

**Proposed BSAI FMP Amendment 86: Deletions are stricken and additions are in bold.**

p. 24, Section 3.2.4.1 Observer Program

At the core of the North Pacific monitoring system is a comprehensive, industry-funded, on-board and on-shore observer program, coupled with requirements for total weight measurement of most fish harvested. ~~Except for small vessels less than 60 feet and halibut vessels, all~~ **All vessels fishing for groundfish with a federal fishing permit in federal waters or in a State of Alaska parallel fishery, and all vessels fishing halibut and sablefish IFQ in federal or state waters, are included in the observer program and may be required to carry one or more observers, at their own expense,** for at least a portion of their fishing time.

~~The largest vessels, those 125 feet or longer, are generally required to carry observers 100% of the time, with multiple observers required on catcher/processors and in certain fisheries.~~ **Vessels and processors that have <100% observer coverage requirements are subject to an ex-vessel value based fee not to exceed 2%, as implemented and revised through regulations, and are required to carry an observer as determined by NMFS, according to an annual sampling and deployment plan. Vessels and processors that have ≥100% observer coverage requirements obtain observer coverage by contracting directly with observer providers, to meet coverage requirements in regulation.**

Generally, catcher vessels and shoreside processors, when not participating in a catch share program with a transferrable PSC limit, comprise the <100% coverage category. Catcher processors and motherships, and catcher vessels when participating in a catch share program with a transferrable PSC limit, generally comprise the ≥100% coverage category, with potential exceptions for some <60' catcher processors, as detailed in regulation. Used in conjunction with reporting and weighing requirements, the information collected by observers provides the foundation for inseason management and for tracking species-specific catch and bycatch amounts.

p. A-13, Appendix A, A.1 Amendments to the FMP

**Amendment 86 implemented \_\_\_\_\_, revised Amendment 13:**

- 1. Modified the observer program to include vessels and processors of all sizes, including the commercial halibut sector.**
- 2. Established two coverage categories for all vessels and processors: <100% observer coverage and ≥100% observer coverage.**
- 3. Modified the observer program such that vessels in the <100% observer coverage category are subject to an ex-vessel value based fee not to exceed 2%, and are required to carry an observer as determined by NMFS. Vessels and processors in the ≥100% observer coverage category obtain observer coverage by contracting directly with observer providers, to meet coverage requirements in regulation.**

**Proposed GOA FMP Amendment 76: Deletions are stricken and additions are in bold.**

**p. 24, Section 3.2.4.1 Observer Program**

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p. A-11, Appendix A, A.1 Amendments to the FMP

Amendment 76 implemented \_\_\_\_\_, revised Amendment 18:

1. **Modified the observer program to include vessels and processors of all sizes, including the commercial halibut sector.**
2. **Established two coverage categories for all vessels and processors: <100% observer coverage and ≥100% observer coverage.**
3. **Modified the observer program such that vessels in the <100% observer coverage category are subject to an ex-vessel value based fee not to exceed 2%, and are required to carry an observer as determined by NMFS. Vessels and processors in the ≥100% observer coverage category obtain observer coverage by contracting directly with observer providers, to meet coverage requirements in regulation.**

nkimball: 3/28/11, 12/15/2011  
bgerke: 11/17/2011, 12/13/2011

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