

# OBSERVER TRAINING CERTIFICATION

Revised March 2012

## **I. Successful Completion of the Initial NEFOP Observer Certification Courses:**

By completing the certification courses, associated training trips, and other associated requirements (e.g., maintaining Training Standards) a person is issued an Observer Identification number and will be referred to as a NEFOP Observer. The gear types that will be taught and considered “core gear types” are:

1. Gillnet
2. Trawl
3. Scallop

In order for an Observer to maintain their ability to observe on any of the core gear trips, a trip must be successfully completed within six (6) months of initial training. If this trip is not completed, then refresher training is required.

Efforts will be made to ensure an Observer's initial multi-day trip will be edited in a timely manner to allow for feedback for the new Observer.

Initial NEFOP Certification Training session will include Trawl and Gillnet gear. Observers must successfully become certified as NEFOP Observers via this initial training before attending the NEFOP Scallop Gear Certification module for their final core gear certification training.

Though these will be considered the “initial core” gear types, they also fall under the recertification program mentioned below.

## **II. Becoming Certified in Other NEFOP Gear Types:**

In order to become certified in any other gear, an observer must:

1. be a Certified Observer,
2. observed a minimum of *Five* (5) trips (not to include training trips),
3. have a minimum of *Twenty* (20) sea days as a Certified Observer,
4. be in “good standing” within the Fisheries Sampling Branch (i.e., not on probation; not having any recurrent data or protocol issues / problems, etc.).

The applicant must be cleared through the Training Team and Data Management Team before being allowed to attend training. This allows for a final check that the individual has shown competence in data collection and follows protocols correctly in other gear types.

The observer must attend a training course following approved NEFOP curriculum specializing in that gear type/protocol. A training trip *may* be required for certification, based on specific needs for that gear type. A formalized exam and/or the first edited trip

of that gear type will may serve as the “examination” for this training, dependant upon the lesson plan. Feedback from the first trip will be made to the observer in a timely fashion.

### **III. Successful Completion of the Industry Funded Scallop (IFS) Certification:**

In order for a candidate to successfully become certified as an IFS Observer they must successfully complete all in-house training requirements as outlined in the IFS Training Standards document. IFS Certification must be completed within six (6) months of completing in-house training, or the candidate will be decertified. (extenuating circumstances can be *considered* if communicated to NEFOP by the Provider).

IFS Scallop Dredge certification requirements are:

1. completion of all in-house training requirements
2. successful completion of all priority certification trips
3. no more than two (2) months shall elapse between certification trips during the certification process. (extenuating circumstances can be *considered* if communicated to NEFOP by the Provider)
4. IFS Observer Candidates that fail to become certified within four (4) trips post classroom training due to continued data quality problems will be decertified for Scallop Dredge.
5. All IFS Observers are expected to successfully complete an annual trip to maintain certification.

IFS Scallop Trawl certification requirements are:

1. must be a current IFS Scallop Dredge certified observer in good standing
2. complete all in-house training requirements
3. successfully complete an annual scallop trawl trip to maintain certification

Note: Section IV on maintaining certification is applicable to the IFS program.

### **IV. Maintaining Observer Status in All Gear Types**

In order to maintain one’s certification as an observer in *any* gear type, the person must:

- Not be on probation
- Maintain NEFOP Safety Training Standards
- Not have any physical / health job performance limiting factors
- Partake in *either* :
  1. active observing of that gear type

*Or*

  2. training focusing on that specific gear type within a *12 month* time period.

Should an observer be trained on a gear type, but not actively observe 12 months from the training date, they must attend an approved refresher course and successfully complete all refresher requirements. These requirements may include, but are not limited to; passing of an examination with a score of 85% or higher, attending required lectures (gear specific, incidental take topics, fish identification, etc.), completing any training trip requirements, completing required assignments. Final re-certification is dependant upon successfully completing training requirements and data quality clearance.

This is to include *all* gear types for all programs. Special considerations can be made with senior Observers with high data quality, if cleared by the Training and Data Management Teams.

## **V. Safety Certification**

- Once successfully completing the Safety I course, all observers *must* attend and successfully complete all Safety II course requirements every eighteen months to maintain NEFOP Safety Standards.
- Applicable NEFOP Training Standards must be maintained.
- A Safety II course will, include classroom and pool/open water practicum exercises (all issued gear must be brought to class to ensure proper maintenance has been performed and that outdated gear is identified).
- Conducting drill exercises in classroom and on vessels will also be required.
- Additional safety training may be added as the program continues to develop.