

***NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 04-110  
NOVEMBER 16, 2007***

***Science and Technology***

***NOAA FISHERIES OBSERVER SAFETY***

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**Certified by:** F/ST (J. Boreman)

**Type of Issuance:** Renewed July 2014

***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:***

**Introduction**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) trains and oversees the training of hundreds of fisheries observers annually. These observers are deployed on fishing vessels under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other marine resource laws. Regional observer trainers developed safety training standards in coordination with the National Observer Program (NOP), the National Observer Program Advisory Team (NOPAT), and the Alaska Marine Safety Education Association. As a result of establishing training standards for observer trainers, NOAA Fisheries Service will improve safety training, ensure consistency across regional observer programs, and increase observers' level of risk awareness, ability to respond to an emergency, and chances of survival at sea.

**Objective**

It is the intent of NOAA Fisheries Service to ensure that consistent safety training is provided to all fisheries observers, and that this training adheres to minimum national standards that NOAA Fisheries Service has determined are critical for preparing observers for the hazards associated with commercial fishing operations.



**Attachment 1**

**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

*References*

National Marine Fisheries Service Instruction 04-110-01, NOAA Fisheries Observer Safety Training Standards