

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C10 LL2 Observers motion
April 9, 2017

The Council recommends the analysis be released for public review after the following revisions are made:

1. Accept the recommendation to revise the purpose and need as included in the initial review draft on page 13. The sentence added to the end of the first paragraph in the purpose and need is revised to read:

In addition to freezer longline vessels, pot catcher/processors participating in the groundfish CDQ fisheries are also required to carry a nontrawl LL2 observer.

2. Accept the recommended revision in the initial review draft (page 24) to add Option 3.2 under Alternative 3, and identify it as the Council's preliminary preferred alternative.

3. Move Alternative 4 to the list of alternatives considered but not analyzed further.

4. Under Alternatives 2 and 3, remove suboptions that would allow deployment of a certified observer. Under Alternative 2, require a substitute observer to have a LL2 endorsement for a catcher/processor using trawl gear.

5. SSC and AP recommendations should be considered to the extent practicable. Specifically, additional information to clarify implementation considerations for the observer training and pre-cruise meeting requirements under Alternative 3.2 should be added to the Analysis.

The revised alternatives are shown below, with the Council's preliminary preferred alternative in **bold**:

Alternative 1: No action. Continue to require owners of freezer longline vessels selecting the scales with a single observer option to carry a nontrawl LL2 observer, and provide no exceptions if a nontrawl LL2 observer is not available.

Alternative 2: LL2 Exception. Create a regulatory exception that would allow a freezer longline vessel to carry a substitute observer if a nontrawl LL2 observer is not available. The substitute observer must have a LL2 endorsement for a catcher/processor using trawl gear.

Alternative 3: Observer Options. Modify the nontrawl LL2 observer coverage requirement. Require vessel owners to participate in a pre-cruise meeting if requested to do so by NMFS.

Option 3.1: Allow two observers to deploy as an alternate observer coverage option to the one nontrawl LL2 observer on a freezer longline vessel selecting the scales option. Both observers must have a Level 2 endorsement.

Option 3.2: Modify the nontrawl lead level 2 endorsement to allow sampling experience on trawl CPs to count toward nontrawl LL2 endorsement with an additional training requirement.