



## **C4 Monitoring issues –Review 2025 Annual Deployment Plan, Committee Reports**

October 2024 Council Meeting

### **Action Memo**

- Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
- Other Presenters: Jennifer Ferdinand (AFSC), Geoff Mayhew (AFSC), Dr. Jason Jannot (AFSC)
- Action Required:
1. Review the Draft 2025 ADP
  2. Receive the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) and FMAC Reports
  3. Provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2025 ADP, and other recommendations as necessary.

### **BACKGROUND**

(a) Draft 2025 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

The Council is scheduled to review the Draft 2025 ADP for the partial coverage category of the North Pacific Observer Program and provide recommendations to NMFS for the Final 2025 ADP. The Final ADP is posted every year in December. The ADP explains how NMFS intends to assign fishery observers and electronic monitoring (EM) to groundfish and halibut vessels fishing in the partial coverage category.

Recall that NMFS outlined a plan in April 2021 at the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) to complete a comprehensive analysis of the Council's cost efficiency priorities in the partial coverage observer category. This analysis was conducted in 2022 and 2023, reviewed in 2023, and was incorporated into the 2024 ADP. That plan was implemented on the water for the 2024 fishing year. The Draft 2025 ADP is linked on the eAgenda and will be presented by the NMFS at this meeting.

(b) Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) Report:

The Council's PCFMAC held a hybrid meeting on September 16th, 2024, with remote participation and an in-person option at the AFSC and Council staff offices. The purpose of this meeting was for the PCFMAC to receive the Draft 2025 ADP and review a discussion paper on trip cancellations (described below). NMFS provided additional updates, and the committee provided feedback to NMFS and recommendations to the Council. The committee eAgenda and report are linked on the Council's eAgenda.

In May 2024, the FMAC supported the NMFS recommendation to work with the PCFMAC to develop an ODDS trip cancellation policy for the 2025 ADP that will not significantly impede industry, affords the observer provider adequate time to deploy an observer, and reduces impacts to coverage rates and non-random monitoring. The PCFMAC reviewed this paper at its recent meeting and provided feedback and recommendations. The Council is not scheduled to have a separate presentation nor an in-depth review of the discussion paper, however it is linked on the Council eAgenda for reference. Input on this topic is expected to inform the Final 2025 ADP.

(c) Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (FMAC) report

The FMAC held a virtual meeting on September 25, 2024. The purpose of this meeting was for the committee to review the Observer Availability Discussion Paper, and to prioritize/receive any updates on NFWF EM proposals or other monitoring project updates. The portion of the FMAC report on the discussion paper will be provided under the agenda item for the discussion paper (D1). The committee eAgenda and report are linked on the Council's eAgenda.