

Council motion

Staff Tasking E-1 - Observer availability

June 11, 2023

The Council requests a discussion paper for review by FMAC and the Council on observer availability and training opportunities on vessels to include:

- The number of observers of each training endorsement level needed across fishing seasons compared with the existing number of unique qualified observers and newly qualified observers (including consideration of pending management programs such as pelagic trawl electronic monitoring; moving all Bering Sea Pacific cod trawl vessels into 100% coverage under the new catch share program; and changes to monitoring requirements in the Bering Sea pot cod CP sector).
- A description of observer provider challenges in providing observer coverage in both partial and full coverage fisheries.
- A summary of any solutions NMFS or observer providers are considering to improve observer availability.