



C2 Draft 2024 Annual Deployment Plan

October 2023 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver

Other Presenters: Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC), Geoff Mayhew (AFSC), Phil Ganz (NMFS AKR)

Action Required:

1. Review the draft 2024 ADP and cost efficiencies analysis.
2. Receive the PCFMAC Report.
3. Provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2024 ADP, and other recommendations as necessary.

BACKGROUND

(a) Draft 2024 Annual Deployment Plan/ cost efficiencies analysis

The Council is scheduled to review the Draft 2024 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for the partial coverage category of the North Pacific Observer Program and provide recommendations to NMFS for the Final 2024 ADP. The Final ADP is posted every year in December. The ADP explains how NMFS intends to assign fishery observers and electronic monitoring (EM) to groundfish and halibut vessels fishing in the partial coverage category.

Recall that NMFS outlined a plan in April 2021 at the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) to complete a comprehensive analysis of the Council's cost efficiency priorities in the partial coverage observer category. This analysis was conducted in 2022 and 2023, reviewed in 2023, and is incorporated into the 2024 ADP.

The PCFMAC reviewed an earlier draft of the ADP (linked in the committee's eAgenda). Revisions in the Council draft from the version previously presented to the PCFMAC include: 1) the addition of NMFS recommendations, 2) edits to Figure 3-1 to address a PCFMAC request to add the numbers of vessels and trips that span the BSAI and GOA in table format, and 3) a few minor typos. The updated draft is posted on the Council's eAgenda.

(b) Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report:

The Council's PCFMAC held a hybrid meeting on September 15, 2023, with remote participation and an in-person option at the AFSC and Council staff offices. The purpose of this meeting was for the PCFMAC to receive the draft 2024 ADP and review the cost efficiencies analysis. The PCFMAC provided feedback to NMFS on the stratification and allocation methods, which are outlined in the report. NMFS also provided a budget update. Additionally, the meeting provided an opportunity for the PCFMAC to review proposals regarding changes to the observer service delivery model, as was requested by the Council in October 2022. One proposal was submitted. Committee recommendations are highlighted in the report.