

Observer Safety Program Review

September Update 2016



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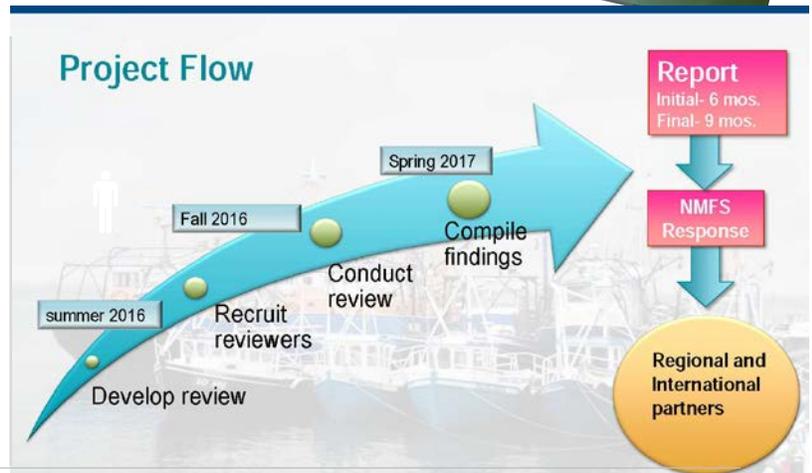
Takeaway

NMFS Leadership endorses the holistic approach of a “Safety Program” review. A team of external auditors will review every observer program in the country with on-site visits to evaluate 7 core elements that comprise a Safety Program. NMFS Leadership is interested in the results of the review and impacts on the overarching NMFS safety strategy as well as its influence on the international observing community. The contract for the review was awarded to ECS and a Kick-off meeting for the review team was held with the NOP in mid-September.



About the Review

- Scheduled program visits are being coordinated between the review teams and the regional programs
- Regional briefings were developed to assist each regional program and providers prepare for the review process.
- Updates of the review progress, timelines, and any lessons learned from site-visits, will be provided monthly.



7 Core elements of Safety Programs

Safety Reporting

Mechanisms for reporting and tracking:
Between observer, provider, program, acting officials, NMFS, NOAA.
After Action Reports

Communications

Efficacy and thoroughness of program and provider plans.
Evaluation and updating mechanisms.
Evacuation from sea.

Practices/ Policies

Placement Exams.
Vessel Drills.
Observer safety requirements at sea..
Health requirements for observers.
Policy enforcement.
Identification and mitigation of concerns.
Oversight.

Training

Review curricula for initial and refresher classes.
Risk management.
Trainer qualifications.
Training standards compliance.
Records and reporting.
Logistics/coordination.
Observer certifications.

Regulations

Regional regs that impact safety.
National regs:
MSA,USCG, insurance.

Equipment

Industry standards.
Maintenance.
Suitability.

International

International regs impact to NMFS program safety .
NMFS role in fostering international safety.

Next Steps

- Reviewers will be collecting data, conducting interviews, and observing processes to identify any gaps in risk management and make recommendations to improve the safety of the observer community. The results of the review will be used to develop a flexible self-evaluation tool that each Regional Observer Program can continue to use to adapt to changing safety risks. Monthly updates will be made accessible to interested parties.