

Draft SSC Report June 2025



SSC Report: C1 Observer Annual Report

C1 Observer Annual Report

- The North Pacific Observer Program is the largest in the nation - 3,863 trips, 421 vessels and 29,665 observer days in 2024!
- The SSC **appreciates** the outstanding and sustained efforts of observers, EM reviewers and program staff.
- The SSC **reiterates** that the Program and its data products are essential for sustainable fisheries management.
- The SSC **emphasizes** that adequate funding of the observer program is critical to the ongoing success of in-season management, stock assessment, and specifications setting processes.

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- Partial Coverage Performance Review (Last reviewed in 2019)
 - The SSC **finds** the Annual Report well organized and clearly written and the SSC commends the analysts for their responsiveness to previous recommendations for partial coverage performance review.
 - The SSC **finds** the program is generally meeting its anticipated goals - monitored vs unmonitored trip metrics improved relative to previous years
- NMFS Recommendations
 - The SSC **supports** all NMFS recommendations for the 2026 Annual Deployment Plan.

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- Performance Review - Specific Recommendations
 - The SSC **recommends** the analysts work with assessment authors to characterize and report EM-related changes in data quantity and quality of the biological data and catch metrics used in stock assessments, bycatch and PSC estimation.
 - The SSC **requests** a simple written synopsis including tables or figures of performance metrics with clear indication of whether program expectations were realized or not.
 - For ADP objectives that were not achieved, the SSC **requests** analysts prioritize by levels of concern.
 - The SSC **recommends** observer effects analyses be expanded to include additional metrics including depths fished, and catch rates of species of concern (e.g., PSC, Tier 6 stocks).

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- Performance Review - Specific Recommendations
 - The SSC **recommends** that the analysts consider how to selectively review EM data to prevent outsized impact on one stratum if a staffing shortfall occurs again (e.g., EM BSAI Fixed Gear stratum in 2024).
- CIE Review (planned for 2026)
 - The SSC **recommendations** for inclusion in CIE ToRs:
 - Technical details of the proximity allocation method (e.g., the 200 km and 1 week criteria).
 - Methods proposed for detection of observer effects from analyses of catch (App. A).
 - Whether the current deployment is sufficient to provide the necessary analytical products and biological data to inform stock assessment and bycatch evaluation.