

**E1 Expansion of Definition of where an Observer can be Discharged
Council Motion - February 8, 2016**

Motion to initiate an amendment to the Observer Program that adopts the following Purpose and Need statement with the following Alternative.

Purpose and Need

Resident fishermen in several smaller Alaska communities that are selected to carry an observer often have the observer transported to the community via scheduled air service to board the vessel for the selected "trip". Current regulations require that the observer, at the conclusion of the trip, be discharged in a community that has a resident processor possessing a Federal Processing Permit (FPP). Many of these communities do not have a resident processor with a FPP. Consequently, fishermen from communities without a resident FPP experience hardship and inequity in that these fishermen must transport the observer long distances, often in adverse weather, and at significant expense – both in time and money to a port different from the port where the observer started the trip. If an observer is able to travel to a community to board an observed vessel for a trip, the observer should also be able to be discharged in the same community and travel from the community at the end of the trip.

Alternatives

1. No Action
2. An observer may be discharged in a community with a resident processor possessing a Federal Processing License or in the community with regularly scheduled air service from which the observer boarded the vessel for a "trip".

Suboption: in another community with regularly scheduled air service.