

North Pacific Observer Safety and Security Survey

Hello, I'm Jackie Smith, the Alaska Enforcement Division's observer liaison agent. I created this anonymous survey because I believe that observers are experiencing a lot more victim type incidents than what is actually reported.

It is important to continue to assess the actual number of incidents observers are experiencing in the field, as well as the barriers that may prevent observers from reporting. This information is used to establish changes that can improve observer work environments and reduce the risk of victim type crimes.

This survey is completely anonymous. My information will be provided if you would like to speak with me or report an incident. Individual data will not be released to the public. Aggregate data will be analyzed by myself and made public in reports, but the data source will be kept in confidence.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes, including the time for reviewing instructions, 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 suggestions for reducing this burden to Jackie Smith, NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement, 222 W. 7th Ave. Box 10, Anchorage, AK 99513; or via email at Jaclyn.Smith@noaa.gov.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected 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.

* Indicates required question

Skip to question 1 *Skip to question 1*

Demographics

Data is needed to determine if there is any correlation based on demographics. All questions require a response.

1. What is your gender? *

Mark only one oval.

- Female
- Male
- Transgender, non-binary, or another gender
- Prefer not to answer

2. What age range do you fall in? *

Mark only one oval.

- 24 and under
- 25 to 29
- 30 to 34
- 35 to 39
- 40 to 44
- 45 and over
- Prefer not to answer

3. Who is your contractor? *

Mark only one oval.

- AIS
- AOI
- Saltwater
- Prefer not to answer

4. What year did you begin observing? (YYYY format) *

5. Did you deploy as an observer in the North Pacific Observer Program in 2024? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes *Skip to question 6*
- No *Skip to section 4 (Thank you for your time.)*

2024 Deployments

This section is specific to deployments in 2024. Respond for only 2024 deployments.

There will be 20 questions asking about behaviors that potentially affect your safety and security on your assigned vessel or shoreside processor, as well as questions about the security of your data. Some questions sound similar, and it is to gauge the escalation of behavior. You may select multiple options. It is followed by questions assessing impediments to disclosure.

6. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone, by their actions toward you, ever make you fear physical injury? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

7. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone threaten to physically injure you? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

8. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever intentionally physically injure you? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

9. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever physically prevent you from performing your duties?

*

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

10. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever use a threat to prevent you from performing your duties?

*

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

11. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever make you change your data, or attempt to make you change your data? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

12. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever offer you something in exchange to change your data? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

13. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever make offensive comments regarding your age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or race/ethnicity? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

14. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever make unwelcome or unwanted comments of a sexual nature towards you? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

15. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever attempt to touch you in an unwelcome or unwanted sexual manner? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

16. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever touch you in an unwelcome or unwanted sexual manner? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

17. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever force you to participate in any sexual activity against your will, or without your expressed consent? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

18. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever interfere with or bias your sampling procedure, including physical, mechanical, or other sorting or discarding of catch before sampling? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

19. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever tamper with, destroy, or discard your samples, equipment, records, photographic film, papers, or personal items? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

20. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone's refusal to provide reasonable assistance impact your data or ability to collect your data? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

21. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone's behavior or actions toward you cause you to change your own behavior or work schedule? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

22. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever require or pressure you to perform any duties normally performed by crew members? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

23. At any time while on contract in 2024, did any vessel ever fail to have a proper look-out by sight and sound as well as by all available means appropriate for the prevailing conditions to assess for at-sea dangers such as collision? (commonly known as "wheel watch" or "lookout") *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

24. At any time while on contract in 2024, did anyone ever use drugs or alcohol while operating the vessel, equipment or machinery? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

25. At any time while on contract in 2024, were there conditions onboard the vessel/at the processor that made you fear for your general safety? *

Check all that apply.

- No. I did not experience this issue.
- Yes, and I wrote a statement during my debriefing.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to vessel/plant personnel.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to my provider.
- Yes, and I reported directly to an Observer Program staff member.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to OLE.
- Yes, and I reported it directly to a victim advocate service.
- Yes. I did not report my experience.
- Other: _____

26. IMPEDIMENTS TO DISCLOSURE: If you experienced one of the issues above but did not report it, please indicate why. You may choose multiple options. *

Check all that apply.

- I did not experiences any of the above issues.
- I did report my experience.
- I didn't want someone getting me back for reporting.
- I didn't think it was that big a deal.
- I didn't want everyone to know what happened to me.
- I thought it was too late to report.
- I couldn't remember all the details.
- I felt some guilt about what happened.
- I don't trust NMFS.
- I don't trust my provider.
- I don't trust OLE.
- I don't think anything would be done about it anyway.
- I was afraid I'd lose my job.
- I didn't want to get anyone in trouble.
- I don't want to go to court.
- None of the above.
- Other (Please provide details in the next section).

27. IMPEDIMENTS TO DISCLOSURE: If not listed above, why did you decide not to disclose an incident?

Skip to section 5 (Thank you for your time.)

Thank you for your time.

We are only collecting responses for those who deployed in 2024.

If you wish to speak to Jackie with NMFS Enforcement regarding an experience that occurred outside of 2024, you can contact her via email at Jaclyn.Smith@noaa.gov or call her at 907-271-1869.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0759 Expiration Date: 0X/XX/20XX

Thank you for your time.

Hi, I am Jackie with the Alaska Division's Office for Law Enforcement. Thank you for taking the time to take this survey. I want to do what I can to make your work environment safe and free from harassment.

If you want to speak with me on the survey, or anything that you may have experienced in the field, even if you never reported it, please feel free to contact me directly via email: Jaclyn.Smith@noaa.gov, or via my office number at 907-271-1869.

If you need someone to talk to about your experience, you can call RAINN Hotline's at (800) 656-4673. You can remain anonymous when you call.

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