

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
February 7-10, 2023 - Seattle, WA

C5 BSAI Pot CP Monitoring Adjustments

The Advisory Panel recommends that the Council selects Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for final action. The Alternative, elements, and options read as follows:

Alternative 2: Implement additional monitoring requirements for Pot CPs participating in the BSAI groundfish fisheries.

Element 1: Require a minimum of one Level 2 observer on board at all times.

Element 2: Require vessels comply with pre-cruise notifications when requested by NMFS.

Element 3: Additional voluntary monitoring options:

Option 1: Allow a certified observer sampling station with motion compensated platform (MCP) scale for observer's use.

Option 2: Allow a motion-compensated, NMFS-Certified Scale to measure total catch of Pacific cod, in conjunction with an MCP scale for testing, electronic logbook, and video monitoring.

Option 3: Allow a vessel to carry additional onboard observers.

Motion passed 17/0

Rationale in Favor:

- *The Advisory Panel recognizes that this is an action that the Council has already weighed in on and recommended to move forward on more than one occasion and that it was due to a change in NMFS HQ policy that this returned to the Agenda.*
- *The errors in the catch accounting for this sector associated with deleted observer data have a large impact on a small sector that rely on a small apportionment of the BSAI pacific cod TAC. Moving forward with this motion may afford this sector more accurate catch accounting data as well as reduce the observer data deletion issues.*
- *There are past and ongoing concerns regarding availability of observers to the freezer longline fleet, with notes in public comments about additional observers that fleet has voluntarily taken in order to improve the supply of eligible observers. There is concern that this action may exacerbate the problem.*
- *The AP appreciated concerns with observer coverage but since this action is likely to affect only two to three pot c/p vessels, it is hoped that the negative impacts will be minimal.*
- *The AP acknowledges the need for a more holistic approach to observer training and coverage and there will be a motion brought up at staff tasking to begin to address those concerns.*