

C-4 Observer Annual Deployment Plan

Final Council motion October 7, 2016

The Council supports the following recommendations for the draft 2017 Annual Deployment Plan:

- Use the trip-selection method to assign observers to vessels in partial coverage in 2017.
- Deploy observers in the trip selection pools defined by gear and tender, with optimal allocation based on discarded catch. Support the preliminary deployment rates resulting from this stratification:
 - Hook-and-line (11%)
 - Tender hook-and-line (27%)
 - Pot (3%)
 - Tender Pot (6%)
 - Trawl (18%)
 - Tender Trawl (14%)
- The no selection pool would include catcher vessels 1) less than 40 ft and vessels fishing with jig gear, and 2) vessels that have opted-in to the EM selection pool and will participate in the 2017 EM pre-implementation plan.
- No temporary exemptions from observer coverage are allowed due to insufficient life raft capacity, given the option for vessels to be in the electronic monitoring pool in 2017.
- Continue the policy (programming in ODDS) that prevents a 40 – 57.5' fixed gear vessel from being selected for a third consecutive observer trip.
- Maintain the ability for vessels to log up to three trips in advance in ODDS.
- Continue to encourage ODDS trip number to be entered on groundfish landing reports to facilitate data analysis and provide a better link between ODDS and eLandings.
- Maintain the current Chinook salmon sampling protocols to identify stock of origin.

Continue to conduct outreach in fall and winter 2016/2017 as appropriate, focusing on the new tender strata. In addition, the Council requests that more information about logging trips in the tender strata be included in the final 2017 ADP.

For the draft 2018 ADP, the Council requests that Observer Program staff include prioritization of PSC limited fisheries in the weighting schemes for optimal allocation of coverage.

The Council recommends that NMFS continue development of performance metrics to evaluate both the deployment performance and the reliability of the catch and bycatch estimates, including calculating the variances associated with point estimates, and as part of the annual report and ADP process.

Finally, the Council recommends that NMFS begin to consider approaches to address low coverage rates that include the following: (1) finding efficiencies within the existing sampling design, and (2) evaluating the present fee structure.