

**Council motion**  
**Observer Program Annual Report**  
**June 11, 2022**

Observer Program 2021 Annual Report

The Council appreciates the 2021 Annual Report on the observer program and recommends NMFS update the total 2021 fixed gear electronic monitoring (EM) seadays reviewed by PSMFC and costs for the final report.

2023 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

The Council supports maintaining the stratification and allocation strategy from the 2022 ADP in 2023. The Council also supports 1) additional fixed gear EM vessels (30% coverage) in the EM pool in 2023 (up to 200 total vessels) provided they opt-in prior to November 1, 2022, additional funding for EM equipment is secured, and they meet the criteria in the ADP; and 2) continuation of the pelagic trawl EM project with 100% at-sea monitoring in addition to shoreside observer coverage.

Cost Efficiencies Analysis

The Council continues to strongly support NMFS' work on the comprehensive partial coverage cost efficiencies analysis to support cost savings and higher coverage rates under a schedule which allows:

- Implementation in the 2024 ADP
- Results to inform the next federal observer contract
- The PCFMAC to convene to review the draft sampling elements (likely early fall)
- The PCFMAC to convene prior to the analytical team incorporating elements into a sampling design (likely early 2023)

The Council does not support evaluation of port-based deployment that requires vessels to travel to select ports to pick up an observer in the cost efficiencies analysis.