

## **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
  - Legal questions associated with fees
  - Ex-vessel value-based fee
    - Establishing standard prices
    - Setting initial fee percentage
    - Remittal process
  - Daily fee
    - Establishing daily fee
    - Remittal process
- Contract with observer providers
  - Contract advantages/disadvantages
  - Additional tasks that lend themselves to contracting
  - Elements of the federal contracting process
  - Example time frame for putting a contract in place
  - Description of NMFS preferred contract method
- Sample design and observer deployment
  - Overall monitoring objectives
  - Observer coverage tiers
  - Observer deployment logistics
- Modify regulations
  - New rulemaking required for each task, and frequency
  - Existing regulations that would become obsolete
  - 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