

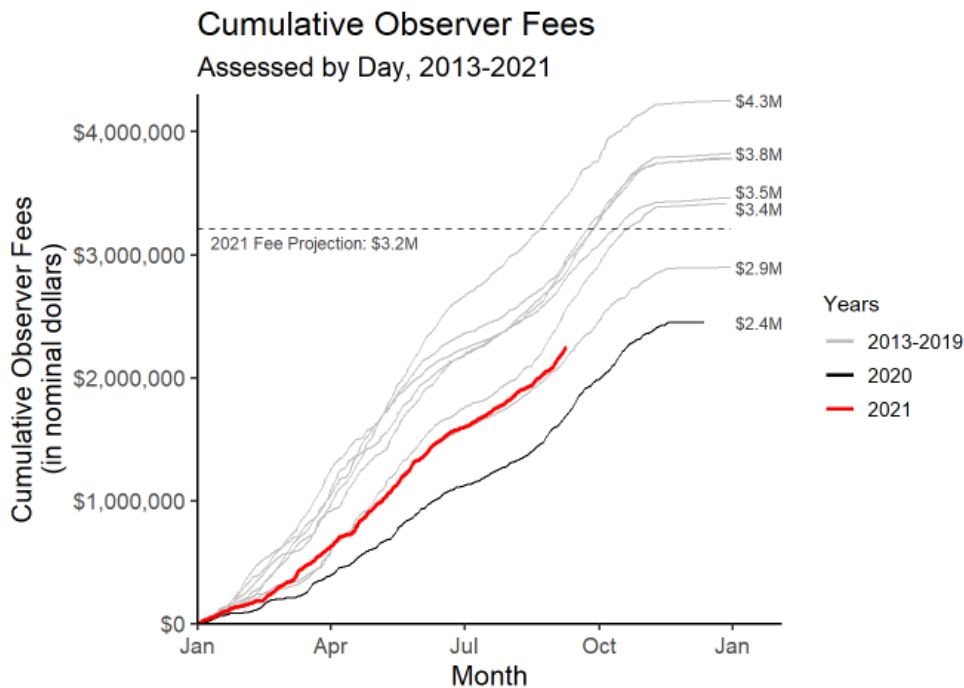
# Update on 2021 Observer Fees and Federal Funding for Observer Coverage

Prepared by NMFS for the PCFMAC

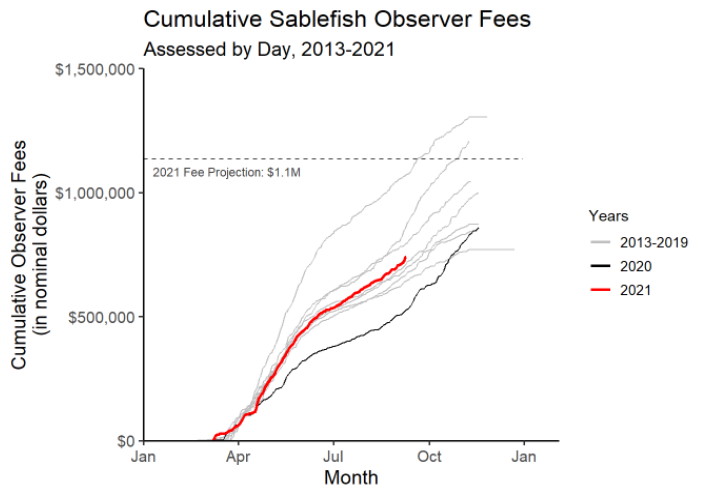
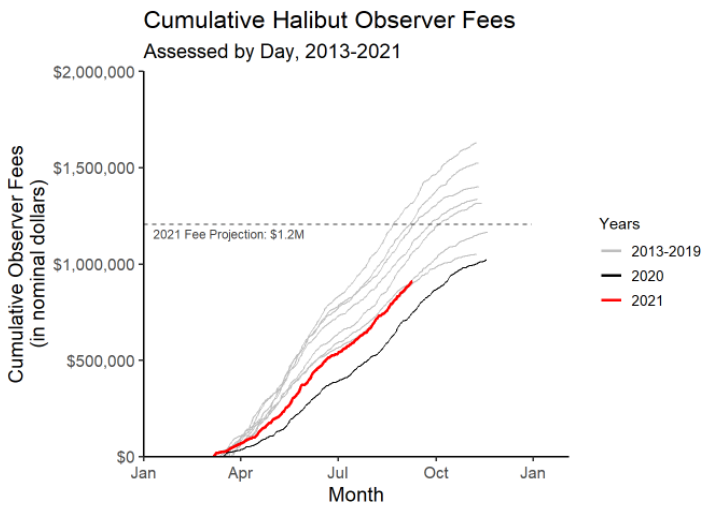
## Observer Fees

The estimated observer fee projection for 2021 is \$3.2M. These fee projections are based on projections of catch for halibut, sablefish, Pacific cod, and Pollock; standard prices published in the Federal Register for 2021; and a 1.65% fee percentage. Catch projections are based on allocations in 2021, Inseason management knowledge of the fisheries, and previous proportions of allocations harvested.

The observer fees assessed to-date for 2021 are \$2,241,720 (as of 9/10/2021). For context, this compares to \$1.68M at the same point in 2020 or \$2.15M at this point in 2019. This figure compares cumulative observer fees in 2021 with those in previous years.



Fees on halibut and sablefish typically comprise a large proportion of the overall fees, so additional detail is provided. The current fee projection for halibut is \$1.2M and \$0.9M in fees have been assessed. The current fee projection for sablefish is \$1.1M and \$0.7M in fees have been assessed.



### Federal Funding for Observer Coverage

Federal Funding for Observer Coverage Supplemental federal funding for monitoring was provided in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to the Alaska Fisheries Science Center through appropriations. These funds are incorporated into the “Observers and Training” appropriation.

In FY21, appropriators added \$500K to the “Observers and Training” budget for North Pacific Observer Coverage. These funds, in addition to the \$1M supplemental funds added in FY20, were used toward the purchase of observer sea days and travel costs for the 2022 fishing year.

The federal fiscal year ends on September 30 and the FMA Division will add any additional federal funds which could be used to support observer sea days to the contract and the final amount placed on to the contract will be reported in the 2021 Annual Report.