

C1 Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (FMAC) Report



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Topics Covered at the May 2024 Meeting

- 2023 Observer Annual Report, including enforcement and compliance
- NMFS Budget Update
- Other NMFS Updates:
 - Proposed rule on confidentiality requirements
 - Supreme Court cases
 - Changes to Data Collections
 - Implementation Updates on Trawl EM and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC)
- Updates from committee members (NFWF Projects, discussion of observer representatives)



FMAC Recommendations: 2023 Annual Report

Deployment Design:

- Continue proximity allocation method and strata used in 2024 for the 2025 ADP.
- The committee requests NMFS further describe how the proximity allocation method used in 2024 addresses prior FMAC and Council recommendations to explore a revised hurdle in the 2025 ADP.

ODDS:

- FMAC supports the NMFS recommendation to work with the PCFMAC to develop an ODDS trip cancellation policy for the 2025 ADP

EM Video Review:

- The FMAC supports the NMFS' recommendations on EM video review.
- The committee supported the efforts of PSMFC to build capacity by increasing the number of reviewers and reiterated the PCFMAC idea to subcontract video reviewers during surge times.



FMAC Recommendations: 2023 Annual Report

Fixed gear EM:

- **The committee supported the NMFS recommendations on fixed gear EM and reiterated that vessels can opt out of EM on an annual basis.**

EM trawl implementation:

- **The committee supported NMFS' recommendations on actions needed to incorporate pelagic trawl EM into ODDS under the regulated program starting in 2025.**

EM development:

- **The committee supported NMFS' recommendations to continue collaboration with industry and the monitoring committees on EM development and cost efficiency projects.**



FMAC Recommendations: NMFS Budget Update

- **The FMAC recommended the Council write a letter to request that the agency receive sequestered funds from 2022 and 2023, and to address the possibility of preventing sequestration of funds in the future.**
- **The FMAC recommended NMFS consider expanding the rules on remote observer debriefing as an option.**
- **The committee encourages further communication from NMFS, both with the committee and observers, on the reasons and criteria for when remote debriefing can occur.**
 - The committee is interested in revisiting this topic at a future meeting.



Other NMFS Updates

- Proposed rule on confidentiality requirements
- Supreme Court cases
- Changes to Data Collections
- Implementation Updates on Trawl EM and Pacific Cod Trawl Cooperative (PCTC)



Updates from Committee Members

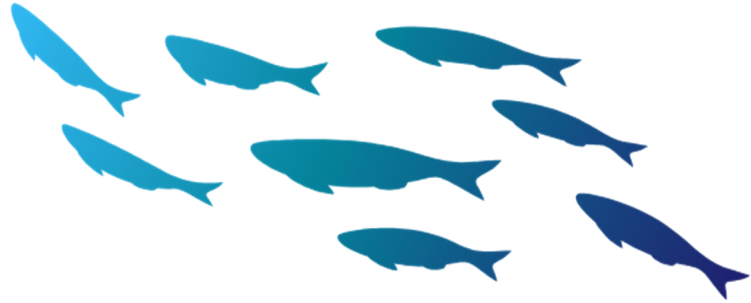
- Updates on NFWF Funded Projects, other industry-led projects
 - **The FMAC expressed support to the agency for trying to find funding for the Fishing Vessel Owners' Association (FVOA) proposal to test changes to the observer service delivery model outside of the federal contract, and the FMAC appreciates the work to date on this proposal.**
- Proposal from committee's observer representative on additional observer capacity on committees



Committee Scheduling and Future Agenda Topics

- Next meeting(s): September 2024
- FMAC:
 - Observer availability discussion paper
 - EM projects (NFWF proposals)
- PCFMAC:
 - Draft 2025 ADP, make recommendations on final design for implementation





Questions?

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