National Observer Program
Observer Survey

NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Science and Technology

National Observer Program

Why is NOAA Fisheries asking for your help with this survey?

Maintaining a strong observer workforce now and in the future is a priority for NOAA Fisheries. This survey for present and past observers was created to provide clarity on the factors that contribute to observer retention and to ensure NOAA Fisheries is providing the necessary support for a robust observer program.

On all U.S. coasts, observers provide catch and bycatch information that is used in stock assessments and is essential for sustainable fisheries management. In order to fulfill their duties, observers go through a rigorous training program to be able to quickly identify species and collect data. Because the technical skills observers possess take time to hone and are essential to good data collection, retaining knowledgeable and hardworking observers is important to NOAA Fisheries. The feedback from this survey will be used to continue improving the observer program and to support observers in their career development.

NOAA Fisheries wants to know the factors that contribute to observer retention. This survey is only for current and past observers.

Participation in this survey is voluntary and all information supplied is safeguarded by the National Observer Program.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/observer-home/index

What type of information will be collected?

The types of information collected will include demographic information, education and work history information, pre-employment motivation, observer experience, job satisfaction information, job difficulty information, future plans, opinions about electronic monitoring, and regional information.

How long will it take to complete the survey?

You should be able to complete the survey in about 20 minutes.

Is participation voluntary?

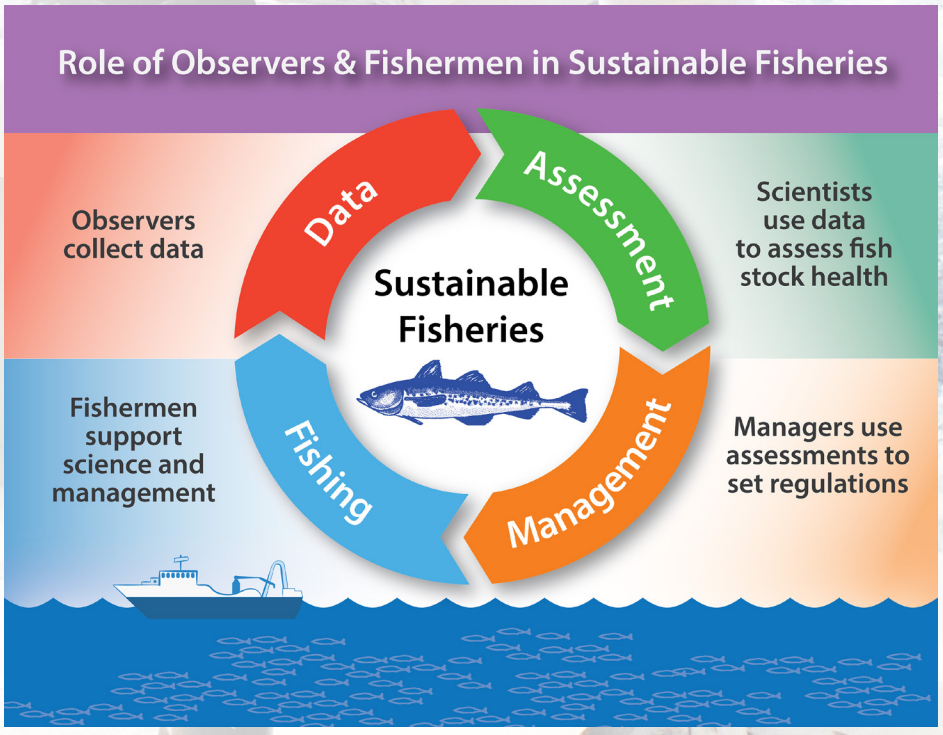
Your participation in this survey is voluntary. The information will be collected anonymously.

How will respondents be sure their data is confidential and anonymous?

NOAA Fisheries takes your privacy seriously. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for privacy and electronic information. This assurance is included in the survey. In particular, data concerning observer retention will be collected anonymously and will not be released for public use. Contact information collected for follow-up interviews is not linked to survey responses.

How will the data collected be used by NOP?

Our goal is to retain highly qualified, hardworking people like you. NOAA Fisheries will use information from the survey to improve the National Observer Program to meet that goal.



Observer Facts:

- Observers have collected catch and bycatch data since 1972.
- They are the only independent data collection source for some types of at-sea information.
- The National Observer Program supports the activities of 6 regional programs, which observe a total of 47 fisheries.
- In recent years, nearly 1000 observers spent over 83,000 days at sea.
- Data collected by observers help monitor fishery performance and complete stock assessments.
- Data collected by observers help provide a national picture on bycatch.
- The National Observer Program has aided in the development of observer programs internationally.
- Observers are essential to help test innovation in fishing gear, such as bycatch reduction devices.

Access the survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL