



C5 Observer Program

June 2022 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
Other Presenters: Jennifer Ferdinand (NMFS AFSC), Dennis Jaszka (NMFS OLE)

Action Required:

1. Review the abbreviated 2021 Observer Annual Report
2. Review the March PCFMAC Report
3. Review the June FMAC Report

BACKGROUND

(a) 2021 Observer Annual Report:

The Council is scheduled to receive a presentation on the North Pacific Observer Program 2021 Observer Annual Report. The primary purpose of the Annual Report is to determine whether the Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) met its monitoring objectives and guide future ADPs. However, spatial and temporal data collection, particularly in the partial coverage program, were affected by observer deployment protocols changing again mid-season in 2021 due to changing COVID-19 circumstances. Given previous Committee and Council direction for an abbreviated annual report due to the complications in deployment plans due to COVID-19, the abbreviated report includes descriptive information on the Program, enforcement trends and outreach efforts, and agency recommendations for the elements of the 2022 ADP to be carried forward to 2023 ADP. For this reason, the 2023 ADP will be provided, but the Council will not be receiving a presentation on the draft 2023 ADP in October. This abbreviated approach also preserves staff time for the Cost Efficiencies Analysis.

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

The Council's Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) met virtually on March 3, 2022 to receive an update from NMFS analytical staff on cost efficiencies in the partial coverage observer program.

(c) Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report:

The Council's Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (FMAC) met in person with a virtual component on June 1, 2022 to discuss the abbreviated North Pacific Observer Program 2021 Observer Annual Report and to review portions of the Trawl EM analysis.