

## Placement Meeting

### Observers are to:

1. Collect objective data on fishing activity, the take of target and non-target species and selected specimen samples.

*This means the observer will need to see everything that is caught on the line. The observer will also write down latitudes and longitudes from the GPS, measure fish, collect data on protected species, and collect samples.*

2. Perform their duties in a way that minimizes interference with fishing operations.

*Again, the observer must see everything that is caught on each hook. This means that you may need to slow the vessel down so the observer can identify everything that is caught on the line. Do not cut the line until the observer has seen it and tells you it is ok to cut the line. For example, If it is a shark, they need to identify it to species, including the different species of thresher sharks and brown sharks.*

3. Keep open communication with vessel personnel by informing them about observer duties and collected data.

*The observer will let you know what they are doing and you are welcome to look at the data they are collecting.*

4. Obtain permission from the vessel captain before using any boat equipment.

*The observer will ask you before they use the SSB or any other boat equipment. The observer will also abide by the house rules of the vessel.*

5. Collect specimens as instructed by NMFS and clean up thoroughly afterward.

*After the observer is done collecting samples they will clean up their mess and wash the remaining fish guts over the side of the vessel.*

6. Use work cameras only for photographing specimens.

*If you catch a turtle, marine mammal or unidentified fish the observer will need to take pictures of these. However, they are not to take pictures of the crew or anything that will identify the vessel.*

7. Bring issued rain gear, boots, life jackets, survival suits and EPIRBS.

8. Ask the captain about emergency procedures and familiarize themselves with the locations of life rafts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

*Note: The observer accompanies the Logistics Coordinator during the safety meeting so the observer will already be familiar with the location of the safety equipment.*

9. Remain aboard their vessels until the vessels return to port to unload their catch.

*For example, if you stop on Kauai or another port, but return to Honolulu to unload fish, the observer will remain onboard the vessel until you return to Honolulu. If you land at another port and unload your fish the observer will get off the vessel there and arrangements will be made for the observer to return to Honolulu.*

10. Share housekeeping routines such as dishes and general clean up with the crew.

*If the crew takes turns washing dishes or cleaning up, the observer will take their turn as well. However, the observer is not to be the designated person for this job during the cruise.*

**Observers are not to:**

1. Dictate procedures or direct fishing operations.

*The observer will not tell you how or where to fish.*

2. Be involved with crew responsibilities such as standing watch or helping with fishing.

*The observer is not to drive the boat or help with actual fishing operations.*

3. Keep personal diaries in any form.

4. Bring aboard personal recording devices or personal cameras of any type.

5. Compromise data or record extemporaneous or personal comments.

6. Conduct personal research of any kind.

*What this means is the observer is collecting data for NMFS only, they are not working for anyone else. In addition, the observer is to record only what he/she sees, they will not write down any assumptions or opinions.*

7. Keep specimens or edible fish of any kind.

*If the crew eats fish everyday, that is ok. The observer eats what the crew eats. However, they can not take any fish home from the cruise.*

8. Discuss boat business from one vessel to another or to any fisherman shoreside.

*You don't have to worry about the observer telling anyone about your fishing secrets.*

**Captains are to:**

1. Cooperate with the observer in the performance of the observer's duties.

*Allow the observer to do his/her job. If you catch a turtle or any other protected species you will need to stop the vessel and assist the observer to get the turtle onboard the vessel.*

2. Provide living quarters comparable to a full crewmember.

*Note: The captain is asked to designate a bunk for the observer during the safety meeting.*

3. Provide the same meals, snacks and amenities provided to crewmembers.

*Often the observer will have a list of additional food items. Is that ok for the observer to give you a list? The vessel will get reimbursed \$20 for everyday the observer is onboard the vessel. We also request that you get bottled water for the observer.*

4. Allow the observer access to areas of the vessel necessary to conduct observer duties.

*Allow the observer to go to the pilothouse to obtain GPS positions, or store specimens in the icehold, or any other areas of the vessel necessary to do his/her job.*

5. Allow the observer access to communications and navigation equipment, as necessary to perform observer duties.

*The observer will need to get the latitude and longitude from the GPS. The observer will also need to call in using the SSB radio at least once a week.*

6. Notify the observer when commercial fishing operations are to begin and end.

*For example, if the observer is sleeping make sure you let them know when you are about to set or haul the gear.*

7. Provide true vessel locations by latitude and longitude upon request by the observer.

*Let the observer go to the pilothouse to get the position from the GPS.*

8. Bring aboard sea turtles and marine mammals killed during fishing operations that are readily accessible to crewmembers, if requested by the observer.

*If a turtle is caught the observer will need cooperation of the captain and crew in order to complete his/her duties. If the turtle is dead the observer will need to bring the turtle onboard, take samples, measurements and photos of the turtle, wrap the turtle in plastic bags and store it in the ice hold or freezer until the vessel returns to port. If the turtle is dead and too large to bring onboard the observer will need to take samples and photos before the observer gives the OK to release the turtle. If the turtle is live and too large to bring onboard the vessel the observer will need to take samples and photos before the observer gives the OK to release the turtle. The observer will make the decision as to whether the turtle is too large to bring onboard the vessel or not. If the turtle can be brought onboard the vessel, the observer will bring the turtle onboard the vessel with the turtle net (with the assistance of the crew) take samples, photos, and measurements and attach a satellite transmitter to the turtle before releasing the turtle.*

9. Provide refrigerated bait well storage space for observer collected specimens.

*The observer may need to store specimens in the icehold or freezer.*

10. Record personal statements on the back of the observer's original forms, if there is disagreement with the observer's collected data.

*For example if the observer writes a fish down as a Blue Marlin and you say it is a Striped Marlin, then you can write on the back of the observers forms that it is a Striped Marlin.*

11. Comply with other guidelines, regulations or conditions that NMFS may provide in writing to ensure the effective use of observers.

**Captains are not to:**

1. Ask observers to stand watch or help with fishing operations.

*You can not ask the observer to drive the vessel or help with the actual fishing operations.*

2. Forcibly assault, harass or sexually harass, intimidate or attempt to influence observers, interfere with or impede observer duties.

*If the observer has any questions or problems during the cruise he/she will address these with you (the captain). If you (the captain) have any questions or problems concerning the observer during the cruise he/she should feel free to address the observer with these concerns.*

3. Fish without an observer on board the vessel after the owner or agent of the owner has been directed by NMFS to make accommodations available for an observer.

*Now that you know the observer is going fishing with the vessel you can not leave port without the observer.*

**Captain, do you understand that the \$20 a day paid to the boat at the end of the trip is provided for food and water for the observer AND that if the observer doesn't receive adequate supplies money can be withheld from re-imburement?  
YES / NO**

**Captain, was enough food bought for the trip to provide the observer with adequate meals for the duration of the trip? YES / NO**

**Has enough water been bought, if the water tank isn't adequate, to provide the observer with enough water for the duration of the whole trip? YES /NO**

**Captains are to operate the vessel safely and according to established US Coast Guard safety regulations. This includes conducting proper wheel watches at all time while the vessel is underway.**

I certify that the above responsibilities of the Captain and observer have been read and discussed with me. I acknowledge that I am responsible for understanding the roles of the captain and the observer during this fishing trip.

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Vessel Operator Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vessel Operator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Observer Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Observer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Port Coordinator Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Port Coordinator Signature



I certify that the above responsibilities of the Captain and observer have been read and discussed with me. I acknowledge that I am responsible for understanding the roles of the captain and the observer during this fishing trip.

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