

**PROPOSAL 280**

**5 AAC 39.645. Shellfish onboard observer program.**

Amend contracting agent performance standards, as follows:

5 AAC 39.645 is amended to read:

(j) An independent contracting agent that provides onboard observers under this section shall

(13) ~~repealed~~ / / [ENSURE THAT NO LESS THAN 65 PERCENT OF OBSERVER DEPLOYMENT DAYS PER YEAR PER CONTRACTOR ARE PERFORMED BY CERTIFIED OBSERVERS.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Onboard observer deployment practices have evolved over time. The performance standard specifying certified observers must account for least 65 percent of all deployment days is not achieved most years and this issue has been recently compounded by unpredictability in Bering Sea crab fisheries and labor market constraints. Most observer deployments now occur under the provisions of a contract between observer provider companies and the State of Alaska. Observer performance standards are best administered under conditions of contracts guided by the State procurement process rather than in regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-163)

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