

Council Motion for Agenda Item C-8
Small Catcher/Processors – Observer Coverage

The Council recommends Alternative 2 with the following elements and options as its preferred alternative.

Alternative 2. Revise the allowances for NMFS to place small catcher/processors into partial coverage. The criterion for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage is the vessel's production in the basis year as determined under Element 2.

Under this alternative, when a catcher/processor is required to have $\geq 100\%$ observer coverage because of the vessel's participation in a catch share program, the vessel would be ineligible for partial observer coverage under this action.

Element 1: Production threshold for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage.

Option 2B: average weekly production of 79,000 lbs (35.8 mt)

Element 2. The basis year for placing a catcher/processor in partial coverage is the vessel's production in a standard basis year or alternate basis year. The standard basis year is the fishing year minus two years. If the vessel has no production in the standard basis year, the alternate basis year will be the most recent year that the vessel has any production before the standard basis year going back to 2009.

Element 3: If a catcher/processor has no production in the basis year as determined under Element 2

Option 2. Place the catcher/processor in partial coverage.

Element 4. For a catcher/processor to be in partial coverage,

Option 1. Vessel owner must choose partial coverage for the upcoming fishing year by an annual deadline (otherwise in full coverage).

Element 5. Trawl catcher/processors are ineligible for partial observer coverage (i.e., always in full observer coverage).