



**NOAA
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Office of Science
& Technology

National

Observer Program

Observer Safety Program Review

External assessment of the practices and
policies that govern NMFS observer safety

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NPFMC Observer Advisory Committee
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Identifying Our Need

Observer Losses (1990 – Present)

	US Vessels	Foreign Vessels	Other Deployment ³
US Observer	4		2
Foreign Observer ²	1	N/A	N/A
US other ¹		1	

1. US trained (NMFS supported trainings) citizens employed by private contractors to service an international treaty the US is a signatory to.
2. Observers managed by non-US observer programs to serve aboard US vessel, and are often supported by NMFS staff.
3. Deployment includes, shoreside duties, and training that pose uniform risks to observers.

Developing a Safety Review

- National Observer Program Advisory Team and its Safety Advisory Committee endorsed review expansion to include “Safety Program” instead of only safety training
 - Identifying components of the Safety Program were key to developing a comprehensive review

[DAA Memo](#)

Overarching goals

- Identify gaps and recommend improvements that will result in improved mitigation of dangers inherent to the industry and observers
- Develop flexible self-evaluation tools that would adapt to changing safety concerns as they evolve

7 Core Review Elements

Safety Reporting
Communications
Practices/ Policies
Training
Equipment
International
Regulations

Review Elements

Safety Reporting

Review incident reporting & tracking mechanisms

Evaluate After Action Reports.

Review National report compilation methods

Equipment

Compare program and industry standards

Review service maintenance records

Evaluate suitability to observer duties

Communications

Evaluate program and provider Emergency

Notification Plans

Plan evaluation and update methods

Evacuations from sea

Review Elements

Practices/ Policies

Evaluate observer vessel placement inspections

Review observer roles during vessel drills

Evaluate at-sea safety policies and enforcement

Review observer health requirements

Review methods to identify and mitigate safety trends

Review program oversight of contractor assigned duties

International

Review International regulatory impact on NMFS program safety

NMFS role in fostering international safety

Review Elements

Training

Review curricula

Evaluate risk management & assessment tools

Evaluate trainer qualifications requirements/ maintenance

Review standards compliance

Review records and reporting methods

Evaluate logistics/coordination methods

Evaluate observer certifications requirements/ maintenance.

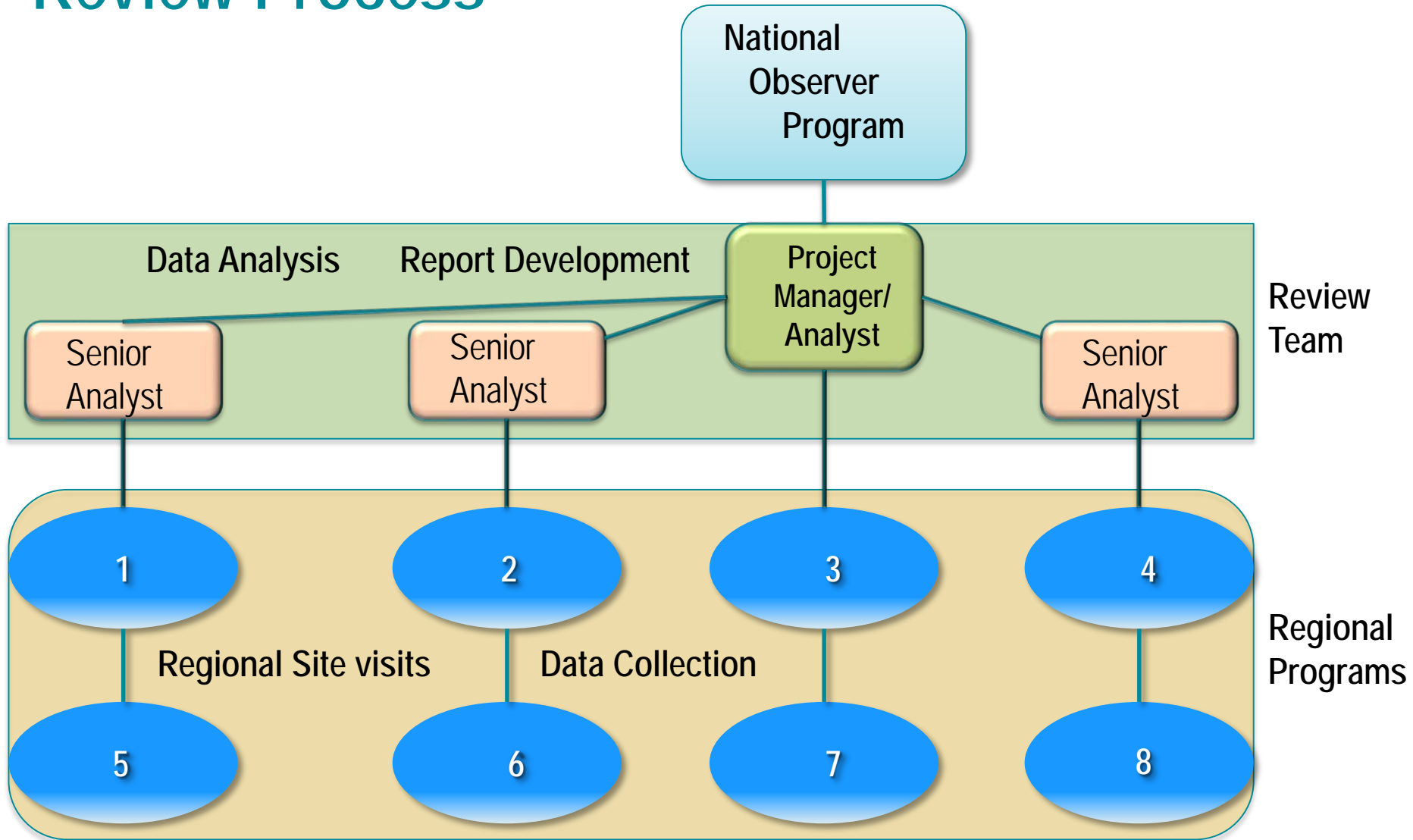
Regulations

Evaluate regional regulatory impact on safety

Evaluate national regulatory impact

Evaluate insurance requirements on safety program

Review Process



Project Timing



Observer Program Action Plan



I. Observer Safety Program Review

Jane DiCosimo (NOP) &
Rich Kupfer (PIRO) on detail (April – Sept, 2016)
Alex Perry (AFSC) on detail (Oct – Dec, 2016)
Dale Jones (Science & Technology, Dec 2016 - completion)



II. Observer retention survey

Dr. Yuntao Wang (NOP Knauss Fellow) &
Jane DiCosimo (NOP)
www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQM63FL



III. Observer provider insurance workshop

Jane DiCosimo (NOP) &
Alex Perry (AFSC) on detail (Oct – Dec, 2016)
Jim Patterson (Feb – May, 2017)

Thank You- Questions?



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