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2026

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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C1 Monitoring Issues– Review 2027 Annual Deployment Plan, CIE Review, PCFMAC Report

October 2026

Action Memo

- Council Staff: Sara Cleaver
- Other Presenters: Dr. Sean Lucey (AFSC), Christian Gredzens (AFSC), Geoff Mayhew (AFSC) Dr. Jason Jannot (AFSC)
- Action Required:
1. Review the draft 2027 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP), including fixed-gear vessel EM minimum effort analysis and evaluation of low-effort fixed-gear vessels for no-selection eligibility.
 2. Receive report on the review of the ADP by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE).
 3. Receive the Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) Report
 4. Provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2027 ADP, and other recommendations as necessary.

BACKGROUND

(a) Draft 2027 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

The Council is scheduled to review the draft 2027 ADP for the partial coverage category of the North Pacific Observer Program and provide recommendations to NMFS for the final 2027 ADP. The final ADP is posted every year in December. The ADP explains how NMFS intends to assign fishery observers and electronic monitoring (EM) to groundfish and halibut vessels fishing in the partial coverage category.

A comprehensive analysis of the Council's cost efficiency priorities in the partial coverage observer category was reviewed in 2023 and incorporated into the 2024 ADP. That ADP was implemented on the water for the 2024 fishing year, and minimal changes were made for the 2025 and 2026 ADPs. The draft 2027 ADP is linked on the Council's eAgenda and will be presented by AFSC staff at this meeting.

(b) Report on the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) Review of the ADP

As part of the presentation from AFSC, the Council will receive an update on the results of the June CIE review of the methods used in the draft ADP. This in-depth scientific review found that the proximity allocation method and annual reporting metrics represent the best scientific information available and did not recommend major changes to the methods currently used.

(c) Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring and Advisory Committee (PCFMAC) Report:

The Council's PCFMAC held a hybrid meeting on September 15th, 2026, with in-person components at the Council staff office in Anchorage and the AFSC in Seattle. The purpose of this meeting was for the PCFMAC to review the draft ADP, receive updates from the CIE Review, and other monitoring-related updates from NMFS and industry members. The committee provided feedback to NMFS and recommendations to the Council. The committee eAgenda and report are linked on the Council's eAgenda.