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North Pacific Observer Jobs

North Pacific observers collect biological data while living aboard commercial fishing vessels working in the North Pacific Ocean and eastern Bering Sea. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) uses this information for in-season fishery management and to establish sustainable fishing quotas for future fishing seasons. The North Pacific is a highly productive ecosystem which is home to enormous fish resources as well as a host of wildlife including many whale species, Steller sea lions, sea otters, seals and an amazing selection of seabirds. Observer data is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the valuable marine resources.

Observers work on boats that range in size from 60-foot longliners to 600-foot processing factories. Working conditions on fishing boats vary widely but all are almost always challenging in Alaska, where cold, wet weather is the norm. Biologists typically work out on an open deck, often for hours at a time, or for long periods of time in factories. Observers must be flexible and resourceful in establishing a sampling station and sampling methods, and capable of heavy lifting. Observers determine their

- Collect biological samples.
- Monitor marine mammal and bird interactions with fishing gear.

Minimum Qualifications

General observer requirements, plus:

- Bachelors of Science in a biological science or limnology; or
- Valid NMFS certification; or
- Prior experience as a fisheries observer approved by ADF&G.
- One statistics course and one math course.
- College course using dichotomous (taxonomic) keys.
- U.S. citizenship.
- Drug Test (pre-screen & random tests).

Preferred Qualifications

- Previous experience as an observer.
- Experience in scientific data collection and data entry beyond college.
- Previous experience on boats.
- Valid and current passport.

Training

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uninterrupted for eight hours. Trip lengths vary from as little as a few days to as long as 30 days or, very rarely, 8 weeks at sea. Observer contracts are typically for 90 days and can be renewed indefinitely. We encourage — and reward — repeat contracts.

For more details on the program and observer requirements, see the summary on right or visit the official website: [NOAA North Pacific Observer Program](#) .

Saltwater Inc. is proud to be an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or protected veteran status.

throughout the year. Saltwater selects candidates from qualified applicants, and pays for their time, meals, and room and board during training.

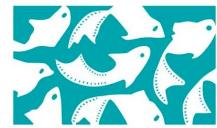
How to Apply

Click the link below to fill out our online application form. If you have any issues, contact our [observer team](#). For questions about the program, contact [Stacey Hansen](#).

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