

2016 Manual Addendum
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Introduction

This addendum is being provided to quickly provide information for partial coverage observers. There have been some ongoing changes in the Partial Coverage Sector for 2015, and this addendum will allow for quick reference for these changes for the observer in the field. Also it has been found that some areas of the manual could be expanded to help with some issues.

Using this Addendum

This manual addendum is intended to address modifications to observer duties and priorities that will be required to successfully collect the necessary data on smaller vessels which may lack some of the common tools observers depend on while deployed on larger vessels. Although some new challenges are expected to be encountered, the majority of partial coverage vessels will be sampled following the standard protocols outlined in the “2015 Observer Sampling Manual”. **Alternative sampling methods and/or protocols described in this addendum should only be used when standard protocols cannot be followed.**

This addendum is organized similarly to the “Observer Sampling Manual”, with each section corresponding to the manual sections. It is imperative that you first review the “Observer Sampling Manual” followed by this addendum before making any sampling decisions. If a section is not included in this addendum, there are no changes to standard protocols for those tasks. This addendum will be updated throughout the year as needed, and will be made available to observers during training and briefings. You should ensure that you have the most current version prior to starting a new assignment. Contact NMFS staff immediately if you are unable to answer your question after reviewing the manual and addendum.

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Health and Safety

Seasickness is a concern for all observers, but the nature of the assignments for partial coverage observers can limit the body's natural ability to acclimate to the at-sea environment.

Partial coverage observers may have only a few days per trip to get acclimated. It's important to be prepared with seasickness prevention methods, such as seasick medications, so that observers can collect management data during each short deployment. Observers should have a supply of natural remedies and/or medications that they have tried and tested before their deployments. Reference Manual pg 19-10 for more specific suggestions on seasickness prevention and coping methods.

Non-Pharmacological Seasick prevention methods:

- Optimizing position in a boat to reduce motion or motion perception
- Reducing sensory input—lying prone, shutting eyes, or looking at the horizon.
- Maintaining hydration by drinking water, eating small meals frequently, and limiting alcoholic and caffeinated beverages.
- Refraining from alcohol consumption 24 hours prior to embarking.
- Adding distractions—listening to music or using aromatherapy scents such as mint or lavender.
- Flavored lozenges may also help, in particular ginger-flavored. Lozenges may also function as distractions or, in the case of ginger, may hasten gastric emptying.
- Using acupressure or magnets is advocated by some to prevent or treat nausea, although scientific data on efficacy of these interventions for preventing motion sickness are equivocal.
- A cold compress held behind the ears.

Pharmacological seasick medications:

Medications are most effective when taken in anticipation of a trip; they are less effective for symptom relief after the motion has begun. Not all medications are appropriate for everyone.

Start with the mild medications first and then go to the more intense ones if needed. Consult a doctor for advice and directions on how to administer prescription drugs. Side effects should be discussed as it pertains to your job and your safety.

Antihistamines

Examples of antihistamine medications used to treat motion sickness include:

- dimenhydrinate (Dramamine, Dramamine Chewable, Draminate)
- diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- meclizine (Antivert, Bonine, D-Vert, Dramamine II).

These can be found over the counter or by prescription. Dose according to directions. Side effects may include significant sedation, drowsiness, dry mouth, blurred vision, and confusion.

Anticholinergics

Scopolamine (Transderm-Scop) is the most well-known medication in this category. It has been shown in clinical trials to be effective at preventing motion sickness. Scopolamine is most commonly administered as a patch applied to the skin. Side effects are the same as those of the antihistamines (sedation, blurred vision, dry mouth). Wash your hands after applying. Needs a prescription.

Antidopaminergics

Two drugs in this category that have been successfully used in the management of motion sickness include promethazine (Phenergan, Pentazine) and metoclopramide (Reglan). Both of these medications can cause significant sedation in some people.

Other Medications

Ephedrine and some amphetamines have been used both to treat motion sickness and to counteract the sedating effects of other medical treatments. Studies have also shown a beneficial effect of caffeine when administered in combination with other medications for motion sickness.

Coast Guard Cocktail- the strongest we know of. It is prescription only. It is composed of 25mg Promethazine (to prevent motion sickness) and 60mg Pseudoephedrine (counteracts the drowsiness)

If an observer has succumbed to seasickness they should attempt to collect data according to Data Collection Priorities listed in the Manual on pg 2-2 and below.

Prioritization of Duties:

In the partial coverage category there are many varied gear and vessel types that may be new to observers, dependent on past deployment history. When embarking on a new vessel type or challenging assignment it is imperative that the observer follows the data collection priority list on manual page 2-2. An observer should be sure to concentrate on the higher priority duties and ensure that you have that skill down before performing additional duties lower on the priority list. A good example of this would be to focus on composition sampling before moving on to collect length data. We expect that an observer improves and adds more duties once they are more familiar with the vessel's operations. The first haul, you may be able to collect an opportunistic sample. Next haul you should be able to collect a random sample. Next haul, explore collecting multiple random samples.

Due to the hierarchical nature of the data observers collect, it's important that the observer has completed and knows how to perform these duties that are at the top of the priority list. The ultimate goal for each trip/deployment is that the observer collects data we can use. Every boat is unique and even an experienced observer may have to ease into data collection duties to ensure they collect usable data. These duties may change day by day dependent upon weather and health. It's okay to scale back if needed. For example, if there is a time constraint, reduce length collection and collect otoliths with the associated lengths.

Managing your Time:

Your time and effort given to each task should be proportional to it's priority. Observers should keep in mind that when there are overlapping tasks during a certain time that they are aware of which is the most important. Review manual pg 2-3 for suggestions on how to reduce time and effort spent on lower priority tasks.

Specimen data:

It is important to keep all specimens separated by species and vessel. This will be important as you may end up with many vessels and species collected. Your final debriefing will go much smoother and easier if this is done. You will keep all otoliths for a contract until your final debriefing.

ATLAS

Always login to Atlas as 'New User' with a new password at the beginning of each cruise. If you were given the same laptop you had on a previous cruise, and you login to Atlas with the same password from a previous cruise you will not be able to enter any data from your new cruise. Contact NMFS IT staff if you encounter difficulties with this.

When transmitting data you must be aware that using the 'Transmit Messages Now' button does not send updated data changes. Sending or receiving text messages only doesn't send data. To transmit data, use the transmit button on the Home screen of Atlas.

When transmitting data from the field, never prepare a haul or date range in the Atlas Prepare options. Always select 'All New Data' unless specifically instructed otherwise by Glenn Campbell, Andy Kingham, or your inseason advisor. Also, do not re-enter an entire data-set if data have already been sent via Atlas for a vessel. Instead, simply pick up where you left off previously for that vessel. If you do either of these, existing data in our database may be overwritten, and you may have to re-enter all data again. Contact your inseason advisor if you are unsure of what to do.

Observers should check in with AIS occasionally (during their regular contract) and ask about any ATLAS updates.

To send and receive messages, log into ATLAS using your cruise number and the permit associated with your assigned "text message vessel". Use the instruction in the Observer Sampling Manual on pages 18-25 to 18-26 to send and receive messages.

When to send messages:

- Send a message to your inseason advisor when you board your vessel.
 - Sending a message will also pick up any messages waiting for you.
 - Sending an inseason message should not delay your departure.
 - In your message be sure to include the vessel name, gear type and target species.
- Send a message to your inseason advisor when you return to port and transmit your data.
 - Send a "post trip summary" for the gear type you have just observed. You must include all requested information. (See the Post-trip Summary templates at the end of this addendum.) It is not necessary to wait for the template questions to be sent by your inseason advisor.
- Check for messages from your inseason advisor whenever you have access to wi-fi.
- Send a text message at least once a trip.
- Review pages 21-2 to 21-5 of the observer sampling manual for example messages.

How to send messages:

- Only send and receive text messages from your “text message vessel” unless instructed otherwise by NMFS staff. *Messages sent from any other vessel will never be read by your inseason advisor.*
- **Data can be sent from any vessel in Atlas, but the best practice is to ALWAYS transmit from your dummy text message vessel! Enter the data under the permit for the vessel you were assigned to; then switch to the text message vessel to prepare and transmit. Don’t worry, this will transmit ALL new or edited data from all vessels, and will ensure that you are always sending/receiving text messages as well.**
- Follow the guidelines and instructions for working with an inseason advisor as outlined on pages 21-2 to 21-5 with the understanding you must follow the format in the “Post Trip Summary”.
 - Answer using the numbered questions so that all answers may be tracked, and utilized in mid cruise/debriefings. Please ensure all tasks are explained in enough detail so that someone could repeat all tasks without your being present. Also detail any deviations from your “standard” answers.
 - If you find some answers are consistent on vessel types you may want to save them on a Word or Notepad document to use for future vessels for inseason messages.

“Post Trip Summary” templates.

Non-Pollock Trawl PC ISA Post Trip Summary template

Please provide the following information: Reference the question number and then fill in your response. Fill questions out in order:

- Q1. What is the vessel name and permit?
- Q2. What is the gear type and target species?
- Q3. Was there any health, safety concerns, or marine casualties for this vessel? If yes, please describe.

*****HAUL DATA*****

- Q4. How did you collect and verify haul information (position and time)?
- Q5. Was haul information recorded according to FMA set & retrieval definitions?
- Q6. Describe how catch was brought onboard, how the fish were sorted (flow of fish), and where your collection point was.
- Q7. Describe how you obtained observer estimates. Describe each method you used to obtain volumetric measurements. Describe how you obtained densities.

*****SAMPLING*****

If different methods were used, state which hauls these methods apply to.

- Q8: Define the target and sample population.
- Q9. How did you define your sample unit?
- Q10. Describe your sample design. Provide an example of how you set up your design. How were random numbers generated?
- Q11. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for sex/lengths?
- Q12. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for specimens?
- Q13. What scales did you use to weigh your fish?
- Q14. Describe how you selected and collected halibut viabilities and associated lengths. Describe how halibut were discarded on this boat.
- Q15. Have you received the fish ticket for this trip? If yes, did you notice any discrepancies between what is reported on the fish ticket and your species composition samples and observations at sea and were discards at sea reported on the fish ticket?
- Q16. Describe any difficulties you had completing any of your duties on this vessel, such as: time constraints, limited storage, illness, or crew interaction.

Pollock Trawl PC ISA Post Trip Summary template

Please provide the following information: Reference the question number and then fill in your response. Fill questions out in order:

- Q1. What is the vessel name and permit?
- Q2. What was the gear type and target species?
- Q3. Was there any health, safety concerns, or marine casualties for this vessel? If yes, please describe.

HAUL DATA

- Q4. How did you collect and verify haul information (position and time)?
- Q5. Was haul information recorded according to FMA set & retrieval definitions?
- Q6. Did you sample every haul? If No, why?
- Q7. Was there any catch sorted or discarded before the delivery?

SAMPLING

If different methods were used, state which hauls these methods apply to.

- Q8. Define the target and sample population.
- Q9. How did you define your sample unit?
- Q10. Describe your sample design. Provide an example of how you set up your design. How were random numbers generated?
- Q11. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for sex/lengths.
- Q12. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for specimens.
- Q13. What scales did you use to weigh your fish?
- Q14. Did you collect halibut viabilities and associated lengths? If yes, describe how these were collected.
- Q15. Did you encounter any salmon within your samples? If so, what data did you collect from these.

Offload Data

- Q16. Did you watch the entire offload for your salmon retention count? If you did not, describe the circumstances.
- Q17. Did you encounter salmon during the offload? If so, what data did you collect. Describe any difficulties you had sorting salmon at the plant.
- Q18. Have you received the fish ticket for this trip? If yes, did you notice any discrepancies between what is reported on the fish ticket and your species composition samples and observations at sea and were discards at sea reported on the fish ticket?
- Q19. After the offload, how did you check for after-scale salmon?
- Q20. Describe any difficulties you had completing any of your duties on this vessel, such as: time constraints, limited storage, illness, or crew interaction.

Longline Stuck Gear PC ISA Post trip summary template

Please provide the following information: Reference the question number and then fill in your response. Fill questions out in order

- Q1. What is the vessel name and permit?
- Q2. What is the gear type and target species?
- Q3. Was there any health, safety concerns, or marine casualties to report? If yes, please describe.

HAUL DATA

- Q4. How did you verify the total number of segments in a set and how did you document these?
- Q5. Was there any lost gear? If yes, describe how you accounted for this.
- Q6. How did you complete hook counts? How was the gear stored on the vessel (rail, tub, or other)? Describe any difficulties you had collecting these data.
- Q7. Did the vessel use mixed gear? If yes, how did you account for this?
- Q8. How did you collect and verify haul information (position and time)?
- Q9. Was haul information recorded according to FMA set & retrieval definitions?

SAMPLING

If different methods were used, state which hauls these methods apply to.

- Q10. Were you able to see the gear leaving the water from your tally site? Describe any factors that affected your ability to view the line and how you accounted for this.
- Q11. Define your target and sample population?
- Q12. How did you define your sample unit?
- Q13. Did you tally everything on a hook (invertebrates, fish, rocks, trash, etc)?
- Q14. Describe how you set up your sample design. Provide an example for a typical size set. How were random numbers generated?
- Q15. How did you collect predominant fish for weights?
- Q16. How was bycatch collected for weights? Describe any difficulties with this collection.
- Q17. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for sex/lengths?
- Q18. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for specimens?
- Q19. What scales did you use to weigh your fish?
- Q20. How did you collect halibut for injury assessments and associated lengths? Were careful release methods used by the crew during this collection consistent with normal handling?
- Q21. Have you received the fish ticket for this trip? If yes, did you notice any discrepancies between what is reported on the fish ticket and your species composition samples and observations at sea and were discards at sea reported on the fish ticket?
- Q22. Describe any difficulties you had completing any of your duties on this vessel, such as: time constraints, limited storage, illness, or crew interaction.

Snap Gear longline PC ISA Summary template Post Trip

Please provide the following information: Reference the question number and then fill in your response. Fill questions out in order:

- Q1. What is the vessel name and permit?
- Q2. What is the gear type and target species?
- Q3. Were there any health, safety concerns, or marine casualties to report? If yes, please describe.

HAUL DATA

- Q4. How did you complete hook counts? How did you document these?
- Q5. How did you collect and verify haul information (position and time)?
- Q6. Was haul information recorded according to FMA set & retrieval definitions?
- Q7. Was there any lost gear? If yes, describe how you accounted for this.

SAMPLING

If different methods were used, state which hauls these methods apply to.

- Q8. Were you able to see the gear leaving the water from your tally site? If no, how did you account for fish and drop off's that you were unable to see and tally? How was this data recorded?
- Q9. Define your target and sample population?
- Q10. How did you define your sample unit?
- Q11. Did you tally everything on a hook (invertebrates, fish, rocks, trash, etc)?
- Q12. Describe how you set up your sample design. Provide an example for a typical size set. How were random numbers generated?
- Q13. How did you obtain the total number of hooks per sample and how is this documented?
- Q14. How did you collect predominant fish for weights?
- Q15. How was bycatch collected for weights? Describe any difficulties with this collection.
- Q16. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for sex/lengths?
- Q17. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for specimens?
- Q18. What scales did you use to weigh your fish?
- Q19. How did you collect halibut for injury assessments and associated lengths? Were careful release methods used by the crew during this collection consistent with normal handling?
- Q20. Have you received the fish ticket for this trip? If yes, did you notice any discrepancies between what is reported on the fish ticket and your species composition samples and observations at sea and were discards at sea reported on the fish ticket?
- Q21. Describe any difficulties you had completing any of your duties on this vessel, such as: time constraints, limited storage, illness, or crew interaction.

Pot Vessel PC ISA Post Trip Summary template

Please provide the following information: Reference the question number and then fill in your response. Fill questions out in order:

- Q1. What is the vessel name and permit?
- Q2. What was the gear type and target species?
- Q3. Were there any health, safety concerns, or marine casualties for this vessel? If yes, please describe.

HAUL DATA

- Q4. How did you collect and verify haul information (position and time)?
- Q5. Was haul information recorded according to FMA set & retrieval definitions?
- Q6. How did the vessel define a string? How did you define a string? If you did not use the vessel's definition explain why you did not.
- Q7. How did you verify total pots in a string, and how are these documented?
- Q8. Was there any lost gear? If yes, describe how you accounted for this.

SAMPLING

If different methods were used, state which hauls these methods apply to.

- Q9. Define your target and sample population.
- Q10. How did you define your sample unit?
- Q11. Describe your sample design. Provide an example of how you set up your design. How were random numbers generated?
- Q12. How did you keep track of the number of pots in your sample and how are these documented?
- Q13. Did you tally everything in sampled pots at the time the pots were dumped?
- Q14. Were you able to collect all bycatch? If no, describe why not.
- Q15. How did you collect predominant fish for weights?
- Q16. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for sex/lengths.
- Q17. Describe how you selected and collected fish for predominant and secondary species for specimens.
- Q18. What scales did you use to weigh your fish?
- Q19. Did you collect halibut viabilities and associated lengths? If yes, describe your methods for selecting these.
- Q20. Have you received the fish ticket for this trip? If yes, did you notice any discrepancies between what is reported on the fish ticket and your species composition samples and observations at sea and were discards at sea reported on the fish ticket?
- Q21. Describe any difficulties you had completing any of your duties on this vessel, such as: time constraints, limited storage, illness, or crew interaction.