

C-2 Observer 2026 Annual Deployment Plan
Council Motion
October 3, 2025

2026 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

The Council supports the draft 2026 ADP for partial coverage fisheries with the additions outlined below. Observer coverage rates resulting from the selected design and the final budget are expected in the final ADP in December 2025. Regulations requiring 100% and 200% observer coverage requirements are unchanged.

- Confirmation that vessels operating in partial coverage can deliver to and have their harvest observed by a full coverage observer at an AFA shoreplant. No partial coverage shoreside observers need to be stationed at full coverage AFA plants.
- Continued outreach to the fleets on 1) the deadlines to opt in or opt out of the EM pool for 2026, and 2) any changes to, or potential disruptions with, the ODDS system to log trips for coverage.
- Consistent with the Trawl EM Council action, the cost of housing and feeding observers was not to be directly paid for by processors and should be included in the ADP. There may be specific cases where processors can continue to house and feed observers, and these can be excluded.

The Council reiterates its support for agency efforts to revise the zero selection pool (currently <40' fixed gear catcher vessels and jig gear) for cost efficiency purposes to evaluate including fixed gear catcher vessels with 1-2 annual trips and/or low annual quota/volume.

NFWF Proposals

The Council supports the following proposals submitted for funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF):

- Freezer Longline Coalition project proposal with FlyWire to test using EM on longline catcher processors for catch composition and consider real-time data reporting options for EM monitored vessels
- Real Time Data proposal to expand use of electronic logbooks in the halibut and sablefish fleets through evolved integration with eLandings, testing broader platform support, and enhanced features for fishermen