

C-5 Observer Annual Deployment Plan
Council Motion
October 14, 2021

The Council supports the following PCFMAC and NMFS recommendations for the 2022 draft Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for partial coverage fisheries. Observer coverage rates resulting from this approach and the final budget are expected in the final 2022 ADP in December. Fisheries not covered under the ADP remain in the full (100% or 200%) coverage category.

- Three gear-based deployment strata (hook-and-line, pot, and trawl)
- Trip selection from all ports
- Observer deployment allocation strategy of adjusted 15% plus optimization for groundfish discards, halibut PSC and Chinook salmon PSC
- Zero selection pool of fixed-gear vessels <40'LOA and vessels fishing with jig gear
- Fixed and pelagic trawl gear electronic monitoring (EM) deployment strategies, including current priorities for inclusion in the fixed gear EM pool plus ability of a vessel to share EM systems
- Maintaining NMFS' ability to release a trip from observer coverage on a case-by-case basis
- Maintaining the automatic release of a trip if the vessel has been selected for three consecutive trips

The Council supports maintaining this stratification and allocation strategy for 2023 with the clarification that additional fixed gear EM vessels may be added to the EM pool in 2023 (up to 200 total vessels) provided they opt-in prior to November 1, 2022, additional funding for EM equipment is secured, and they meet the criteria in the ADP.

The Council strongly supports NMFS' continued work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis, including the PCFMAC recommendations, under a schedule that ensures the results inform the next observer contract with the objective that the new contract will contain cost efficiency measures and support additional efforts to manage costs.