

Council motions on Observer Program  
12/11/12

Motion

The Council reiterates its support for the restructured Observer Program, and the 2013 Annual Deployment Plan, including the deployment of observers on vessels in the trip selection and vessel selection pools. The Council also reiterates its support for the 2013 EM pilot project for vessels in the vessel selected pool, and the development of a strategic plan for EM.

The Council also requests the agency to bring back to us under B Reports in April an outline or framework for the different analyses or reviews that the Council requested in October.

Specifically these are:

1. A review of the trip selected and vessel selected pools in consideration of whether vessels should have an option to choose either one, or whether the deployment plan should place every vessel in the partial coverage category in the trip selection pool.
2. An evaluation of the difference between observer coverage in the vessel and trip selection pools (a review of the sampling method).
3. An evaluation of ways to insert cost effective measures into the deployment plan.
4. An evaluation of detailed programmatic costs.
5. Identification of alternative approaches to achieving the Council's stated EM objectives.

Motion

The Council staff develop a discussion paper that would explore cost savings and efficiencies that may be obtained by use of a third party entity, for example the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, to solicit and contract with observer providers and/or EM providers, and to interface with the industry and the agency in the management of the Council's Observer Program.