

The FLC can concur with the removal of Option 2 but would like to retain Alternative 4, Option 1 for the following reasons:

- The FLC has been voluntarily paying for a second observer for training purposes (~\$500K). While Option 3.2 may provide a longer-term solution, there are still some clarifications needed, and it is not clear if the additional training opportunity (via the second observer) will be necessary or not. If the training opportunity via the second observer is deemed to still be necessary, then the FLC would like the option for NMFS to defray the cost of that training.
- The OAC recommended consideration of Option1; and
- NEPA requires a reasonable range of alternatives.

At this time, the FLC recommends retaining Alternative 4, Option 1 in the analysis (and deletion of Option 2).

The issue of the shortage of LL2 fixed gear observers has long been a concern by the FLC and we request this analysis move forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad I. See
Executive Director
Freezer Longline Coalition