

C-2 Observer Fee Analysis - Council Motion

October 5, 2019

The Council identifies cost efficiency as its highest priority for work on the partial coverage observer program. Immediate efforts should focus on:

- Pelagic trawl EM combined with shoreside sampling (Analytical tasks 14,16);
- Integrated monitoring plan for fixed gear that combines EM, shoreside sampling, and at-sea observer coverage as needed (e.g., consider whether the 15% hurdle is still the appropriate baseline level for observer coverage in combination with EM coverage; develop average weight protocols to support use of EM, Analytical tasks 18, 19);
- Optimizing the size and composition of the fixed gear observed and EM fleets, taking into account both cost priorities and data needs for average weights and biological samples (including consideration of expansion of the zero-coverage pool to include vessels fishing from remote ports harvesting small amounts of fish).

The Council requests that staff work with the agency to provide a detailed workplan with timelines for each priority.