

BYCATCH CHARACTERIZATION IN THE PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: It is assumed that all observers will need to have completed a NMFS 4-day briefing prior to the 2-day training for the program. Is this the case or will the 4-day briefing not be necessary if they are only deploying in the Halibut Program and not on regular IFQ NPGFOP vessels?

Answer: All the observers participating in the research study (all observers provided under this contract) will need to be 2008 certified prior to participating in the 2-day study training. Observers who have successfully completed a 4-day briefing since December 2007, or who have successfully completed a 3-week training since December 2007 are 2008 certified.

Some of the vessels participating in the study may be fishing regular IFQ, and will want to have the research study observer days count toward their observer coverage. For this reason, all observers participating in the study need to be 2008 NPGOP certified.