Observer Safety Program Review

External assessments of the practices and policies that govern NMFS observer safety

Jane DiCosimo
National Observer Program Coordinator
September 19, 2016
Observer Losses (1990 – Present)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US Vessels</th>
<th>Foreign Vessels</th>
<th>Other Deployment³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Observer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Observer²</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US other¹</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. US trained (NMFS supported trainings) citizens employed by private contractors to service an international treaty the US is a signatory to.
2. Observers managed by non-US observer programs to serve aboard US vessel, and are often supported by NMFS staff.
3. Deployment includes, shoreside duties, and training that pose uniform risks to observers.
Developing a Safety Review

- National Observer Program Advisory Team and its Safety Advisory Committee endorsed review expansion to include “Safety Program” instead of only safety training
  - Identifying components of the Safety Program were key to developing a comprehensive review
Overarching goals

• Identify gaps and recommend improvements that will result in improved mitigation of dangers inherent to the industry and observers

• Develop flexible self-evaluation tools that would adapt to changing safety concerns as they evolve
7 Core Review Elements

- Safety Reporting
- Communications
- Practices/ Policies
- Training
- Equipment
- International
- Regulations
Review Elements

Safety Reporting
- Review incident reporting & tracking mechanisms
- Evaluate After Action Reports.
- Review National report compilation methods

Equipment
- Compare program and industry standards
- Review service maintenance records
- Evaluate suitability to observer duties

Communications
- Evaluate program and provider Emergency Notification Plans
- Plan evaluation and update methods
- Evacuations from sea
Review Elements

**Practices/ Policies**
- Evaluate observer vessel placement inspections
- Review observer roles during vessel drills
- Evaluate at-sea safety policies and enforcement
- Review observer health requirements
- Review methods to identify and mitigate safety trends
- Review program oversight of contractor assigned duties

**International**
- Review International regulatory impact on NMFS program safety
- NMFS role in fostering international safety
Review Elements

**Training**
- Review curricula
- Evaluate risk management & assessment tools
- Evaluate trainer qualifications requirements/ maintenance
- Review standards compliance
- Review records and reporting methods
- Evaluate logistics/coordination methods
- Evaluate observer certifications requirements/ maintenance.

**Regulations**
- Evaluate regional regulatory impact on safety
- Evaluate national regulatory impact
- Evaluate insurance requirements on safety program
Review Process

Regional Site visits

Data Collection

Project Manager/Analyst

Senior Analyst

Senior Analyst

Senior Analyst

Regional Programs

Data Analysis

Report Development

National Observer Program

Review Team
Project Timing

SOW

RFP

Aug Sep 2016

Sep 2016

Award

Reviews

Regional and International partners

NMFS Response

Report

Initial - 6 mos.
Final - 9 mos.

June 2016
# Observer Program Action Plan

## I. Observer Safety Program Review

Rich Kupfer (PIRO)
Alex Perry (AFSC)

on details to the National Observer Program

## II. Observer retention survey

Dr. Yuntao Wang (NOP Knauss Fellow)

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL)

## III. Observer provider insurance workshop

Dennis Hansford (NOP)

Rich Kupfer/Alex Perry
Thank You - Questions?

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