



NOAA FISHERIES

National Observer Program

Supporting the NOAA Fisheries Mission

For more than four decades, NOAA Fisheries has used Fishery Observers and at-sea monitors to collect data from U.S. commercial fishing and processing vessels, as well as from shoreside processing plants and "motherships" (also known as receiving vessels). Our eyes and ears on the water, observers and at-sea monitors are professionally trained biological technicians gathering firsthand data to support a wide range of science, conservation, and management activities.*

There are few, if any, parts of the NOAA Fisheries mission in which observers do not play a vital role. In addition to collecting data that feeds directly into fisheries science, management, and stock assessment decisions, observers also support compliance with fishing regulations and monitor interactions with sea turtles, marine mammals, seabirds, and other protected resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/fishery-observers

**At-sea monitors collect data to estimate discards for vessels in the Northeast groundfish fishery.*

Workers' Compensation Claims for NOAA Fishery Observers

Fishery Observers who are not federal employees but work for a contract company are usually covered by the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA). Although contractors are not generally covered by FECA, Fishery Observers may be eligible for compensation under FECA when on a vessel and under contract to carry out responsibilities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act or the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Submission Procedures

Fishery Observers should follow the procedures below when submitting FECA workers' compensation claims:

CA-1s and CA-2s: Initial Notices of Traumatic Injury or Occupational Illness/Disease

The observer should complete page 1 of the CA-1/CA-2 and then provide the form to their observer company to complete page 2. On page 2 of the CA-1/CA-2 (top right corner), there is a box requesting "OWCP Agency Code." The observer company should input "9999-OB" in this box.

When the form is complete and signed by both the observer and the observer company, submit it **via fax to: 202-343-5570 OR mail* to:**

DOL OWCP
400 West Bay St.
Room 827
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**It is recommended to use trackable services when submitting claims via mail.*

CA-1: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/owcp/regs/compliance/ca-1.pdf>

CA-2: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/owcp/regs/compliance/ca-2.pdf>

CA-7, Claim for Compensation

The observer should complete page 1 of the CA-7 and then provide the form to their observer company to complete page 2. When the form is complete and signed by both the observer and the observer company, **mail* to:**

DFELHWC-FECA
P.O. Box 8311
London, KY 40742-8311

**It is recommended to use trackable services when submitting claims via mail.*

CA-7: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/owcp/regs/compliance/ca-7.pdf>

