Observer Program Restructuring Implementation Plan Outline
Draft 7/01/2009

1. Introduction
   • Restructuring background and December 2008 Council motion
   • Implementation Plan objective: to describe how NMFS would fund and deploy observers under a restructured observer program.

2. Implementation Plan Framework
   • Restructuring alternatives approved by Council for analysis
   • Assumptions used in implementation plan

3. Funding Considerations
   • How to fund the first year of implementation (collect start-up fees, federal funding)
   • Potential for additional federal funds for observer program

4. Implementing a Restructured Observer Program
   • Collect fees from industry
     o Legal questions associated with fees
     o Ex-vessel value-based fee
       • Establishing standard prices
       • Setting initial fee percentage
       • Remittal process
     o Daily fee
       • Establishing daily fee
       • Remittal process
   • Contract with observer providers
     o Contract advantages/disadvantages
     o Additional tasks that lend themselves to contracting
     o Elements of the federal contracting process
     o Example time frame for putting a contract in place
     o Description of NMFS preferred contract method
   • Sample design and observer deployment
     o Overall monitoring objectives
     o Observer coverage tiers
     o Observer deployment logistics
   • Modify regulations
     o New rulemaking required for each task, and frequency
     o Existing regulations that would become obsolete
     o Discussion of need to have anything published annually in proposed rule, if any
   • Issues that would impact observer deployment under two service delivery models

5. Qualitative discussion of relative costs associated with partial and comprehensive restructuring alternatives
   • NMFS tasks
   • NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office tasks

6. Projected timeline for full implementation of a restructured observer program