

NORTHEAST FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

NEFAMP MONITORS vs. NEFOP OBSERVERS

This table will help describe the difference between NEFAMP (Northeast Fisheries At-Sea Monitoring Program) At-Sea Monitors and NEFOP (Northeast Fisheries Observer Program) Observers. Both programs are developed and overseen by NMFS Fisheries Sampling Branch at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC). The main difference between the two is that monitors will be collecting a reduced set of data, thereby reducing training time, gear requirements, and internal support resources.

NEFOP observers and NEFAMP monitors are trained by the NEFSC. Data collected by both programs are processed by the NEFSC. Observers and monitors identify and record all species caught, are trained in sub-sampling methodology, and receive advanced training in vessel safety.

Listed below is a table highlighting the differences between the NEFAMP monitors and the NEFOP observers.

TASKS/ REQUIREMENTS	NEFAMP MONITOR	NEFOP OBSERVER
BACHELOR'S DEGREE	NO (High School diploma or equivalency in proposed Am16; seeking college degree with waiver system)	YES
NMFS TRAINING DURATION	10 days	16 days
DATA COLLECTION	Basic	Advanced Ex: sighting logs
BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING	None	Mammals, turtles, birds, fish, and crustaceans
AMOUNT OF GEAR ISSUED	44 items	83 items
GEAR CHARACTERISTICS INFORMATION	Basic	Advanced Ex: record intricate gear configurations
PERFORMANCE BASED BONUS PROGRAM	No	Yes
SUPPLEMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECTS	No	Yes
RECORDING DATA	Electronic (iPaq)	Paper + Electronic (Paper Logs, iPaq, Rugged laptops)
TRAINING TRIP REQUIREMENTS	No	Yes
TRAINING PROVIDER	NEFSC	NEFSC
DATA PROCESSING	NEFSC	NEFSC