

Council Motion
June 7, 2018

Agenda Item C-1: Observer Program Annual Report & OAC Report

1. The Council supports the NMFS recommendations for the draft 2019 Annual Deployment Plan that are listed in section 7.1 (pg. 102) of the 2017 Annual Report.
2. Based on input from the OAC and AP, the Council also recommends the following:
 - In the draft 2019 ADP, include an evaluation of a gear-specific hurdle that reduces the impact of NMFS regulatory areas with low fishing effort in determining the observer coverage rates for the hurdle.
 - For the EM selection pool in 2019, the Council recommends:
 - If funds are available, expand the EM selection pool up to a maximum of 165 vessels.
 - Continue to implement a 30% trip-selection rate, using the pre-trip selection method.
 - In the 2018 Annual Report (to be presented in June, 2019), the Council recommends that NMFS:
 - Include an evaluation of observer effects at finer resolution than gear-level strata, so that observer effects in pelagic and non-pelagic trawl can be investigated.
 - Continue to provide details on EM in Chapter 4 and also include information in the report about the number of EM trips selected, the number monitored, and the number reviewed, for clarification.
 - Add an appendix that describes details of cost calculations for EM and observer days over time.
 - The Council also recommends that NMFS communicate with the OAC on the results from the proposed ODDS agency subgroup.
3. The Council supports the continued participation of the OAC Subgroup in the development of the fee analysis, including the opportunity for OAC review of the analysis before Initial Review at the Council.
4. The Council appreciates the preliminary survey report from OLE and acknowledges the evidence of disparate work environment for female and male observers. The Council encourages efforts to further understand these work conditions and develop solutions.