

Fisheries Information System (FIS)

**Office of Science and Technology
National Observer Program
FIS Partner Brief**

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Organizational Background

- The NOP coordinates with all regional observer programs through the NOPAT
- NOP/NOPAT activities include:
 - National policies and standards
 - Improve data quality
 - National funding
 - National outreach

Organizational Profile

Number of fisheries observed: 42 nationwide

Number of observers: Over 500 nationwide

Number of sea days observed: Over 50,000
annually

Number of external requests filled: Over 850
annually

National Bycatch Report

- Compilation of bycatch estimates from all U.S. commercial fisheries
- Over 250 fisheries identified nationwide
- Estimates developed from observer data and logbook data
- Link to landings data by species and fishery to evaluate overall bycatch levels
- Consistency with FIS with species codes, gear codes, etc.
- Fishery Bycatch Estimation Improvement Plans
- Improve catch and bycatch estimation procedures

Standardize Data Requests

- Regional responses to external data requests
- Lack of consistency in data resolution
- Confidentiality issues
- Evaluate commonalities in regional data attributes
- Develop national standards for release of data
- Explore ways to collect, store and link data
- Evaluate regional interactive data access systems

Electronic Monitoring

- NOPAT EM Committee
 - Provide recommendations on electronic data collection for observer data
 - Coordinate with other EM committees (cooperative research, FIS, etc)
 - Develop funding proposals
 - Investigate new EM technologies
 - Evaluate confidentiality issues
 - Evaluate implementation and cost issues

Questions?

