

**TITLE:**               **The Alaska Observer Program**

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**OBJECTIVE:**

**ABSTRACT:**

The North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program supports a large component of the fishery dependent information needs of NMFS, and others, in the Alaska Region. The program trains and deploys a large number of at-sea and shoreside observers in a complex suite of Alaskan groundfish fisheries. This presentation briefly covers the history of the program, identifies funding sources, outlines overall goals, specifies what the program does to achieve those goals, identifies our chief constituents and partners, and identifies the challenges we see for the future. Approaches taken, and lessons learned, may be applicable to other regions of NMFS.