

IOTC REGIONAL OBSERVER SCHEME

OBSERVER COORDINATOR TRAINING MINIMUM STANDARDS

Coordinator training should include:

1. Background and processes to follow when deploying observers.
2. Determining observer program mandate and objectives.
3. Strategic planning (guidance on initiating an observer programme)
 - a. necessary institutional structure for managing a programme;
 - b. resourcing requirements;
 - c. legal requirements;
 - d. selecting of fleets and vessels based on program objectives; and
 - e. accessing number of observers required to meet objectives (e.g. to reach IOTC minimum required coverage).
4. Observer recruitment and administration.
5. Sensitizing and planning deployments with the fishing industry and vessel operators
 - a. Allocation of observers to vessels;
 - b. Notification processes; and
 - c. MoU with vessel operators.
6. Mechanisms for coordination with observer programmes of other CPCs where shared observers may be required.
7. Health and Safety checks and pre-sea safety inspections process.
8. Preparation of observer gear lists, sampling equipment and data forms.
9. Preparation of trip instructions.
10. Preparation of a summary of IOTC Resolutions of relevance to the observer scheme.
11. Observer briefing process.
12. In-trip coordination including communications and observer reports (deployment & periodic) while at sea
13. Observer disembarkation, debriefing and data verification processes.
14. Observer trip reports.
15. Data management, processing, quality control and reporting procedures to facilitate the review of the quality of data collected, data management and reporting to the IOTC.

Coordinator training Instructors should have:

1. an intimate knowledge of observer work, data collections and reporting;
2. experienced with the management and coordination of at-sea observers;
3. a good understanding of the fishery and the management of that fishery; and



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4. good communication skills that can give clear and understandable messages in a straight forward manner.