

E-1

**Staff tasking – Lead Level 2 Observer Discussion Paper – Council motion**

June 9, 2014

The Council requests staff to prepare a discussion paper to:

1. Identify how many fixed-gear, newly LL2 qualified observers were certified in 2013 working in each the full coverage and partial coverage programs.
2. How many fixed-gear, LL2 certified observers were available for deployment in 2013 compared to 2012.
3. Identify alternative methods to develop a sustainable, renewable and adequate pool of fixed-gear, LL2 qualified observers. Methods could be regulatory (such as further modifications to prior experience requirements) or non-regulatory (such as additional work with an in-season advisor via ATLAS, especially during the early days of the cruise).

The discussion paper is intended to guide the Council in developing potential alternatives for a regulatory amendment package to the Observer Program.