

C-1 Observer Program motion
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
October 3, 2013

The Council supports the overall provisions for observer coverage described in the 2014 Draft Annual Deployment Plan and the specific Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) recommendations on pages 3-5 of the September OAC report. The Council also recommends continuing the policies that allow vessels to make an annual selection for 100% coverage in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery, not displacing IFQ crew members, and conditional release of vessels to address space and safety concerns.

The Council requests NMFS consider the suggestions provided on page 6 of the OAC report regarding how to prioritize deployment of the 14 cameras available in the NMFS electronic monitoring pilot project in 2014.

The Council requests NMFS explore whether allowing clean up IFQ trips in multiple regulatory areas is best addressed through a regulatory amendment to the observer program or the IFQ program.

The Council requests that the tables showing preliminary catch data and data on observer coverage from the B-2 supplemental be updated with the entire 2013 data set and included in the June 2014 program performance review. In addition, these tables should show the percentage of catch observed using these same categories. The methods used to calculate total mortalities of halibut in metric tons should also be reviewed and refined in these tables.

The Council requests that the agency incorporate the SSC comments and recommendations on the 2014 Annual Deployment Plan and the annual performance review scheduled for June 2014.