

**C-4 Observer 2025 Annual Deployment Plan**  
**Council Motion**  
**October 5, 2024**

The Council supports the draft 2025 Observer Annual Deployment Plan (ADP) for partial coverage fisheries with the changes outlined below. Observer coverage rates resulting from the selected design and the final budget are expected in the final ADP in December 2024. Regulations requiring 100% and 200% observer coverage requirements are unchanged.

- Inclusion of shoreside observers and electronic monitoring (EM) service/maintenance support for tenders such that the Western Gulf pollock fleet can fully participate in the pelagic trawl EM program in 2025.
- Change to the fishing trip cancellation policy in ODDS such that a person must edit (and not cancel) a trip selected for observer coverage to reduce temporal bias. NMFS should provide significant outreach to the fleet prior to 2025 to convey these changes.
- The Council supports additional fixed gear EM vessels in the EM pool in 2025 (up to 200 total vessels) provided they opt-in prior to November 1, 2024, funding is available, and they meet the criteria in the ADP.
- Additional outreach to fleets such that they understand all associated agency deadlines and the opportunity to opt-out of the fixed gear EM pool if not fishing such that the equipment can be used elsewhere.

The Council also reiterates its support for agency efforts to revise the zero selection pool (currently <40' fixed gear catcher vessels and jig gear) for cost efficiency purposes to potentially include fixed gear catcher vessels with 1-2 annual trips and/or low annual quota/volume.

The Council supports the agency pursuing steps to remove EM systems from vessels that have not fished for multiple years (e.g., 3, 4, or 5 years).

NFWF Proposals

The Council will provide written support for the following new and ongoing proposals submitted for funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF):

- Alaska Groundfish Data Bank's Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program EM Project
- Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association and Archipelago's proposal to implement AI in fixed gear EM review
- RealTime Data/Deckhand Electronic Logbook development

The Council also supports the following related projects (not submitted for new funding at this time):

- North Pacific Fishermen's Association & Under Sixty Cod Harvester's proposal with Saltwater, Inc to evaluate pot cod EM catch handling protocols
- Freezer Longline Coalition's pilot project with FlyWire to reduce work burden on observers