

# Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

The PRA requires federal agencies to obtain clearance in order to ask questions of members of the public. All questions asked by west coast groundfish observers have been approved under OMB Control No. 0648-0593 through 01/31/2024. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and implementing regulations, vessels are required to answer any question related to observer and vessel safety. However, vessels are not required to answer any other question asked by the observer. Vessel's willingness to answer all questions asked by observers is voluntary and this willingness is appreciated as it will ensure observer data collected on the vessel can be used in future analyzes.

The observer program can be contacted toll free at: (866) 780-8064 or by the program's email address at [NWFSC.observerprogram@noaa.gov](mailto:NWFSC.observerprogram@noaa.gov) if anyone has any questions.

A "Paperwork Reduction Act Information" sheet is mailed to all selected vessels for observer coverage and is included with their selection letter.

## Paperwork Reduction Act Information

Information collected through the observer program is used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, these biological and economic data collection programs contribute to legally mandated analyses required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law.

Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 34 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Providing information related to observer and vessel safety is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746. However, all other requested information is voluntary. Although you are under no legal obligation to answer non-safety related observer questions, we would appreciate your support as it ensures observer data can be used for its intended purpose. The information collected will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

# Vessel Diagram Instructions

Vessel diagrams are important pieces of information and should be done for each vessel observed. These diagrams help detail the layout of the vessel and help debriefers better understand your sampling conditions while on-board. It is especially important to thoroughly document any vessels and gear types that are not typically observed. Diagrams should be large, detailed and well labeled. Please use blue or black ink. The following are suggestions of items to include:

## Trawl

- An overall diagram of the trawl deck and deck equipment, such as winches, wire, hatches, etc.
- The location of trawl alley, scuppers, bins, etc.
- Flow of fish, where sample is taken, sorted, weighed, etc.
- Any obstructions and/ or hazardous objects on deck.
- An estimate of overall vessel size is helpful!
- Measurements of trawl alley, deck bins, bin boards, and any other locations appropriate to sampling or vessel layout are helpful but not required.

## Fixed gear

- An overall diagram of deck layout and deck equipment, such as lines, block, hoppers, etc.
- The location where gear is baited, set, and retrieved.
- Flow of fish, where sample is taken, sorted, weighed, etc.
- Any obstructions and/ or hazardous objects on deck
- An indication of what gear was used, and a rough diagram, if appropriate.

## Small vessels, skiffs, kayaks, etc.

- An overall diagram of the vessel layout and equipment, such as line, block, hoppers, etc.
- The location where gear is stored baited, set, and retrieved
- Flow of fish, where sample is taken, sorted, weighed, etc.
- Any obstructions and/ or hazardous objects on the vessel
- Diagrams of gear, bait, etc. Be detailed!
- An estimate of overall size is very helpful!

On the following page is an example of a trawl vessel diagram.

# Vessel and Sampling Area Diagram

Diagram should include scuppers, hatches, bins, trawl alley, winches, obstructions on deck, flow of fish, where sample is taken and sorted /weighed, etc. Estimate length of vessel.

Vessel: \_\_\_\_\_ Gear type(s) used: \_\_\_\_\_



Captain's net capacity estimate (lbs): \_\_\_\_\_

Trawl alley or hopper capacity estimate (lbs): \_\_\_\_\_

# Vessel Safety Checklist

Ensure that all items in red are present if required in the FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY VESSELS. Do not deploy if any are not verified or current.

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

USCG/State Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_



Complete the above decal as it appears on the vessel.

## Life Rafts

- Inflatable  Buoyant apparatus  None  N/A
- Observer raft

Total capacity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total # people on board: \_\_\_\_\_

List full names of crew members present on the reverse side.

Life raft able to float free?  Yes  No

\*Service sticker expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Hydrostatic release expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Life raft equipment?  SOLAS A  SOLAS B  Coastal  
 PA  PB  Ocean Service

## Immersion Suits

On board?  Yes  No

One for each person?  Yes  No

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

PFD for each person?  Yes  No

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Fire Extinguishers

\*Present?  Yes  No How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Serviceable?  Yes  No

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## EPIRBs

Present?  Yes  No  N/A In float-free location?  Yes  No Registered to this vessel?  Yes  No Signal tested?  Yes  No

Decal's alphanumeric code matches EPIRB code?  Yes  No Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Battery exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Hydrostatic release exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

NOAA registration sticker: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Checks

First aid materials present?  Yes  No Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Who besides you is CPR Certified? (Name & position): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Working communication devices:  N/A  Yes  No How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Watertight doors/hatches working properly?  Yes  No Digital selective calling (DSC) enabled radio present?  Yes  No

Hatches/passageways unobstructed?  Yes  No DSC registered & radio interfaced with GPS?  Yes  No

Did you hear the general/high water alarms?  Yes  No Is there a Station Bill posted?  Yes  No

Is there adequate means of escape?  Yes  No Did you see the bilge pumps?  Yes  No

\*Is there an anchor present?  Yes  No Were you given emergency directions?  Yes  No

Was a wheel watch arranged?  N/A  Yes  No (complete line below)

What were the emergency directions? \_\_\_\_\_

Observer signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Expires the last day of the month displayed.

\*\* Hydrostatic releases are valid for two years from installation date.

\* Red no-go items: See WCGOP Vessel Safety Check Instructions section for help.

## Crew Members

Provide full names of crew present.

1. Captain:

4. Deckhand:

2. Deckhand:

5. Deckhand:

3. Deckhand:

6. Deckhand:

## Additional Notes

## Completed Vessel Safety Checklist

After completing the checklist, sign the form, print your name and date it. Email or text a copy of the checklist and all associated notes to your provider (CS) or coordinator (NCS). If you have any safety questions or concerns, please contact the following coordinators:

**John LaFargue, CA Coordinator**

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Eureka CA 95501

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