Draft 2026 Annual Deployment Plan

September 10th, 2025

NMFS Approach

- Implement a monitoring program that collects credible, statistically rigorous scientific data
- Collect the best and most data under variable budgets using all the monitoring tools now available
- Collect data for a wide range of analytic needs (multi-objective program)

Council Priorities

- Efficiently distribute monitoring such that more monitoring is achieved for the available budget
- Increase monitoring on trawl-fisheries for PSC accounting
- Monitoring that has least impact on fishing operations
- A partial coverage program that isn't contentious

Challenges are to….

- Meet the data needs of users with a wide range of analytic and management objectives
- Collect data that reflects the full range of fishing activities: samples which represent the characteristics of the larger population

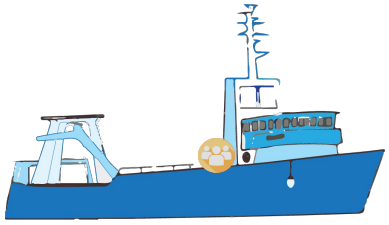
Monitoring Approaches in 2026

At-sea observers + compliance cameras:

- Catcher-processors (all gear types) & motherships
- 1 or 2 fishery observers plus compliance cameras on all trips

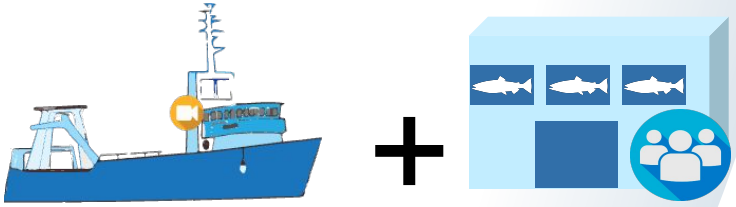
At-sea observers:

- Catcher vessels, all gear types & few catcher processors
- Observers sampling at-sea on either all trips (full coverage) or selection of trips (partial coverage)



EM + shoreside observers:

- Pollock catcher vessels in partial or full coverage fisheries
- At-sea EM for compliance with shoreside observers monitoring and sampling



EM only:

- Partial coverage longline and pot
- EM used for catch estimation

Expected Monitoring the AK Federal Fisheries in 2026

% of Retained Catch Monitored by FMP and Gear-type, Full & Partial Coverage		
	Trawl	Fixed-Gear
BSAI	99.95%	86.89%
GOA	82.73%	16.38%

% of Retained Catch Monitored by FMP and Gear-type, Partial Coverage ONLY		
	Trawl	Fixed-Gear
BSAI	45.21%	23.38%
GOA	77.11%	8.56%

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Preliminary Budget for 2026

- For this analysis, NMFS set a ***preliminary*** **budget of $4.748M** to support 2026 monitoring of the partial coverage fisheries.

  Budget will be updated for the final 2026 ADP; presented to the NPFMC in December 2025

- The **preliminary budget** includes estimated revenues generated from 2025 ex-vessel fees, "carryover" revenue from ex-vessel fees from earlier years; and any federal funding that can be secured for direct monitoring costs

- **There is still some uncertainty** in the preliminary budget – but less than last year

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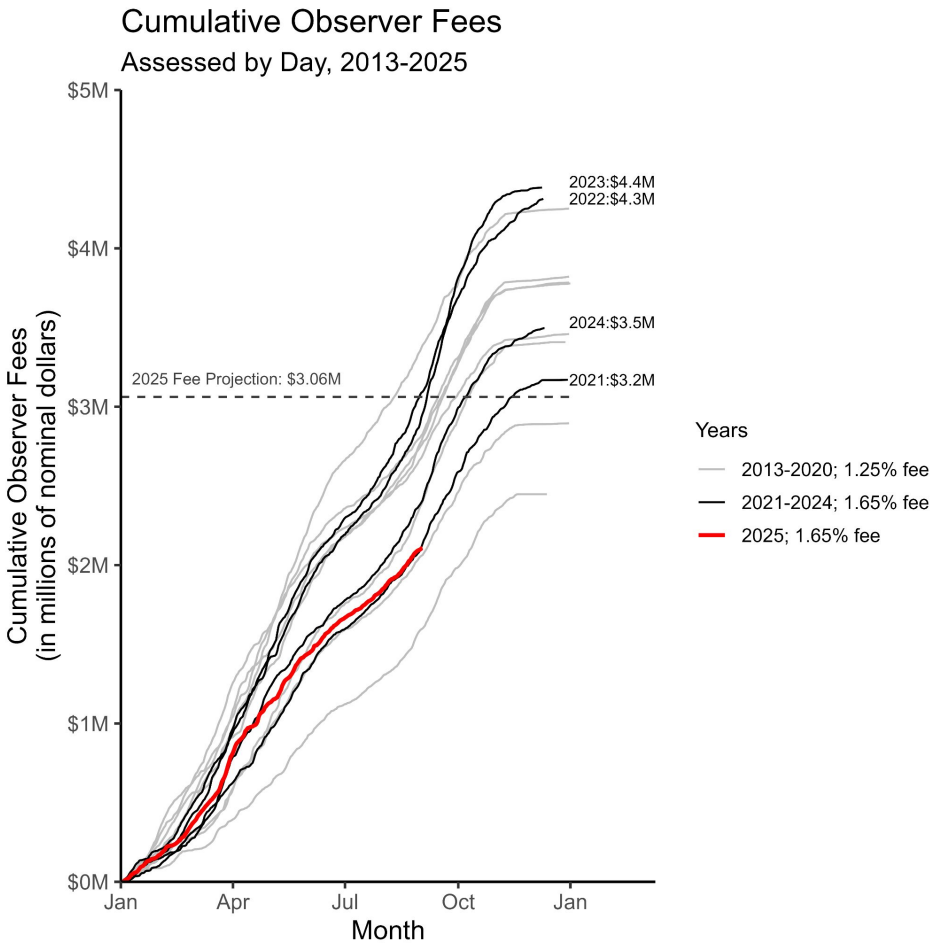
Uncertainty in Preliminary ADP Budget

- Fee revenue is still being assessed for landings in 2025; as of September 3, $2.11M in Observer Fees had been assessed out of the projected $3.06M
- Integrating the costs of Trawl EM into the annual budget
- Unknown costs associated with the competition of the partial coverage observer contract
- Ongoing delays in receiving funding associated with the transition in NOAA's financial systems



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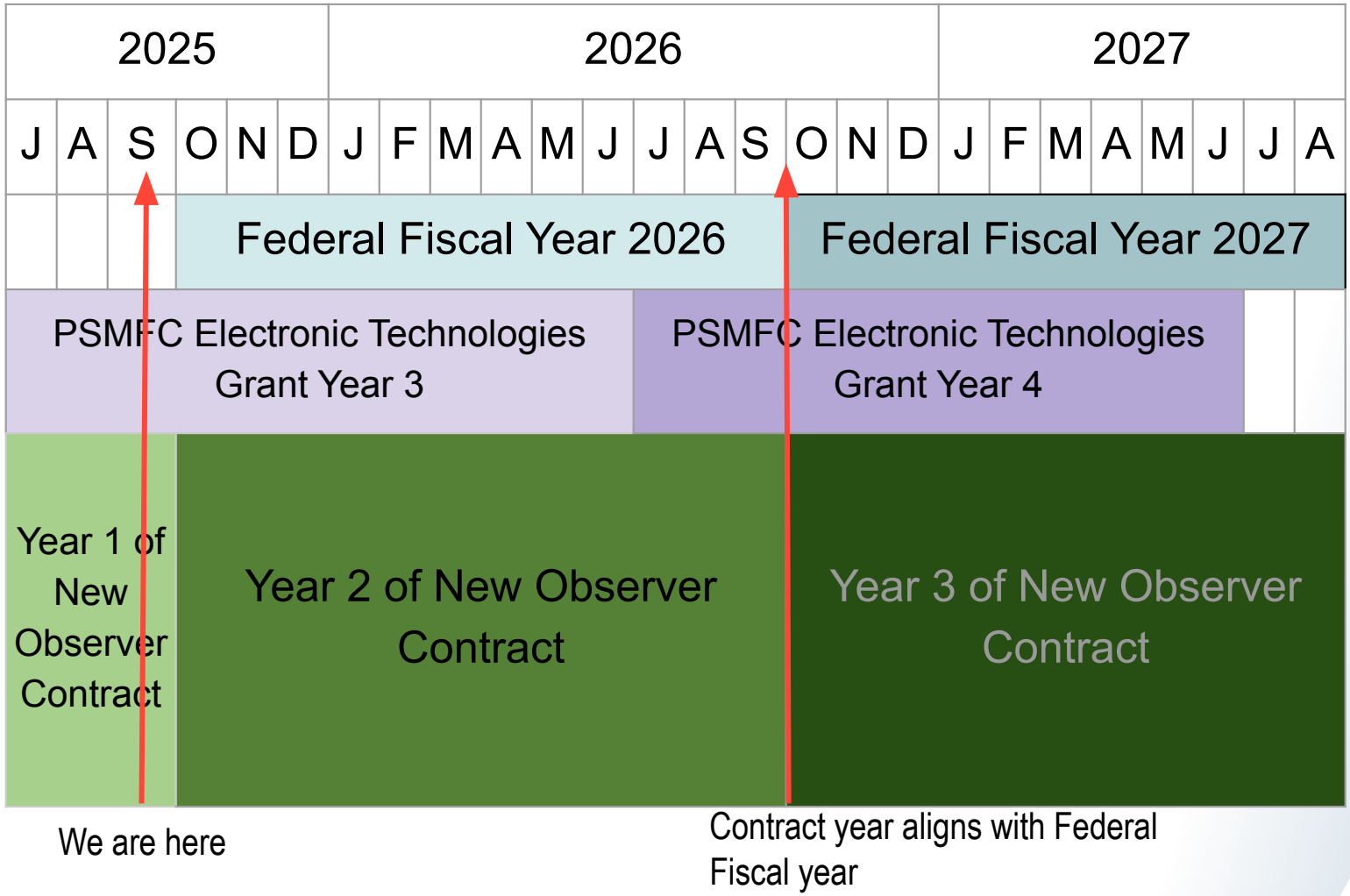
Fishing Year, Fiscal Year, Grant Year, and Contract Year



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Clarity Expected for Final ADP Budget

- Near final predictions on the amount of revenue generated from fees for landings in 2025
- Continue to define needs to calculate and finalize costs of EM hardware servicing through Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (sub-contracted out to EM service providers)
- Partial coverage observer contract -Option Yr 1 awarded; known pricing for “guaranteed,” “option,” and ”plant” observer days; known amount obligated to support observer travel
- We were able to fund the Electronic Technologies grant to Pacific States to support Trawl EM program with federal funding

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Partial Coverage Deployment Plan

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2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

- **Sample unit:** Fishing trip/shoreside delivery
- **Stratification**: Sampling strata defined by:
  - Monitoring method (At-sea observer, EM, or none)
  - Gear type (fixed gear or trawl gear)
  - FMP (BSAI or GOA)
- **Allocation**: 'Proximity Allocation,' an algorithm that:
  - Reduces spatiotemporal data gaps
  - Guards against low sample size
  - Excluding EM Trawl GOA stratum
- **The Observer Declare & Deploy System** (ODDS) assigns a stratum to each trip and randomly selects trips for monitoring using allocated sample rates.

2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

- **Stratification**: 8 partial coverage strata
  - At-sea observers
    - **At-sea Observer Fixed-gear BSAI**
    - **At-sea Observer Fixed-gear GOA**
    - **At-sea Observer Trawl BSAI**
    - **At-sea Observer Trawl GOA**
  - EM at-sea
    - **EM Fixed-gear BSAI**
    - **EM Fixed-gear GOA**
  - EM at-sea w/ Shoreside Observers
    - **EM Trawl GOA**
  - No Selection (vessels < 40 ft LOA and/or using jig gear)
    - **No Selection**

2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

- **Stratification**: 8 partial coverage strata
  - At-sea observers
    - **At-sea Observer Fixed-gear BSAI**
    - **At-sea Observer Fixed-gear GOA**
    - **At-sea Observer Trawl BSAI**
    - **At-sea Observer Trawl GOA**
  - EM at-sea
    - **EM Fixed-gear BSAI**
    - **EM Fixed-gear GOA**

  Proximity Allocation

  - EM at-sea w/ Shoreside Observers
    - **EM Trawl GOA**

  Costs estimated and allocated first

  - No Selection (vessels < 40 ft LOA and/or using jig gear)
    - **No Selection**

2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

- **Costs: EM Trawl GOA**
  - **Shoreside Observer** costs included:
    - Labor: 832 shoreside observer days
      - 5 observers in A season (86 days)
      - 6 observers in B season (67 days)
    - Lodging and food
  - **EM equipment** costs included:
    - Equipment maintenance costs per each GOA-only vessel ($5,000 each for 39 catcher vessels and 6 tender vessels)
    - EM data storage and review costs
    - Excludes installation/replacement costs, assumed to be covered by the Congressionally Directed Spending funds
  - **Total estimated cost:** $863,000

- $4,748,000 – $863,000 = **$3,885,000** remaining

2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

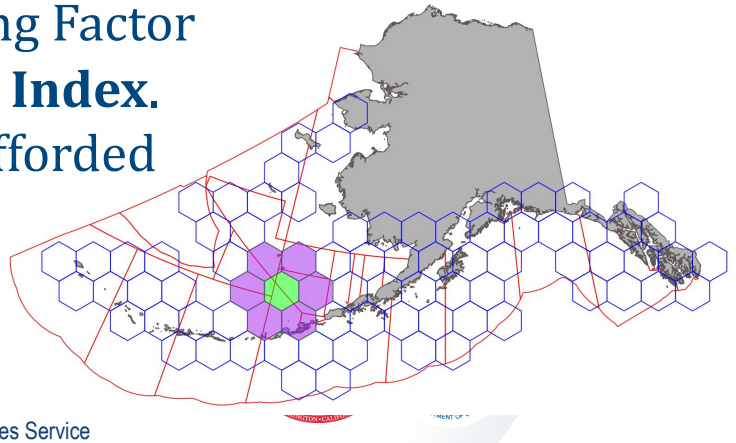
- **Costs: At-sea observers**:
  - **At-sea Observer** costs included:
    - Labor, number and per-day costs of guaranteed and optional days and contract year
    - Travel (based on actual costs in recent years)

- **Costs: EM fixed-gear**:
  - **EM fixed-gear** costs included:
    - Equipment maintenance costs per vessel ($4,855.36 per vessel per year for 178 vessels)
    - EM data storage and review costs
    - Excludes installation/replacement costs, assumed to be covered by the Congressionally Directed Spending funds

2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

Proximity Allocation

- Fishing effort (number of trips in each stratum and when/where they fished) assumed to be the same as August 13th 2024 through August 12th 2025.
- For each stratum, determine the relationship between sample rate and:
  - the proportion of fishing trips that will be monitored or nearby a monitored trip in space or time (**Proximity Index**)
  - measure of uncertainty in stratum-level estimates as a function of sample size (**Variance Scaling Factor**)
- The Proximity Index and Variance Scaling Factor combine into the **Proximity Allocation Index.** Determine the maximum value that is afforded by all strata.



2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

- **Table B-1**. Preliminary budget and funds allocated to the monitoring pools

Partial Coverage Monitoring Budget		
At-sea Observer	$2,889,000	**$3,885,000**
EM Fixed-gear	$996,000	
EM Trawl GOA	$863,000	
Total	**$4,748,000**	

2026 Partial Coverage Sample Design

Proximity Allocation ($3,885,000)

Table B-3. Draft 2026 ADP Allocation indices

	Total trips	Sample rate	Monitored trips	Proximity Index	Variance Scaling Factor	Proximity Allocation Index
Stratum	N_h	r_h	n_h	T_h	F_h	D_h
At-sea Observer Fixed-gear BSAI	346	19.19	66	0.8759	0.1103	0.7793
At-sea Observer Fixed-gear GOA	1,996	7.45	149	0.8459	0.0789	0.7793
At-sea Observer Trawl BSAI	30	45.21	14	0.9753	0.2010	0.7793
At-sea Observer Trawl GOA	289	13.46	39	0.9158	0.1492	0.7793
EM Fixed-gear BSAI	84	38.47	32	0.9041	0.1380	0.7793
EM Fixed-gear GOA	1,029	13.06	134	0.8475	0.0804	0.7793

Dockside Monitoring for Pollock Deliveries

- Objectives
  1. salmon bycatch count
  2. halibut bycatch count
  3. salmon genetic samples
  4. biological samples from non-salmon species

- BSAI Trawl pollock fishery
  - Both EM & non-EM Trawl catcher vessels:
    - Every offload: all objectives
- GOA Trawl pollock fishery
  - EM TRW GOA
    - Every offload: objectives 1- 3
    - 33% offloads for objective 4
  - OB TRW GOA
    - Offloads of trips monitored by at-sea observers: objective 1

For more information - see Table 3 in ADP

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Dockside sampling for CV pelagic pollock fishery in 2026

FMP Area	Strata	Fishery	Offload location	Salmon and halibut PSC accounting	Salmon genetic samples	Biological sampling of groundfish in the plant
GOA	EM Trawl	Pelagic pollock	Shoreside plant or tender	Enumeration of all salmon and halibut PSC on 100% of deliveries.	1 in 10 Chinook and 1 in 30 chum	33% of deliveries
	Partial Coverage At-sea Observer Trips	Pelagic pollock	Shoreside plant	Enumeration of all salmon PSC on deliveries for selected trips. Estimates from halibut found within observer at-sea samples of the total catch on selected trips.	1 in 10 Chinook and 1 in 30 chum	Collected at-sea on random selection of trips
			Tender	Estimates from salmon and halibut found within observer at-sea samples of the total catch on selected trips.	Within observer at-sea samples	Collected at-sea on random selection of trips
BS	EM Trawl	Pelagic pollock	Shoreside plant	Enumeration of all salmon and halibut PSC on 100% of deliveries.	1 in 10 Chinook and 1 in 30 chum	100% of deliveries
	Full coverage at-sea Observer Trips	Pelagic pollock	Shoreside plant	Enumeration of all salmon PSC on 100% of deliveries Estimates from halibut found within observer at-sea samples of the total catch on selected trips.	1 in 10 Chinook and 1 in 30 chum	Collected at sea on 100% of trips

Preliminary Full Coverage Sample Size and Rates

Component	Pool	Stratum	Selection Rate (%)	Number of Trips Expected to be Observed
Full Coverage	**Full Coverage**	Full Coverage	100	1,051
	EM Trawl BSAI	EM Trawl BSAI	100	1,773

Preliminary Partial Coverage Sample Size and Rates

Pool	Stratum	Selection Rate (%)	Number of Trips	Number of Trips Expected to be Observed
At-sea Observer	Fixed-gear BSAI	19.19	346	66
	Fixed-gear GOA	7.45	1,996	149
	Trawl BSAI	45.21	30	14
	Trawl GOA	13.46	289	39
EM Fixed-gear	EM Fixed-gear BSAI	38.47	84	32
	EM Fixed-gear GOA	13.06	1,029	134
EM Trawl GOA	EM Trawl GOA	100	794	794 (at-sea EM)
		100	794	794 (shoreside salmon & halibut PSC accounting)
		33.33	794	265 (shoreside biologicals)
No-selection	No-selection	0	1,484	0

Acknowledgments

- Thank you to the observers, observer providers, captains, crew members, EM providers, video reviewers, and agency staff who make fishery-dependent data collection possible
- Thank you to the members of the FMAC and PCFMAC for their input, feedback, and dedication to sustainable fisheries management
- Thank you to the AFSC, AKRO, and PSMFC staff who have developed the Draft 2026 ADP

Questions?

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