

C1 Observer 2027 Annual Deployment Plan
Council Motion
October 9, 2026

2027 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

Regulations requiring 100% and 200% observer coverage requirements are unchanged. The Council supports the draft 2027 ADP for partial coverage fisheries. Observer coverage rates resulting from the selected design and the final budget are expected in the final ADP in December 2026. The Council also supports the following:

- Removing vessels from the fixed gear electronic monitoring (EM) pool in 2027 who have not complied with requirements to update and submit EM Vessel Monitoring Plans for the past 3 years.
- A yearly evaluation by NMFS to remove vessels from the fixed gear EM pool if they average <3 trips per year over the prior 3 years. These vessels will be placed in the at-sea observer pool and return their EM equipment to be used on active vessels.
 - Vessels requesting to rejoin the fixed gear EM pool need at least 5 trips per year over the prior 3 years
 - The Council requests NMFS continue to explore criteria for vessels joining for the first time
 - The Council requests NMFS provide consideration for active vessels that are proposed to be removed from the fixed gear EM pool (>0 - <3 trips) if they can prove they do not have bunk space for an observer

The Council appreciates the analysis of moving additional fixed gear vessels with few annual trips to the zero selection pool (i.e., no observer coverage requirements) and recognizes the conclusion there were no cost efficiency or monitoring gains identified.

CIE Review

The Council commends NOAA on the positive results of the Center for Independent Experts' peer review of the annual deployment plan methodologies and annual monitoring report. The Council supports further dissemination of the results to the SSC, IPHC, and other bodies, where appropriate.