C2 Draft Annual Deployment Plan, Monitoring Committee Reports

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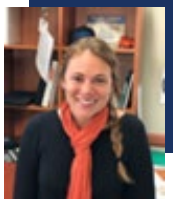
October 2025

Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee (PCFMAC)

& FMAC



- Met on September 10, 2025
- Meeting Agenda:
  - Draft 2026 ADP (PCFMAC)
  - NMFS updates (FMAC)
  - NFWF EM Proposals (FMAC)
  - Addtl Updates (FMAC)

PCFMAC: Looking back: 2025 target coverage rates

2025 target coverage rates for **vessels remaining in partial coverage** were:

- At-sea observer:
  - Fixed gear, BSAI: 20%
  - Fixed gear, GOA: 6%
  - Trawl, BSAI: 40%
  - Trawl, GOA: 15%
- EM:
  - Fixed gear, BSAI: 48%
  - Fixed gear, GOA: 11%
  - Trawl EM GOA: 100% EM coverage at-sea and shoreside salmon and halibut accounting, plus 33% shoreside sampling for biological data

PCFMAC: Draft 2026 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

The Committee:

- **Supported the Draft 2026 ADP**
- **Recommended that the Council write a letter to OMB to request that industry-paid observer funds not be sequestered in future years, as part of the Council's response to E.O. 14276 on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness. These are industry funds, not appropriations from Congress, and the continued delay of these funds impacts the annual level of observer/EM coverage.**

PCFMAC: Draft 2026 Annual Deployment Plan (ADP)

- **In keeping with the original intent of the pelagic trawl EM Program and the EFP prior to program implementation, the committee recommended that AFA plants with full coverage observers be allowed to accept and monitor GOA pollock (trawl EM) deliveries.**

- **The PCFMAC recommended again that NMFS pursue changes to base the fixed gear zero selection pool on the amount of quota, volume harvested, or few trips**

- **Recommendation RE ODDS issues and communications**

FMAC: NFWF EM Proposals

- Received information on proposals for NFWF EM funding:
  - ***Freezer Longline Coalition (FLC) &*** *FlyWire*- seeks to identify the limits and capabilities of EM in replicating human observer-derived data in the Bering Sea Pacific cod catcher processor (CP) sector, which is currently required to have full observer coverage.
  - ***Real-time Data:*** continuation of a project which has replaced paper logbooks with elogbooks in the fixed gear halibut and cod fleets (Deckhand).
  - ***Saltwater, Inc and Chordata LLC-*** investigate the possibility of using AI to find visible characteristics in chum salmon in the Bering Sea that could be predictive of the stock of origin.
- **Committee noted general support for these proposals**

FMAC: NMFS Updates

- NMFS continues to be short staffed. FMA: there may be delays in solving monitoring-related issues.

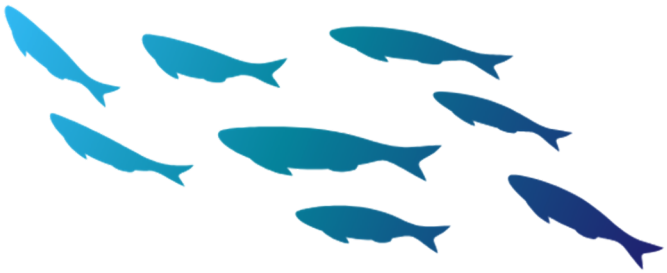
- Priorities for AKRO are keeping the Catch Accounting System (CAS), eLandings, and key monitoring programs running.

FMAC: Discussion on Annual Reporting

- Agency plans to produce and present the annual report in 2026
  - 2025 Annual Report will inform the Center for Independent Experts (CIE) review, scheduled to occur after the June 2026 Council meeting
  - Results of that review could inform how and what the Agency reports
  - Time for the committee and/or Council to influence any changes to the contents of the Annual Reports

- The committee emphasized that the annual report provides a good format for communication between the industry and the Agency.

Future Scheduling

- FMAC May 2026, review annual report
- PCFMAC normally meets September to review next ADP

Questions?