

C-6 Observer Annual Deployment Plan
Council motion October 10, 2015

The Council recommends the following for the draft 2016 Annual Deployment Plan:

- Use the trip-selection method to assign observers to vessels in partial coverage in 2016.
- Deploy observers in the trip-selection pool by gear in 2016, with optimal allocation. Support the following preliminary coverage rates resulting from this stratification:

Trawl (29%)
Longline (14%)
Pot (14%)

The no selection pool would include catcher vessels <40 ft LOA; vessels fishing with jig gear; and fixed gear vessels that participate in the 2016 electronic monitoring (EM) cooperative research.

- No temporary exemptions from observer coverage are allowed due to insufficient life raft capacity, given the option for these vessels to be in the electronic monitoring pool in 2016.
- Continue the policy (programming in ODDS) that prevents a 40 – 57.5' fixed gear vessel from being selected for a third consecutive observed trip.
- Maintain the ability for vessels to log up to three trips in advance in ODDS.
- Modify eLandings to enable the ODDS trip number to be entered voluntarily on groundfish landing reports to facilitate data analysis and provide a better link between ODDS and eLandings.
- Maintain the current Chinook salmon sampling protocols to identify stock of origin.
- Allow BSAI cod trawl catcher vessels to opt-in to full coverage and carry an observer at all times when fishing in the BSAI.
- Continue to conduct outreach in fall and winter 2015/2016, with efforts to meet in Kodiak earlier than the proposed April 2016.

The Council also supports the OAC's recommendations with regard to the status of analytical projects related to the observer program.

The Council requests that Observer Program staff evaluate different weighting schemes in the sampling design based on gear with optimal allocation, such that discards are weighted more heavily than retained catch, for the draft 2017 annual deployment plan.