



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Van Atten
Branch Chief, FSB *Amy S. Van Atten*

SUBJECT: Safety Deficiency Protocols

This serves as a reminder regarding the safety deficiency protocols. This is not changing the current protocols, just re-stating it. Please keep this document for reference in your Regulatory Compliance Folder.

If any of the following conditions apply:

- (1) Lack of valid safety decal;
- (2) Insufficient personal flotation devices/immersion suits;
- (3) Insufficient ring buoys;
- (4) Insufficient distress signals;
- (5) Insufficient fire extinguishing equipment;
- (6) Insufficient emergency position indicating radio beacon (EPIRB); and/or
- (7) Insufficient survival craft.

Observers must do the following -

- * Make it abundantly clear to the captain that:
“You have been selected for mandatory observer coverage on this trip. I can not sail on this vessel, until the observer safety requirements are met. If you go fishing without an observer, you may be in violation.”
- * Complete the Office for Law Enforcement Letter (OLE, in duplicate)
- * Hand one of the letters to the vessel with the safety deficiency
- * If you are unable to hand deliver the letter, detail the reasons in Refusal Report
- * Complete a Trip Refusal Form
- * Contact your area coordinator immediately
- * Mail in your OLE Letter (dated 07/14/06), Trip Refusal Form, and Pre Trip Vessel Safety Checklist.

Review your regulatory compliance folder on a regular basis to be familiar with all the protocols.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Van Atten at (508) 495-2266 or by email at Amy.Van.Atten@noaa.gov.

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