



Electronic Monitoring is a Go for the 2018 North Pacific Observer Program

Electronic monitoring (EM) for federal fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands will be integrated into the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program beginning in 2018. EM will only be available to vessels using fixed gear (hook and line, and pot gear) in the partial coverage category. The [Final Rule](#) was published in the Federal Register August 8th. The effective date is September 7th.

Interested vessel owners or operators should apply each year by November 1st via the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDs) to participate in EM for the following calendar year, rather than carry an observer. If approved, the vessel would be placed in the EM selection pool and would be subject to random selection for trips among participating EM system vessels. Owners or operators in the EM selection pool would still need to register fishing trips in ODDS. Participation is voluntary and vessels who do not sign up for EM would continue to be subject to selection for human observer coverage.

Owners and operators of EM vessels would be responsible to make sure the EM system is working and to periodically send the video storage devices back to NMFS for review.

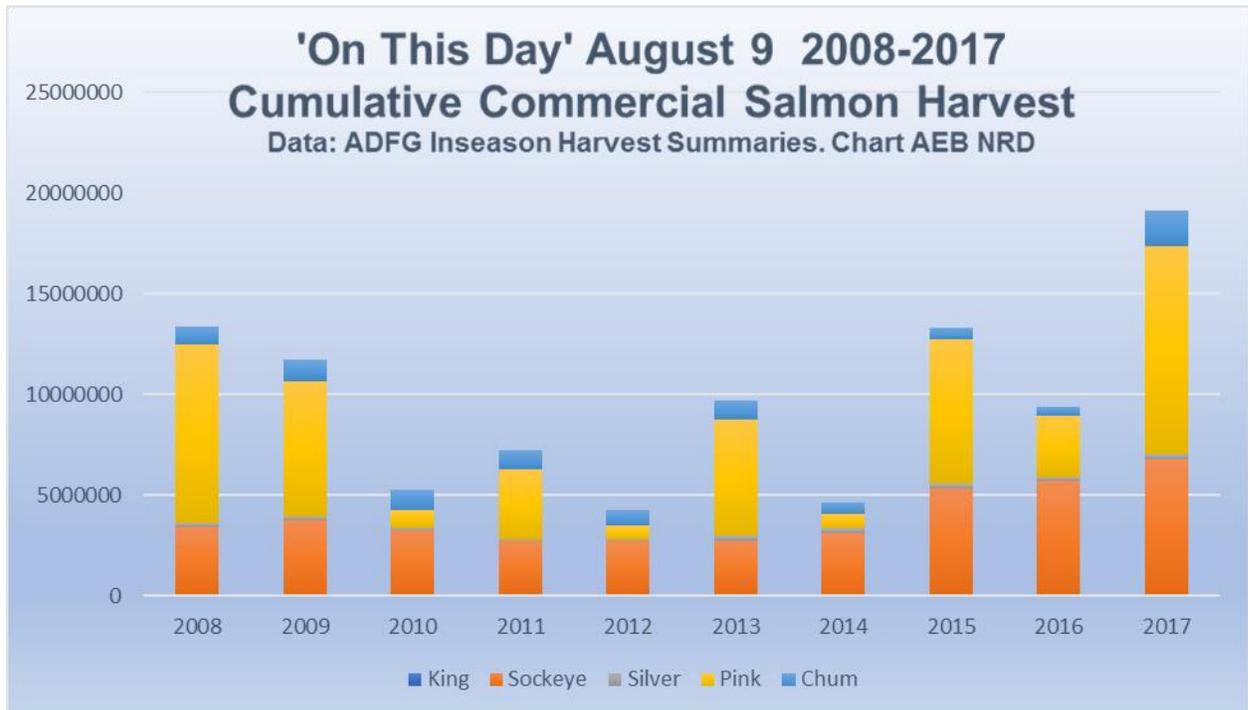
The North Pacific EM program for 2018 is currently only available to non-trawl vessels, but the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting (EMR) Grant Program, through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Fisheries Innovation Fund, will support the implementation of voluntary, cost-shared electronic monitoring programs for other fisheries. Full proposals for the EMR Grant Program are due September 11th. A webinar for interested grant applicants will be hosted August 15th.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will review the 2018 Deployment Plan

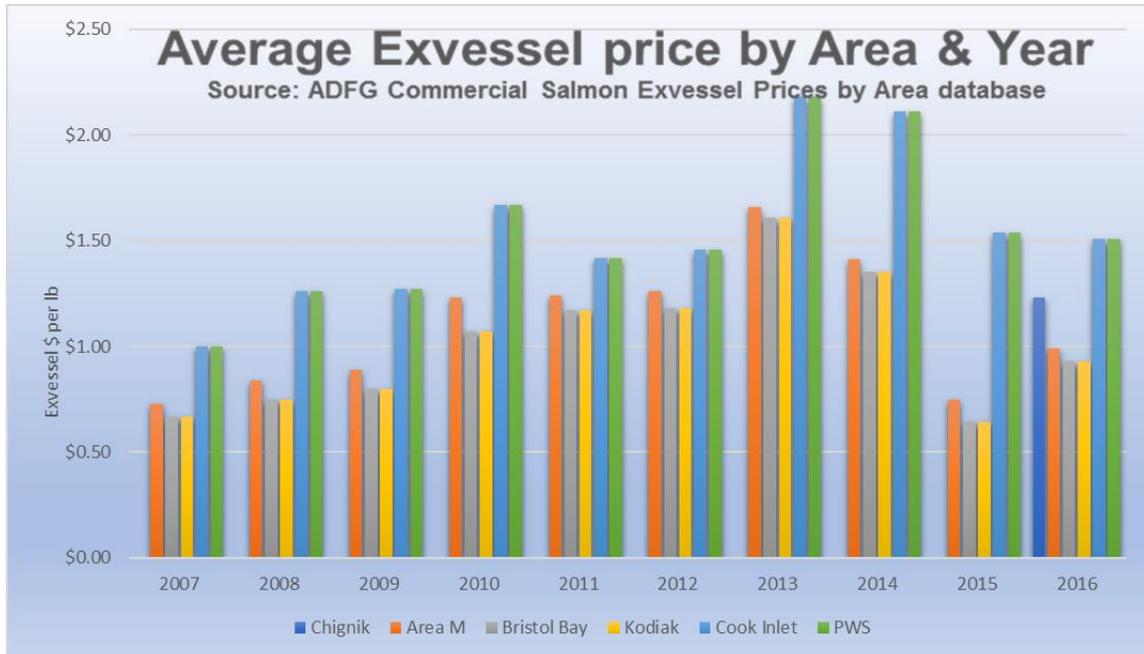
for EM and Observers at the October meeting in Anchorage. The Council's Observer Advisory Committee (OAC) will meet jointly with the EM Work Group at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle September 18th to preview the plan. Tom Evich, owner/operator of the fishing vessel F/V Karen Evich, will be the new Western Gulf trawl representative on the OAC. Congratulations Tom, and thanks for your future service.

'On This Day' – 10 years of Salmon Seasons

August salmon fishing is still going strong in the Aleutians East Borough. Bristol Bay is touting 2017 as one of the best salmon seasons on record. As of Wednesday, August 9th, the ADFG Alaska Peninsula Management Area M is also having a great season.



Sockeye Salmon Prices Paid at the Dock



Data is from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game [website](#), Commercial Salmon Catch, Effort & Value. Note: the only exvessel price data listed for Chignik in the last 10 years is from 2016.

For more information, contact Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director at eweiss@aeboro.org.

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