



IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

FIELD OBSERVER CODE OF CONDUCT

Observers are required to conform to an internationally recognised code of conduct to become certified. This requires that:

- 1) Observers may not participate in any activity which would cause a reasonable person to question the impartiality or objectivity with which the Regional Observer Scheme is administered.
 - Observers may not have a direct financial interest in the observed fishery, other than the provision of observer services. This includes, but is not limited to, vessels or shore-side facilities involved in the catching or processing of the fishery products, companies selling supplies or services to those vessels or shore-side facilities or companies purchasing raw or processed products from these vessels or shore-side facilities. The interests of a spouse or minor child are considered those of the observer.
 - Observers may not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gratuity, gift, favour, entertainment, loan or anything of monetary value from anyone who conducts activities that are regulated by IOTC, or who has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the observers' official duties.
 - Observers may not solicit or accept employment as a crew member or an employee of the vessel in any fishery while employed as an observer.
 - Observers may not serve as observers on any vessel owned or operated by a person who previously employed the observer in any capacity.
 - A person may not serve as an observer in a fishery during the 3 consecutive months following the last day of his/her employment as a paid crew member or employee in that fishery.
- 2) Observers may not participate in any activity which could impair the observer's ability to perform his/her duties. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Engaging in drinking of alcoholic beverages while on duty
 - Engaging in the use or distribution of illegal substances
 - Becoming physically or emotionally involved with vessel personnel
- 3) Observers may not participate in any activity which could adversely affect the efficient accomplishment of the Scheme's mission.
 - Observers must refrain from engaging in any illegal actions according to the laws and regulations of the flag State that exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
 - Observers must avoid any behaviour that could adversely affect the confidence of the public in the integrity of observers, the IOTC Regional Observer Scheme or the IOTC.
 - Observers must record all scientific data accurately and honestly.



- If the observer chooses to report any suspected violations of regulations relevant to conservation of marine resources or their environment that they observe, it must be done honestly.
- Observers must preserve the confidentiality of the collected data and observations made on board the fishing vessels, in accordance with Resolution 12/02, and shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the vessel on which they are deployed.

4) Observer involvement in vessel operations

- Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this scheme.
- In all aspects involving vessel operations and safety at sea the observer will fall under the authority of the Captain.
- Scientific observers will have no authority to advise or direct any of the vessel operational activities or have any authority over any of the vessel personnel.
- Scientific observers should have access to all operational areas of the vessel necessary to complete their work including the bridge, navigation and communication equipment. However, the observer should attempt to secure co-operation with officers to ensure that their work does not interfere with normal fishing and operational activities.