



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:**Cons 14-004

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**Agenda Date**2/3/2014

**Agenda Number:**C-13

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**Eric Olson, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
Observer Program Regulatory Amendments Discussion Paper

**ESTIMATED TIME:**  
4 hours (all Observer Issues)

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Review discussion paper on proposed regulatory amendments to the Observer Program, and prioritize analytical tasks relative to the Observer Program

**BACKGROUND:**  
In June 2013, the Council tasked staff to develop a discussion paper outlining the main issues associated with three proposed regulatory amendments to the restructured Observer Program. In October 2013, four other proposals were identified whose implementation would also require a regulatory amendment to the Observer Program. Two of them are included in this paper; the others have been advanced on a separate track (i.e., an analysis to improve observer coverage on catcher vessels delivering to tenders, initiated in December 2013, and a discussion paper on revisions to regulations governing fishing for Pacific cod in the CDQ fisheries, which will be reviewed at this meeting).

At this meeting, the Council will review the discussion paper on these five proposals, in the context of other analytical tasks relative to the Observer Program. The Council is asked to affirm or provide feedback on NMFS' recommendations for priorities for statistical and policy analysis about the Observer Program between now and June 2014, as well as recommended priorities for analyzing the proposed regulatory amendments.

The proposals evaluated in the paper are:

- (1) Evaluate moving trawl catcher vessel (CV) participating in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery from partial coverage to full coverage category.
- (2) For vessels that previously operated as CVs and catcher processors (CPs) within a single year, consider options to allow an annual election, to revise the control date for making the election, and to specify production tonnage criteria.
- (3) Change the method of observer fee collection for the IFQ fleet to use standardized current year ex-vessel prices, rather than standard prices lagged one year.
- (4) Develop alternatives to exempt from observer coverage vessels used to harvest small amounts of IFQ under several scenarios.
- (5) Develop alternatives related to observer coverage or other options to monitor vessels used to fish for IFQ in multiple regulatory areas on the same trip.