

Oregon Report Regarding Observer Implementation Status For Inseason Action

The Council and its Advisory Bodies need to determine the framework for using observer data in-season. For example, observer data, including fish ticket and log book data analysis should be completed within six months of the in-season period under consideration for management change.

Therefore, this recommendation is that Council action in-season based on observer data should meet criteria for minimum data analysis and timeframes for that analysis. In particular the GMT should work with NMFS Observer Program staff to better understand the time constraints of providing these data. NMFS should be encouraged to establish sufficient staff resources to remove time constraints that block access to appropriate in-season data. The GMT and Observer Program staff should develop a clear timeline for when observer data using fish tickets and logbook data will be available. In addition the GMT should work with the state agencies and the PacFIN Data Committee to assist with logbook processing. By the September Council meeting, advisory bodies should make recommendations on these minimum criteria to the Council for review and approval in September 2003. Absent establishing criteria, in-season action should not be driven by incomplete observer data analysis.