



NOAA
FISHERIES

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center

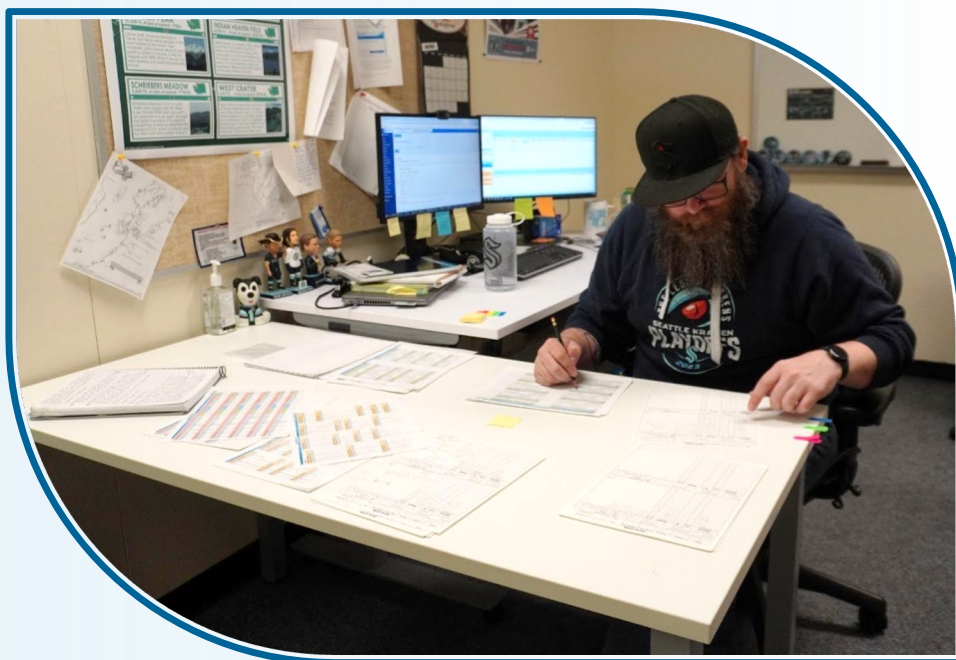
Fisheries
Monitoring
Analysis

Alaska Fisheries Science Center: Debriefing Services Program

What We Do

The North Pacific Observer Program's Debriefing Services team strives to quality assure and quality control fishery-dependent data. We provide scientific data for fisheries management, stock assessments, and analytic products for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and Alaska Regional Office to support sustainable fishing jobs and seafood businesses.

Our thorough debriefing protocols with fishery observers ensure that we are getting the best data possible. We also make sure they have the tools they need to effectively complete their assignments, and that their working conditions are safe and productive.



FMA fisheries biologist checking data before a debriefing.



2024 Accomplishments

- 17 staff members completed 429 debriefings in Seattle (92%) and Anchorage (8%). The majority of debriefings were standard in-person meetings, but we allowed an increased number of remote debriefings based on an observer's work experience and the amount of data collected during a cruise
- Recruited two new staff in Anchorage to increase capacity for debriefing in Alaska

In-season advising and mid-cruises

- 20 FMA staff provided support and advice for observers during deployments on all vessel and gear types
- Completed 149 mid-cruise reviews (83% in Dutch Harbor) that ensured observers successfully ran data checks, answered sampling questions, identified potential regulation violations, and followed safety protocols while working in challenging environments

Vessel Inspections:

- Assessed observer sample stations and video monitoring systems aboard 55 catcher processor vessels (trawl, pot, and hook-and-line). These inspections confirm work stations are in compliance with federal regulations to ensure an ergonomic, efficient, and safe work environment for observers to collect samples. Vessel inspections were conducted in Seattle and Anacortes, WA, and in Dutch Harbor, AK

2025 Preview

- Continue to debrief observers in a thorough manner to ensure the established sampling collection protocols were followed and high quality data are used for fisheries management, stock assessments and analyses.
- Continue to work with IT to develop tools to increase the efficiency of the debriefing process
- Increase emphasis will be placed on inseason support for observers to mitigate sampling challenges, improve data quality in real time and to address safety issues immediately.



Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce

Vice Admiral Nancy Hann
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

Emily Menashes
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for Fisheries

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www.fisheries.noaa.gov

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**National Marine
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