

Draft SSC Report June 2023



C2 Observer Annual Report

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- The SSC recognizes the broad scope of the North Pacific Observer program and congratulates the program on largely achieving the training and deployment targets in 2022.
- Coverage rates were lower than expected for the EM HAL, EM POT and HAL strata. This was due to not all video being reviewed at the time of the report (EM HAL and EM POT) and a high rate of trip cancellation (41.5%) and waivers issued by NMFS (HAL).
- The SSC **supports** NMFS recommendations to address video quality issues, and possibly remove vessels from the program if needed.
- The SSC also **supports** further evaluation of the high rate of HAL trip cancellations.

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- The SSC *recommends* working toward a similar cost per day calculation for EM coverage (using prorated costs for existing equipment), as done for partial and full coverage, while noting that data output/quality is not comparable across these different modes of observation.
- The SSC *supports* the FMAC recommendation that a time-series of compliance and enforcement information be provided to better understand trends in the data beyond the most recent year. Further, the SSC *recommends* additional detail to help clearly identify the most important differences in numbers and rates between years, including delineating enforcement statistics (especially sexual harassment) by gender.

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- The SSC *supports* the integrated approach to monitoring and data collection planning and suggests that efforts to make sure the assessment authors have sufficient input to maintain data streams necessary for subsequent analyses.
- The SSC *recommends* that future reports contain a statistical comparison of observed and unobserved trip metrics as these are critical for planning and evaluating annual deployment.
- The SSC *recommends* several additional improvements intended to more closely link deployment goals with reporting metrics and better understand how well these were achieved in the previous year.
- The SSC appreciates the preview of ADP development but did not review specific proposals or details. The SSC would appreciate the opportunity to review future ADP analyses far enough in advance to benefit from any potential recommendations.