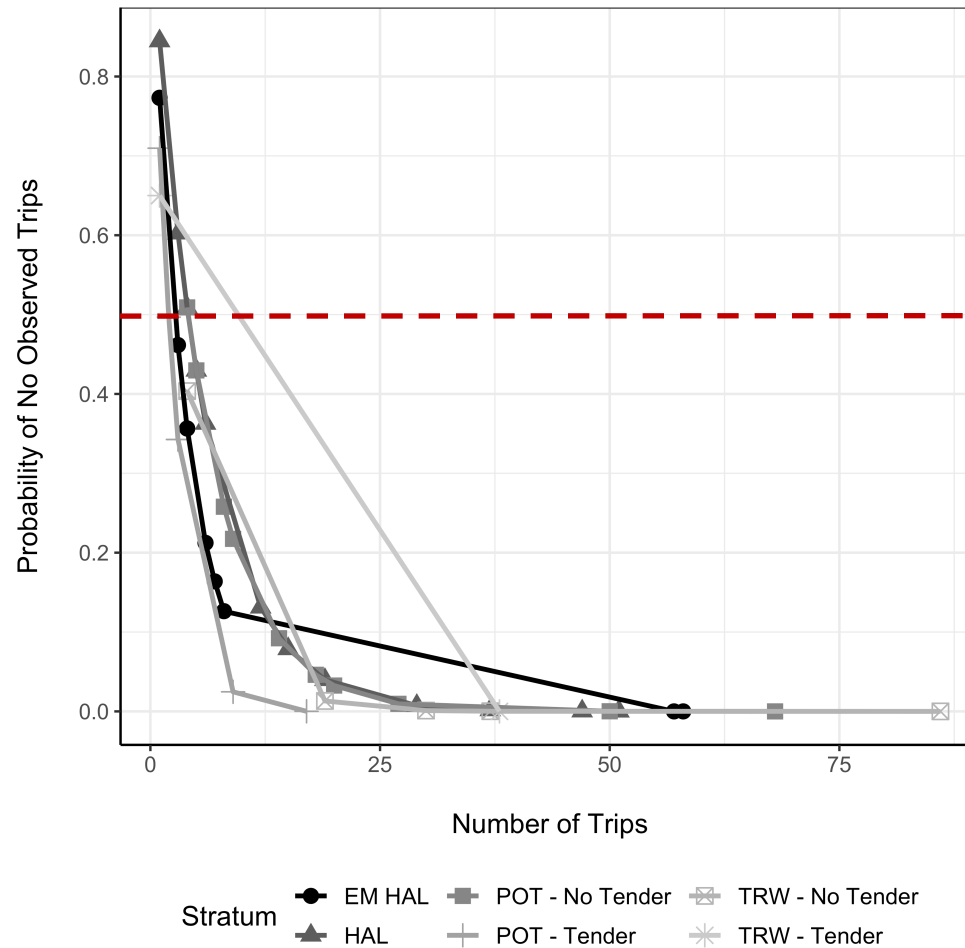
Stratum/metric combinations with  $p < 0.05$

From Table 3-9

Strata	Variable	Observed difference	OD (%)	p-value
HAL	Days fished	-0.760	-14.345	0.001
HAL	Landed catch (t)	-1.048	-15.593	0.004
EM HAL	Species landed	0.387	9.700	0.022
TRW - No Tender	NMFS areas	-0.032	-3.040	0.024
POT - No Tender	Species landed	0.288	14.296	0.024
TRW - No Tender	Days fished	-0.256	-9.403	0.042

# Adequacy of Sample Size

Figure 3-13





# Adequacy of Sample Size

Figure 3-12 (2017)

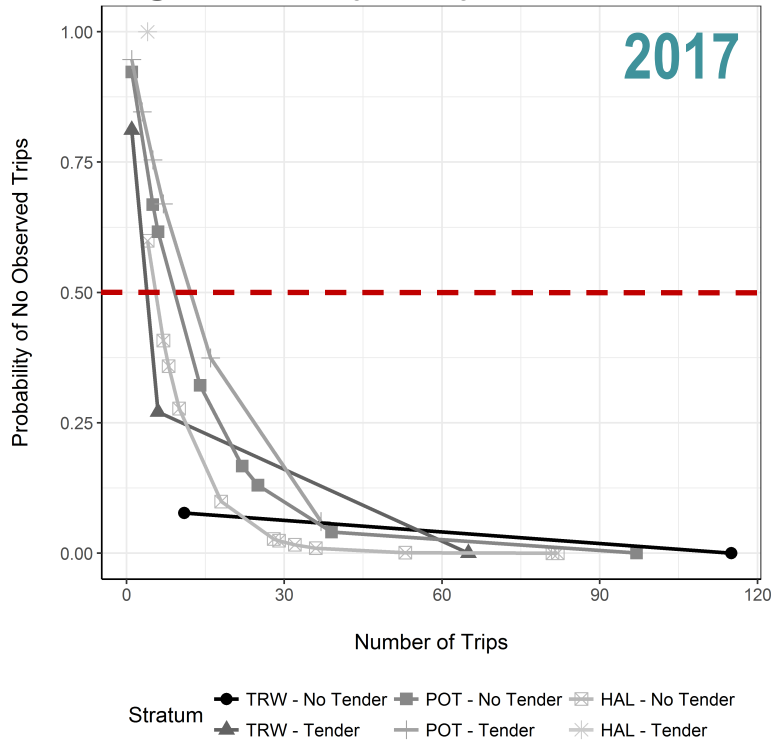
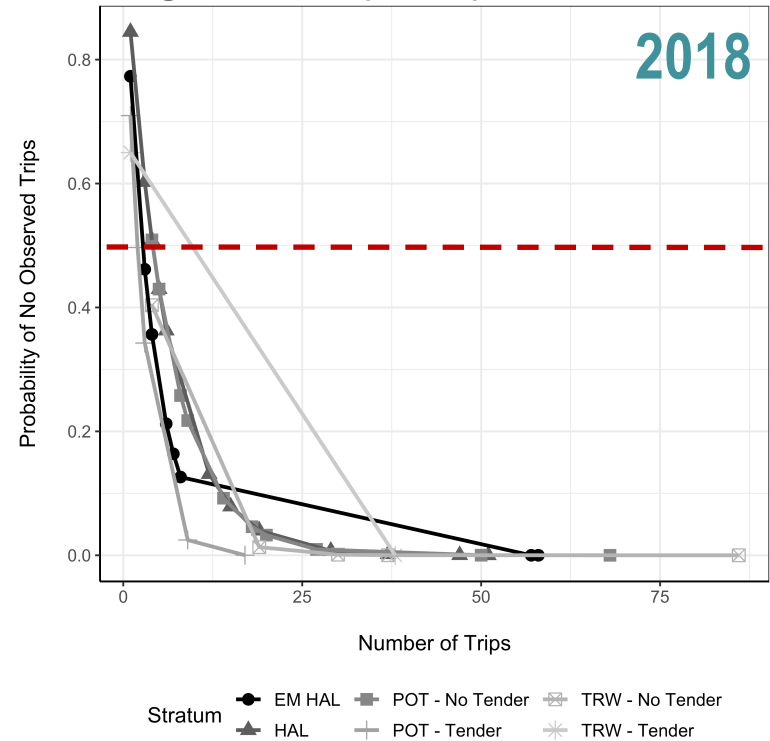


Figure 3-13 (2018)



# Recommendations

- We recommend that draft 2020 ADP stratification designs include a re-examination of tendering strata.
- We do not recommend stratification by type of trawl gear (i.e., NPT and PTR strata).
- We recommend that the ODDS trip logging and cancellation rules be re-evaluated and communicated to the Council and industry as soon as possible.
- We recommend that EM review rates are set to ensure that the entire year is sampled and review is timely enough so that data from EM can be used for catch accounting and fisheries monitoring as envisioned by the Council.
- **We recommend continuation of the baseline + optimization approach for determining coverage levels among strata.**

# Summary



# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

- 1) Did we meet expectations for deployment rates in each stratum?
  - **Yes** (3 partial coverage strata)
  - **No** (3 partial coverage strata)\*
    - \* Greater concern: Low in *HAL and EM HAL*
    - \* Lesser concern: High in *TRW - Tender*

# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

- 2) Were our samples representative?
  - Dockside monitoring of salmon?
    - **Yes** (all full coverage deliveries observed; partial coverage deliveries observed at rate comparable to deployment rate)

# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

- 2) Were our samples representative?
- Temporally representative?
    - **Yes** (3 partial coverage strata)
    - **No** (3 partial coverage strata)\*
      - \* Greater concern: Low in *HAL and EM HAL*
      - \* Lesser concern: High in *TRW - Tender*

# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

- 2) Were our samples representative?
- Spatially representative?
    - **Yes** (2 partial coverage strata)
    - **No** (4 partial coverage strata)\*
      - \* 2017: all partial coverage strata showed evidence of spatial bias

# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

2) Were our samples representative?

- Absent of observer effect?
  - Yes (for 2 tender strata)
  - No (for 4 non-tender strata)\*

\* Based on  $p < 0.05$

\* Greater concern: Two most significant results are from one stratum (HAL)



# Evaluating Observer Program in 2018

3) Was our sample size adequate?

- **Yes** (37 area/stratum combinations had less than 50% chance of no observations)
- **No** (10 area/stratum combinations had greater than 50% chance of no observations)\*

\* 2017: 13/36 area/stratum combinations had greater than 50% chance of no observations



**Questions?**

# Recommendations

- **We recommend that draft 2020 ADP stratification designs include a re-examination of tendering strata.**
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# Chapter 5 – Compliance and Enforcement

Jaclyn Smith, Special Agent  
Alaska Enforcement Division

# Enforcement and Partners

- NOAA Office for Law Enforcement
  - Supports resource management by enforcing the laws and regulations that protect living marine resources.
  - Protects observers and their ability to collect scientific data
  - Prioritizes investigating reports of sexual assault/harassment, interference/sample biasing, interference, coercion, hostile work environment, and safety.
- United States Coast Guard
  - During at sea boardings, seeks to detect and deter violations involving observers
  - Conducts joint patrols with NOAA agents and officers
  - Strong focus on safety, frequently collaborating with NOAA Enforcement
- Alaska Wildlife Troopers
  - Under the Joint Enforcement Agreement, investigates observer related cases
    - 17 cases, including 35 individual complaints were forwarded to AWT.
  - Conducts joint patrols with NOAA agents and officers.



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# Reports of Potential Violations

- Current tables and figures are based on number of statements received without consideration of sea days or other factors
- Future reports will be more descriptive and include rates of incidents based on factors such as sea days provided by the Observer Program
  - See Appendix D
- Future reports will also focus on case statuses and dispositions.



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# Reports of Potential Violations

COMPLAINT TYPE	FULL COVERAGE		PARTIAL COVERAGE		TOTAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>OLE Priority</b>						
Harassment - Assault	3	3	0	0	3	3
Harassment - Sexual	6	8	1	3	7	11
Interference/Sample Bias	28	15	3	2	31	17
Intimidation/Coercion/Hostile Work Environment	24	27	3	2	27	29
Disruptive/Bothersome Behavior - Conflict Resolved	20	23	1	1	21	24
Safety – NMFS	40	53	8	14	48	67
<b>TOTAL OLE Priority</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>151</b>



# Reports of Potential Violations

COMPLAINT TYPE	FULL COVERAGE		PARTIAL COVERAGE		TOTAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>Limited Access Programs</b>						
AFA	25	28	N/A	N/A	25	28
Amendment 80	80	67	N/A	N/A	80	67
Catcher Processor Longline	29	18	N/A	N/A	29	18
Rockfish Program	1	1	N/A	0	1	1
IFQ Retention	1	2	16	10	17	12
<b>Total Limited Access Programs</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>126</b>



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# Reports of Potential Violations

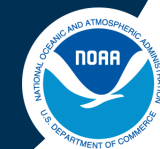
COMPLAINT TYPE	FULL COVERAGE		PARTIAL COVERAGE		TOTAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>Protected Resources and Prohibited Species</b>						
Gulf of Alaska Salmon Bycatch	0	1	50	28	50	29
Bering Sea Pollock Salmon Bycatch	79	71	N/A	N/A	79	71
Marine Mammal	3	4	1	1	4	5
Seabird (majority is gear related)	1	1	14	7	15	8
Prohibited Species – Mishandling and Retention	73	49	21	10	94	59
<b>Total Protected Resources and Prohibited Species</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>172</b>



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# Reports of Potential Violations

COMPLAINT TYPE	FULL COVERAGE		PARTIAL COVERAGE		TOTAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
<b>All Other Complaint Types</b>						
Contractor Problems	7	12	N/A	N/A	7	12
Failure to Notify	59	36	16	11	75	47
Inadequate Accommodations	6	10	2	1	8	11
IR/IU	47	39	23	20	70	59
Miscellaneous Violations	6	6	5	0	11	6
Reasonable Assistance	36	38	9	20	45	58
Record Keeping and Reporting	122	157	198	92	320	249
Restrict Access	3	7	1	0	4	7
Observer Coverage	N/A	N/A	242	86	242	86
<b>Total All Other Complaint Types</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>535</b>



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# Highest Priority Violations

- Complaints involving the safety of observers, including ensuring an environment free from sexual harassment/assault and any other form of harassment is a top priority.
- Increase of reports involving sexual harassment/assault
  - Does this mean there is an increase in incidents?
- 11 cases involving sexual harassment/assault
  - 2 witness statements
  - 3 forwarded for prosecution
  - 5 ongoing
  - 1 referred to local law enforcement
- 3 cases involving assault
  - 1 witness statement
  - 1 referred to local law enforcement
  - 1 resolved through employers
- Observer Professionalism & Safety
  - Reports from industry during dockside boardings suggest observers return to their assigned vessels intoxicated. Vessel operators are encourage to report these incidents to the observer provider.



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# Highlighted Violations

- Full Coverage Sector
  - Limited Access
    - Compliance concerns documenting equipment and/or operational requirements
  - Salmon bycatch in the Bering Sea pollock fishery
    - 27 closed through compliance assistance
    - 5 resolved through the issuance of a summary settlement (monetary penalty)
    - 4 resolved through the issuance of a written warning
    - The majority of complaints occurred a shoreside processors
- Partial Coverage Sector
  - Salmon bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska
    - 10 closed as no violation
    - 13 likely to result in enforcement action
- Both sectors
  - Prohibited species mishandling
  - Failure to notify observer
  - Failure to provide reasonable assistance



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# Proactive Efforts

- Symposia and Conferences
  - Observer Liaison contractor attended the Freezer Longline Symposium; discussed compliance concerns with individual vessel representatives.
  - Poster outlining results of AKD's Observer Safety and Security survey received 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the International Fishery Observer and Monitoring Conference in Vigo, Spain.
- Meetings with Industry
  - Discussions include fleet wide and company specific compliance concerns.
  - 5 individual companies
  - 4 shoreside plant managers
  - 2 co-op managers
  - Meetings will continue annually
- Observer Pulse Operation
  - 191 individual complaints on 60 catcher vessels, catcher processors, motherships, and shoreside processors.
  - 87 complaints resolved
  - 14 furthered but remain open pending enforcement action



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# Status of Complaints

Statements	Incidents	
<p><b>898</b> Statements received and reviewed in 2018</p> <p>(81 statements did not document an actual violation)</p>	<p>817 Statements were forwarded to agents and officers</p> <p>(417 new incidents created, 400 statements were added to open incidents)</p>	260 Ongoing
		6 Forwarded for prosecution
		31 Enforcement Action taken
		247 Compliance assistance provided
		273 Closed - No OLE Action
<p><i>Excludes 86 Observer Coverage potential violations reported by Agency Staff.</i></p>	<p><i>Multiple statements are often combined into a single incident if the same vessel, operator, or company is involved. Ongoing includes cases submitted to General Counsel.</i></p>	



# Enforcement Actions Taken

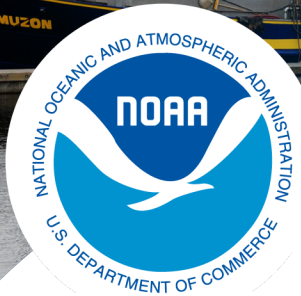
COMPLAINT TYPE	Complaints Investigated	Compliance Assistance Provided	Written Warnings	Summary Settlements
Limited Access - Operational and Equipment Requirements	113	50	0	3
Failure to notify	47	24	1	1
Reasonable Assistance	58	20	2	2
Record Keeping and Reporting	249	44	1	3
Prohibited Species	59	22	0	2
Safety	67	24	0	1
Salmon bycatch	100	27	5	10
Seabird Avoidance Measures	7	0	1	0

\*This chart does not list all enforcement actions taken





# Observer statements calculated as rates, and ODDS trip-logging compliance rates



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**



# Standard Metric: Number of ‘Statements’

What does it mean when the number of statements changes from year to year in a given statement category?

- Changes in fishing effort
- Changes in coverage rate
- Differences in total time spent deployed to vessels/plants across varying vessel/plant types
- More or fewer ‘Incidents’ contained within statements

# Attempts to answer the question:

- “How often do incidents occur in some of the different deployment situations in which observers find themselves placed into, and how do patterns change when we group the data by factors associated with certain fisheries?”
- ... have proven difficult to answer without controlling for how many observers are deployed, and how many days they are deployed.

# Alternative Approach: 'Incidents' per...

Factors were identified from observer and CAS data (e.g., gear type, vessel type, observer role, general fishing area) to summarize by

Statements may incorporate multiple incidents of a potential violation (e.g, number of hauls). This method used 'number of incidents' rather than 'number of statements'

The number of incidents were linked to the factors where they applied (*i*)

The number of total deployment days were linked to the factors where they applied (*d*)

The number of observer assignments (cruise/vessel combinations) were linked to the factors where they applied (*a*)

For each factor:

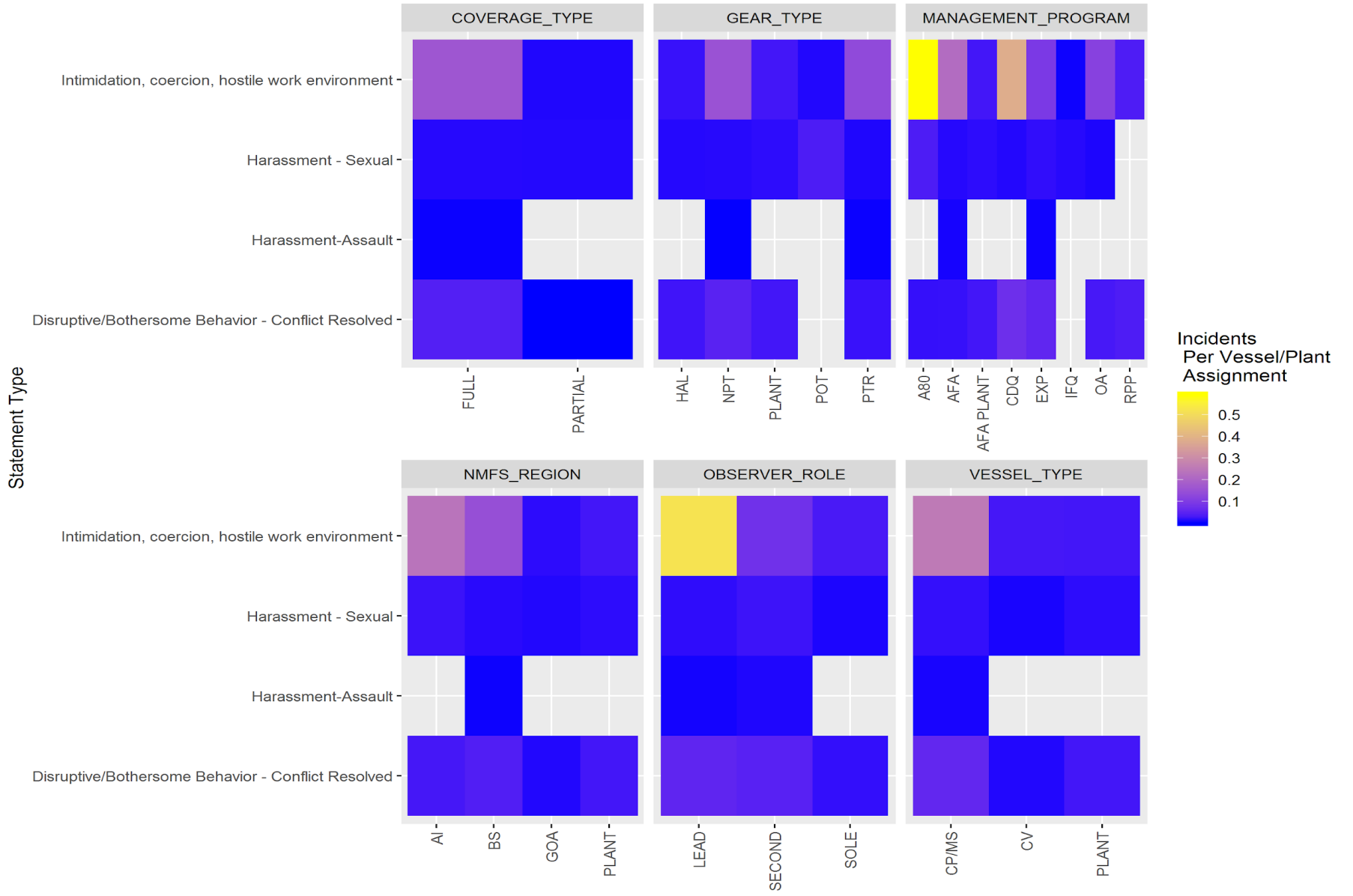
$(i/d)*1000 = \textit{incidents per 1000 deployed days}$

$(i/a) = \textit{incidents per observer assignment}$

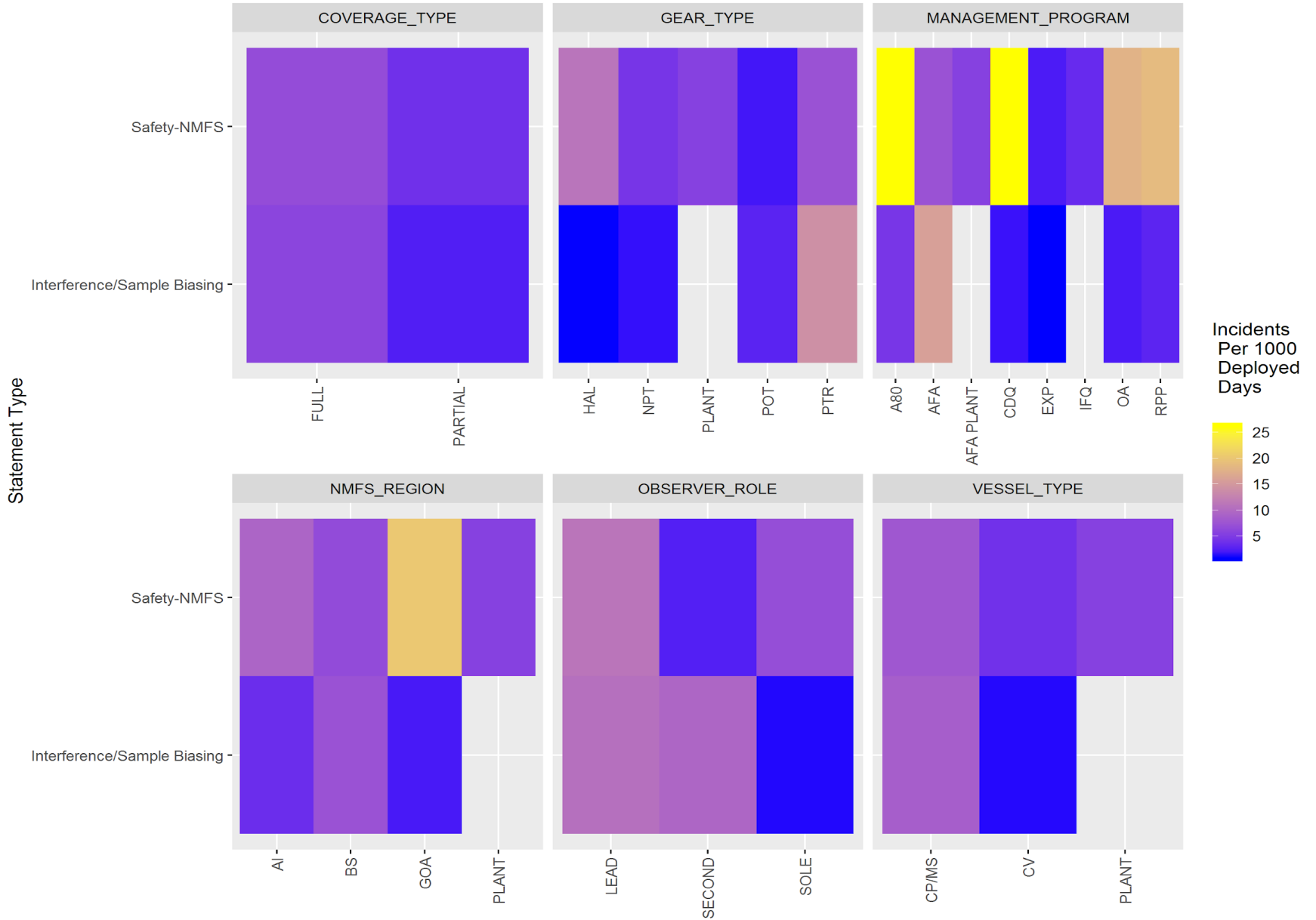
Factors are independent of each other

Factor	Value	Statement types: OLE PRIORITY (Inter-Personal)	
		Incidents per assignment	Incidents per 1000 deployed days
COVERAGE TYPE	FULL	0.22	5.7
	PARTIAL	0.02	3.2
VESSEL TYPE	CP/MS	0.34	7
	CV	0.04	3.2
	PLANT	0.07	2.1
OBSERVER ROLE	LEAD	0.59	12.2
	SECOND	0.15	3.6
	SOLE	0.06	3.2
NMFS REGION	AI	0.29	11.4
	BS	0.2	5.8
	GOA	0.03	4.2
	PLANT	0.07	2.1

# OLE PRIORITY: INTER-PERSONAL



# OLE PRIORITY: SAFETY AND DUTIES



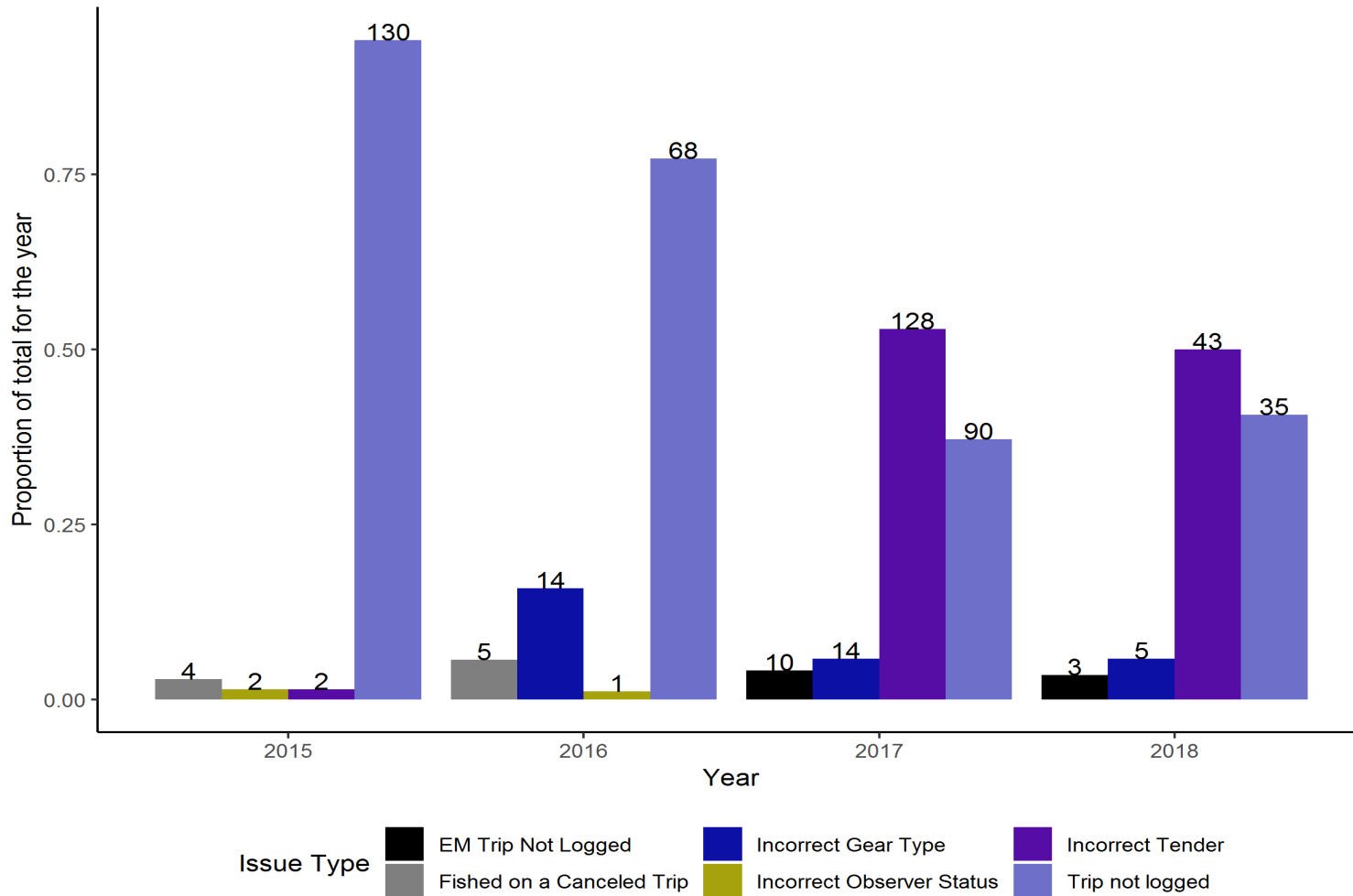
# Discussion

## Future direction:

- Determine which factors are most informative and report incident rates for those factors in annual reports
- Explore time trends for these rates
- Continue to work with OLE to identify the best use of this information
- Overhaul the observer statement database to more clearly define the ‘incident units’, as applicable to various statement types (2020)

# ODDS trip-logging compliance rates

ODDS Issues Reported to OLE





# Update to Previous Recommendations

TOPIC	NMFS Recommendation	Status
<b>EM Selection Pool</b>	Final 2018 ADP - On August 8, 2017, NMFS published a final rule to integrate EM into the Observer Program.	<p>Starting in 2018, NMFS integrated EM into the Observer Program and starting to incorporate the EM selection pool into the 2018 ADP, rather than using an EM Pre-implementation Plan process.</p> <p>Under the regulated program, NMFS incorporated EM data from hook-and-line vessels into CAS in 2018 so the information was be used for inseason management.</p> <p>Pot vessels remain in “pre-implementation” status.</p>



# Update to Previous Recommendations

TOPIC	NMFS Recommendation	Status
<b>EM Selection Pool</b>	Draft 2018 ADP – NMFS communicated that the agency intended to implement post-selection process for EM trips in 2019 where 100% of trips would have video recording, and trips would be post-selected for review. This approach would provide a mechanism to avoid monitoring bias.	<p>NMFS received feedback from the Council regarding logistical and cost considerations of a post-selection process.</p> <p>In the final 2018 ADP and the 2019 ADP, NMFS implemented trip-selection in the EM pool where trips were selected prior to departure. However, NMFS recommended continuing to evaluate the monitoring effect in the EM selection pool and, in the future, may recommend post-selection of trips.</p>



# Update to Previous Recommendations

TOPIC	NMFS Recommendation	Status
<b>Observer Trip Selection – strata definitions</b>	2018 and 2019 ADP: NMFS recommended sampling strata based on gear and tender.	In the 2018 and 2019 ADPs, hook-and-line vessels delivering to tenders were combined with the hook-and-line vessels delivering shoreside for a single hook-and-line stratum. This was due to the small number of tender deliveries for this gear type.

# Update to Previous Recommendations

TOPIC	NMFS Recommendation	Status
<b>Observer Trip Selection – allocation strategy</b>	<p>2017 Annual Report: Within budget constraints, NMFS recommended allocating observer deployment beyond the minimum “hurdle” using the using optimization based on discarded groundfish, Pacific Halibut, and Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>NMFS will also consider other PSC species (crab and herring).</p>	<p>Starting in 2018 ADP, NMFS implemented observer deployment allocation strategy of 15% plus optimization based on discarded groundfish and Halibut and Chinook.</p> <p>In the 2019 Draft ADP, NMFS provided an evaluation of hurdle thresholds to evaluate if the 15% threshold is warranted for all gear-specific strata.</p>



# Update to Previous Recommendations

TOPIC	NMFS Recommendation	Status
<b>Dockside Monitoring and Tendering</b>	2017 Annual Report: NMFS recommended maintaining status quo for dockside monitoring. To address concerns around obtaining unbiased samples of salmon bycatch from the GOA Pollock trawl fleet, NMFS recommended the Council and NMFS consider longer-term solutions.	<p>In the 2018 ADP, NMFS clarified the agency's objectives for collecting genetic samples from salmon PSC to identify stock of origin.</p> <p>In addition, the Council has recognized evaluation of alternative sampling methods for salmon on GOA Pollock trawl CVs as one of its EM priorities. This may provide longer-term solutions to the dockside monitoring and tendering issues.</p>

# NMFS Recommendations for 2020 ADP

## *Trip-selection Pool*

- Observer trip selection strata based on gear (trawl, hook-and-line, and pot) should be the same for 2020
  - Follows the Observer Science Committee and the NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee recommendation to stabilize the sampling design across years
- Include a re-examination of tendering strata (tender pot and tender trawl)
- Maintain a single trawl gear stratum (i.e., non-pelagic trawl (NPT) and pelagic trawl (PTR) in a single stratum)

# NMFS Recommendations for 2020 ADP

## *Trip-selection Pool Continued*

- Supports the focus of the Council's Electronic Monitoring Committee to expand EM applications to monitor pelagic trawl vessels and tenders, complemented by shoreside observers
- Continue to allocate observer deployment using a 15% hurdle plus optimization based on discarded groundfish, Pacific Halibut PSC, and Chinook Salmon PSC
- Balance prioritization of PSC-limited fisheries and the need to reduce gaps in observer coverage in the partial coverage category



# NMFS Recommendations for 2020 ADP

## *ODDS*

- Modify ODDS to reduce the impact of inherited trips while allowing flexibility to the fleet and accommodate changes to fishing plans
- Continue to automatically release vessels 40-57.5 ft in length from observer coverage if the two previous trips were observed trips

## *Performance Metrics*

- Add an item to 'Explore alternative approaches to evaluate observer effects' to the list of analytical priorities related to the Observer Program that is reviewed by the Council during staff tasking.



# NMFS Recommendations for 2020 ADP

## *EM Selection Pool*

- Continuing trip-selection in the EM pool where trips will be selected prior to departure
- Number of vessels allocated to the EM selection pool based on analysis of EM costs and available funding available
  - Priority should be given to 1) vessels that are already equipped with EM systems and 2) vessels 40-57.5 ft length overall (LOA) where carrying an observer has been problematic due to bunk space or life raft limitations
- EM review rates should be set to sample the entire year timely enough for EM data to be used for catch accounting and fisheries monitoring



# NMFS Recommendations for 2020 ADP

## *Dockside Monitoring and Tendering*

- Supports the EM Committee's priority to test and evaluate longer-term solutions for monitoring Salmon bycatch in the trawl fisheries, including using EM on tender vessels to enable shoreside data collection from these deliveries
- Maintain the status quo for dockside monitoring
  - an Exempted Fishing Permit for EM-approaches in the pelagic trawl catcher vessel Pollock fishery may require NMFS to re-assess this recommendation and increase shoreside monitoring to complement expanded EM tests in 2020

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