

## Observer Program Council motion

June 12, 2010

The Council directs staff to include new options (underlined below), address the SSC and Observer Advisory Committee recommendations to the extent practicable, and release the observer analysis (BSAI Am. 86/GOA Am. 76) for public review.

### Alternatives:

Alternative 1. Status quo; continue the current service delivery model.

Alternative 2. GOA-based restructuring alternative. Restructure the program in the GOA, including shoreside processors; and include all halibut and <60' vessels participating in groundfish fisheries in the GOA and BSAI. Vessels in the restructured program would pay an ex-vessel value based fee. Retain current service delivery model for vessels  $\geq 60'$  and shoreside processors in the BSAI.

Alternative 3. Coverage-based restructuring alternative. Restructure the program for all fisheries and shoreside processors with coverage of less than 100 percent. Vessels in the restructured program would pay an ex-vessel value based fee. Leave vessels and processors with at least 100 percent coverage under the current service delivery model.

Alternative 4. Comprehensive restructuring alternative with hybrid fee system. Restructure program for all groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska. Vessels and shoreside processors with 100 percent or greater coverage would pay a daily observer fee; vessels and shoreside processors with less than 100 percent coverage would pay an ex-vessel value based fee.

Alternative 5. Comprehensive restructuring alternative that would assess the same ex-vessel value based fee on all vessels and shoreside processors in the groundfish and halibut fisheries in the GOA and BSAI.

Both options are applicable under Alternatives 2 – 5:

Option 1: For halibut fishery landings and landings by vessels less than [40', 50', or 60' LOA] participating in groundfish fisheries (fisheries and sectors not currently subject to the observer program), vessels and shoreside processors would pay one-half the ex-vessel value based fee established under the alternative.

Option 2: The agency shall release a draft observer program sampling design and deployment plan annually by September 1, available for review and comment by the Groundfish Plan Team at their September meeting. The SSC and Council shall review and approve the plan annually.

The Council motion also directed staff to revise the analysis and/or explore the following issues and provide further information in the analysis:

- Use nominal prices to determine the ex-vessel value based fee. Do not adjust nominal prices by the Producer Price Index.
- Use regional halibut and sablefish prices, as published by the NMFS RAM Division, when establishing standardized prices for halibut and sablefish.

The Council also approved a motion to task the Observer Advisory Committee, Council staff, and NMFS staff to develop electronic monitoring as an alternative tool for fulfilling observer coverage requirements with the intent that it be in place at the same time as the restructured observer program.

The Council also approved a motion to write a letter to NOAA HQ to request Federal funds for start-up funding to implement a restructured observer program in the North Pacific, as well as an annual appropriation of up to 50% of the cost of placing observers in any catch-share program fisheries.