



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

**AFSC Processed Report 2017-07**

# **North Pacific Observer Program 2016 Annual Report**

**May 2017**



# Annual Report Overview

- This is the fourth Annual Report since restructuring in 2013. The objective is to take a retrospective look at the previous year and an outlook for the coming year.
- First time this was published as an AFSC Processed Report at: <https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/ProcRpt/PR2017-07.pdf>
- The report includes information on Fees and Budget, Deployment Performance Review, Descriptive Information, Compliance and Enforcement, Outreach, and Recommendations for future ADP.
- Results from this report will be used to develop the 2018 Annual Deployment Plan presented to the Council in October.

# Overview

- In 2016, **469** individual observers were trained, briefed, and equipped for deployment to vessels and processing facilities operating in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries.
- Of the 469 observers, **134** were new observers. The FMA Division conducted 8 three-week training classes in 2016 for a total of 5.5 months of training new observers.
- Observers collected data on board 500 fixed gear and trawl vessels and at 7 processing facilities for a total of **43,706** observer days.
- Of the 43,706 days, **4,677** days were in partial coverage and AIS Inc. was able to successfully deploy **83** observers from **33** ports for at sea with a minimal number of trips released from coverage.

# Observer Coverage

Program	Observers	Sea Days
Alaska	469	43,706
Northeast	201	11,634
Northwest	89	5,961
Southeast	76	5,995
Pacific Islands	60	8,523
<b>Total</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>73,843</b>

# Fees and Budget Partial Coverage

- The budget for observer deployment in 2016 in the partial coverage category was **\$5,535,781**. The budget was made up of \$5,144,981 in fees (from 2015 landings and carryover) and \$390,800 in NMFS funds.
- The breakdown in contribution to the 2016 observer fee liability by species was: 37% halibut, 22% sablefish, 20% Pacific cod, 19% pollock, and 2% all other groundfish species.
- Fee billing statements for all landings that occurred in 2016 were mailed to 108 processors in January 2017, for a total of \$3,769,758. These funds will be used to fund the observer contract from June 2017 through June 2018.



# Cost for Observer Coverage

- In 2016, NMFS spent \$5,535,781 to procure 5,277 observer days for an average cost per observer day of **\$1,049** per day.
- This rate is on par with partial coverage government contracted observer costs in other regions. There are several factors that affect costs in partial coverage.

Program	Sea Day Cost	
	Federal Contract	Direct Industry Funding
Alaska	\$1,049	\$383
Northeast	\$1,227	\$1,241
Southeast	\$1,500-1,600	NA
West Coast	*	\$500
Pacific	\$530-650	NA

# Cost for Electronic Monitoring

- In 2016, a total of \$453,044 was spent for 357 monitored days for an average cost of **\$1,381** per day, including video review.
- Based on budget information from the EM Service Provider AMR Inc., using one-time, recurrent, and amortized cost categories, the cost of an ongoing program similar to the 2016 EM Pre-Implementation program would be approximately \$191,049 per year.
- Based on the number of sea days in 2016 (357) this would result in an average sea day rate of \$535, and **\$677** per day with video review included.

# Electronic Monitoring Participants

Year	Number of Vessels Participating in EM	Milestones/Progress
2013	0	North Pacific Observer Program restructured
2014	2	Council EM Workgroup established
2015	10	EM Pre-Implementation Plan approved by Council
2016	60	First year of EM pre-implementation
2017	120	Second year of EM pre-implementation
2018	165	First year of implemented EM program



# Renewing the Partial Coverage Contract

- The current observer services contract expires June 16, 2019. NMFS has engaged in discussions with the Acquisition and Grants Office (AGO) to begin planning for renewal of the contract.
  - Summer 2017: AGO will work with the Observer Program to define the contract requirement and prepare a Draft Statement of Work. The draft will be published on FedBizOpps.gov
  - Fall 2017: AGO will host “Industry Week”
  - Spring 2018: AGO will consider public input and finalize the Statement of Work
  - Summer 2018: Request for Proposals officially published
  - October 2018: Proposals due
  - March 2019: Contract will be awarded
  - Mid-June 2019: Contract will begin

# Recommendations for 2018 ADP

	Recommendation	Status
<b>Dockside Monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain current dockside monitoring sampling for pollock deliveries.</li></ul>	Continue 2016 protocols in 2017
	<p>Consider longer term solutions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing an alternative program for obtaining genetic samples</li><li>• 100% observer coverage on trawl vessels delivering to tenders</li><li>• Plant monitoring of offloads, including tender offloads, combined with EM for compliance monitoring purposes and full (or maximized) retention of all catch</li></ul>	New Recommendation

# Recommendations for 2018 ADP

Recommendation		Status
Trip-Selection	• Continue with Trip Selection.	Continue 2016 protocols in 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Within budget constraints, recommend that sampling rates be high enough in each stratum to reasonably expect three observed trips in each NMFS Area.</li><li>• 2018 ADP to include evaluation of: 1) 15% coverage rates across all strata and 2) equal coverage rates that can be afforded. These results could be used as benchmarks to evaluate optimization allocations.</li></ul>	New Recommendation

# Recommendations for 2018 ADP

	Recommendation	Status
ODDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to allow vessels to log three trips in ODDS.</li><li>Continue to automatically release vessels 40-57.5 feet in length from observer coverage if the two previous trips were observed trips</li></ul>	Continue 2016 protocols in 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the longer term, NMFS recommends making changes to ODDS to allow changing the dates for observed trips, rather than cancelling and inheriting observed trips, while maintaining the order of the trips.</li></ul>	New Recommendation



# Recommendations for 2018 ADP

	Recommendation	Status
EM Selection Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NMFS is planning to integrate EM into the Observer Program in 2018 and will incorporate the EM selection pool into the 2018 ADP, rather than using a EM Pre-Implementation Plan process. As such, NMFS recommends that the selection rate for the EM selection pool will be determined through the ADP process.</li><li>If there are insufficient funds to support the expanded size of the EM pool (165 vessels), NMFS recommends prioritizing deployment on longline vessels over expanding the number of pot vessels in the EM pool, until EM data from pot vessels can be used in catch estimation.</li></ul>	New Recommendation



# Recommendations for 2018 ADP

Recommendation		Status
No Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continue to place vessels less than 40 ft in the no selection pool for observer coverage.</li></ul>	Continue 2017 protocols in 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NMFS also supports the Council's recommendation to develop a discussion paper about incorporating vessels less than 40 ft LOA in the EM selection pool.</li></ul>	New Recommendation



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<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/default.htm>



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