

October 25, 2001

Dr. Elizabeth Clark  
FRAM Director  
2725 Montlake Blvd. E  
Seattle, WA 98112



P.O. Box 30167  
Seattle, WA 98103

Dear Dr. Clarke:

The Association for Professional Observers (APO) was extremely pleased when we received a copy of the Management Control Review (MCR) on NMFS Observer Programs and Service Delivery Models just over one year ago. It is our understanding that many of the recommendations have been accomplished (i.e., deadlines are now past) and we greatly appreciate the work that has been done to date. The APO is writing each program addressed by the MCR requesting a progress report on actions to date. Ideally, the progress report would include a list of all recommendations, the actions taken to date to achieve each recommendation and future plans for action on recommendations not yet addressed for each fishery.

I am unclear if the Northwest Fisheries Science Center is now in control of the Pacific Whiting Observer Program but the MCR indicates this should have occurred. If you are not the primary contact for the Whiting Observer Program, I would appreciate it if you would let me know. I can be contacted at 206-547-4228 or by email at [kdiet@mscn.com](mailto:kdiet@mscn.com). The APO is particularly interested in the status of regulations governing observer placement on the whiting vessels.

The APO fully supports the recommendations in the MCR and would like to see full implementation as soon as possible. One of the APO's goals is to improve communication between observers and the agency. Observers play an integral role in the management of our nation's fisheries. The APO supports the retention of a corps of professional observers who understand the importance of the data they collect and the importance of their interface with the fishing industry. We strive to achieve these goals by providing information to observers in three ways: via our bi-weekly electronic news summary, through our quarterly newsletter and by having information available to observers on our website. We will post any progress reports on our website so observers have easy access.

Thank you for providing any information on the status of MCR recommendations on the Pacific Whiting Observer Program.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Dietrich  
Executive Officer

Cc: D. Robert Lohn, Northwest Regional Administrator  
Dr. Usha Varanasi, Science and Research Director, NWFSC