

OBSERVER PROGRAM

Situation: In April, the Council voted for National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to proceed with publication of a proposed regulation to establish generic observer program requirements. During public testimony before the Council vote, concerns were expressed there were provisions in the draft that would not work for small/day boats and that some vessels would be excluded from the program. The Council staff offered to convene a small workgroup to address those concerns but decided not to after concluding the draft regulations do not exclude any vessels from the coverage program. However, certain notification requirements might be made more flexible to take into account vessels that make unscheduled or impromptu departures. The Council indicated it might want to provide formal comments on these issues at this meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Consider additional comments to NMFS on the proposed observer program regulations.**

Reference Materials:

1. Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review from NMFS (Attachment D.16.a.).

PFMC
06/13/00