



C1 Observer Program Reports

June 2025 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sara Cleaver

Other Presenters: Lisa Thompson (NMFS AFSC), Dr. Jason Jannot (NMFS AFSC), Geoff Mayhew (AFSC), Jaclyn Smith (NOAA OLE)

Action Required:

1. Review the 2024 Observer Annual Report, provide recommendations to NMFS (SSC to review Chapters 3 and 6 only).
2. Receive the May FMAC Report, action as necessary (AP/Council only).
3. Review and consider approval of draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for FMAC and PCFMAC (Council only).

BACKGROUND

1) 2024 Observer Annual Report

The Council is scheduled to receive a presentation on the North Pacific Observer Program 2024 Annual Report. The primary purpose of the Annual Report is to determine whether the Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) met its monitoring objectives and to provide a guide for future ADPs. The 2024 report also includes descriptive information on the Program, enforcement trends and outreach efforts, and agency recommendations on the 2026 ADP. As a reminder, 2024 was the first year of a new monitoring plan implemented through the 2024 ADP. The monitoring plan evaluated in the 2024 report is very different from the plan reviewed in the 2023 annual report and therefore is not comparable to the reports from past years. This year, NMFS is not recommending significant changes for the 2026 ADP.

2) Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee Report

The Council's Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (FMAC) held a hybrid meeting on May 12, 2025. The report is posted on the eAgenda. At the FMAC meeting, the committee:

- Received the North Pacific Observer Program 2024 Observer Annual Report and provided recommendations on the report and on the 2026 draft ADP.
- Received an update on potential approaches for implementing electronic monitoring (EM) in the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program.
- Received other updates from NMFS on the Observer Program budget and staffing.
- Heard from committee members and members of the public on additional monitoring-related topics.

3) Draft Terms of Reference for Monitoring Committees

In 2024, the Council asked all Council committees to develop or review their Terms of Reference (TOR). Draft TORs developed for both the FMAC and PCFMAC were reviewed by all committee members at the May FMAC meeting, and the committee-approved versions are posted to the eAgenda. The Council can choose to approve or revise these TORs at this meeting.