



NOAA
FISHERIES

Office of
Science and
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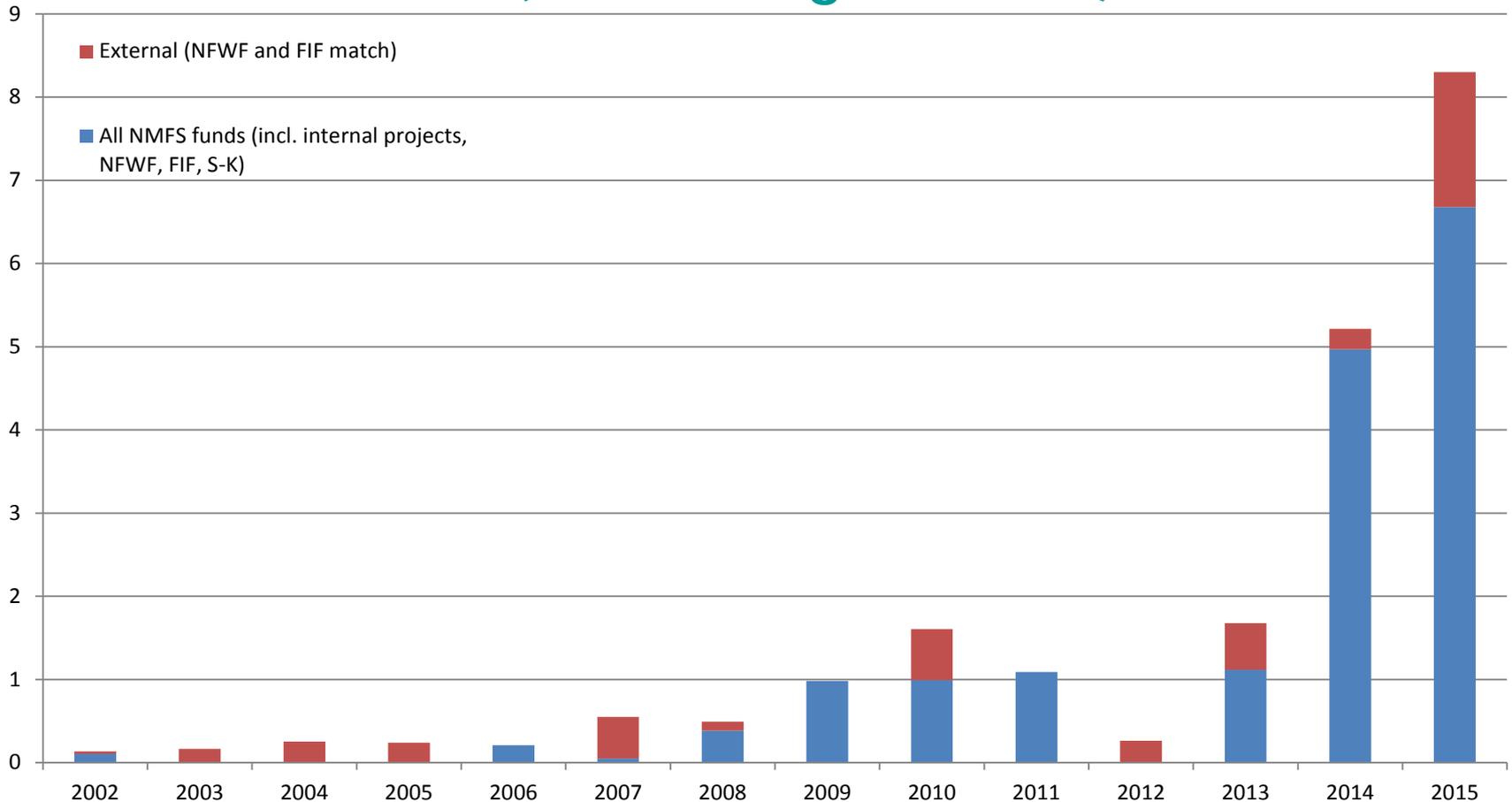
**National Observer Program
Budget Summary
to the
Council Coordination Committee
February 24, 2016**

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Topics

- Electronic Monitoring/Reporting Funding
- Observer Program Funding
 - At-sea daily costs

Electronic Monitoring Projects (all funding sources)



FY16 Congressional allocation

- Electronic Monitoring/Reporting increase of **\$7,046,000**
- **Not less than \$3,000,000** shall be available for collaborative partnerships (NFWF).
- Congressional direction:
NMFS will continue to work in FY 2016 with:
 - charter for-hire recreational fishery in the Gulf of Mexico;
 - Northeast multispecies/groundfish fishery fleet; and
 - any regional fishery fleet interested in implementing EM/ER technologies to better track information that is currently collected through the use of human observers.

Regional Electronic Technologies Implementation Plans

NOAA Fisheries is using the 2015 Regional Electronic Technology Implementation Plans as a roadmap for implementation.

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/advanced-technology/electronic-monitoring/index>

Electronic Monitoring Plans for the Future

	Alaska	West Coast	Greater Atlantic	Atlantic Highly Migratory Species
Current	American Fisheries Act Pollock Catcher/Processor and Mothership			Atlantic Tunas with pelagic longline gear onboard
	Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) non-Pollock Trawl Catcher/Processor			
	Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Trawl Catcher/Processor			
	BSAI Pacific Cod Longline Catcher/Processor			
2016			Groundfish Sectors	
2017		Pacific whiting, Fixed Gear	Atlantic Herring/ Mackerel	
2018	Small boat, fixed gear halibut and sablefish & groundfish fixed gear	Bottom Trawl		

Electronic Reporting Plans for the Future

	Alaska	West Coast	Southeast	Greater Atlantic	Pacific Islands	Atlantic Highly Migratory Species	
Current	Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish	Pacific Coast Groundfish	Golden Crab	Atlantic Sea Scallop	Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)	Atlantic Highly Migratory Species	
	Gulf of Alaska Groundfish	West Coast Highly Migratory Species	Snapper-Grouper	Northeast Multispecies (Groundfish)	American Samoa Archipelago FEP		
	Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crabs		Coastal Migratory Pelagic (Jointly managed with with GMFMC)	Northeast Skate Complex	Mariana Archipelago FEP		
	Salmon		Reef Fish	Atlantic Herring	Pacific Remote Island Areas FEP		
					Deep-Sea Red Crab		Pacific Pelagics FEP
					Monkfish		
		Atlantic Salmon					
		Spiny Dogfish					
		Summer flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass					
		Atlantic Bluefish					
	Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog						
	Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish						
		Tilefish					
2016							
2017			SoAtl Party Charter GoM Party Charter				
2018							

Electronic Technologies Outlook

NOAA Fisheries is:

- Strongly committed to using electronic technologies to improve the timeliness and accuracy of fisheries dependent data collections.
- Working with the Councils, industry, stakeholders, and internally to develop electronic technology solutions that meet the monitoring needs of individual fisheries.
- Allocating >\$9M in FY16 to facilitate implementation.

National Observer Program Budget

Spend Plan for allocations to regional observer programs aims to:

- Maintain historical funding levels of regional observer programs, based on Congressional guidance
- Distribute some of the funds equally to regional observer programs

Direct comparisons across regional programs are difficult to make, partly due to the differences in the fisheries and individual program designs (e.g., percent observer coverage requirement, elements in observer provider contracts).

FY 2015 Observer Budget by Region

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2015	North East	South East	South West	North West	Alaska	Pacific Islands	Sci. & Tech.
Observers & Training:								
Atlantic Coast Observers	\$3,334	\$1,473	\$1,812	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$49
East Coast Observers	\$333	\$0	\$333	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Hawaii Longline Observer Pr.	\$3,775	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,775	\$0
North Pacific Observer Pr.	\$5,566	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,566	\$0	\$0
NE Fisheries Observers	\$8,226	\$8,226	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
National Observer Program	\$12,305	\$5,039	\$1,036	\$1,039	\$958	\$1,556	\$2,085	\$592
S. Atl/Gulf Shrimp Observers	\$1,751	\$0	\$1,751	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
West Coast Observers	\$4,807	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,807	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal, Observers/Training	\$40,097	\$14,738	\$4,932	\$1,039	\$5,765	\$7,122	\$5,860	\$641
Reducing Bycatch - Observers	\$651	\$94	\$94	\$94	\$94	\$94	\$94	\$87
Electronic Monitoring*	\$2,800	\$500	\$180	\$175	\$690	\$1,255	\$0	\$0
Electronic Reporting*	\$750	\$0	\$85	\$30	\$540	\$0	\$95	\$0
TOTAL	\$44,298	\$15,332	\$5,291	\$1,338	\$7,089	\$8,471	\$6,049	\$728

*\$3.5M of FY15 NMFS base funds were distributed for internal projects; these rows do not include funds awarded by NFWF, FIF, S-K, etc.

FY 2015 Enacted amount for Observers and Training is \$43.0 million FY 2016 Enacted amount for Observers and Training is \$43.7 million.

FY 2016 Observer Budget (\$ in thousands)

[FY 2016 amounts are subject to change pending final Spend Plan]

	FY 2015	FY 2016
Observers and Training:		
Atlantic Coast Observers	\$3,334	\$3,299
East Coast Observers	\$333	\$330
Hawaii Longline Observer Program	\$3,775	\$3,734
North Pacific Observer Program	\$5,566	\$5,508
NE Fisheries Observers	\$8,226	\$8,140
National Observer Program	\$12,305	\$12,180
S. Atlantic/Gulf Shrimp Observers	\$1,751	\$1,732
West Coast Observers	\$4,807	\$4,756
Reducing Bycatch - Observers	-	\$645
Total	\$40,097	\$40,324
Reducing Bycatch - Observers Portion Only (prior to 2016)	\$651	-
Total Observers Funding	\$40,748	\$40,324

FY 2016 Enacted amount for Observers and Training is \$43.7 million. FY 2016 Available funding shown above includes reductions for Hollings Rescission, Prior year De-obligations, and HQ administrative costs.

Average sea day costs by region

- Average at-sea costs are estimated to range between \$710/day and \$1,400/day.
- In most regions, observer provider companies hold their actual at-sea daily costs as proprietary information.
- Where at-sea costs transition from NMFS to the fishing fleet, industry may be able to negotiate lower rates.

Observer Budget Outlook

- Budgets have been level funded
 - Most of the regional observer programs' budgets have been "hard-wired" by Congress.
- As designed by the Councils, costs in some observed fisheries are gradually transitioning to industry. In 2016 NMFS support of at-sea observer costs are being phased out:
 - West Coast catch share fishery
 - Northeast At-Sea Monitoring Program

Observer program funding for catch share fisheries by region /source, FY13 – FY15

(\$ in thousands)

			FY2013		FY2014		FY2015	
Region	Council	% Obs. Coverage	Industry	Total	Industry	Total	Industry	Total
North east	N. England Mid-Atlantic	0 - 20	\$2,015 (22%)	\$9,802	\$3,489 (35%)	\$9,862	\$3,310 (30%)	\$11,170
Pacific	Pacific	20 - 100	\$1,620 (22%)	\$7,429	\$2,324 (30%)	\$7,651	\$2,500 (37%)	\$6,834
South east	Gulf of Mexico	3 - 5	\$0 (0%)	\$934	\$0 (0%)	\$1,604	\$0 (0%)	\$1,395
North Pacific	North Pacific	up to 100	\$4,943 (41%)	\$12,087	\$7,168 (58%)	\$12,281	\$7,961 (63%)	\$12,645
Total			\$8,578 (28%)	\$30,252	\$12,981 (41%)	\$31,398	\$13,771 (43%)	\$32,044

Conclusions

- Observers & Training budgets have been level-funded
 - increases in future budgets may be allocated to increase observer sea days across the regions
- Transition of at-sea observer costs to industry will continue
- \$7M Congressional appropriation in FY16 will facilitate EM and ER implementation across the regions, consistent with NOAA Fisheries' policy on electronic technologies and fishery-dependent data collection.