

DRUG POLICY OF THE
NORTH PACIFIC GROUND FISH OBSERVER PROGRAM

This drug policy applies to certified observers and observer trainees working under the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (NPGOP). Certified observers and observer trainees are covered under this policy from the first day of training or briefing until the last day of debriefing. This policy was developed to convey the expectations of the NPGOP regarding the use of illegal drugs. The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well being of observers, observer trainees, and those they work with. This policy is also intended to protect the integrity of the NPGOP and the observer workforce as a group of professional scientists providing the highest quality data possible to manage the North Pacific groundfish fisheries.

The use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs is a crime. For this reason, the NPGOP has a zero tolerance policy. Observers found to be engaging in the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs will be recommended for suspension and/or decertification. Observer trainees found to be engaging in the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs will be removed from class and may be denied certification. In addition, the NPGOP will inform an observer's employer who, as a condition of their employment, may require the observer submit to a drug test. These individuals may also be referred to the appropriate enforcement agency for prosecution.

A list of controlled substances may be found in Schedules I - V of the Controlled Substance Act (21 USC § 812, available upon request). In instances where an observer seeks assistance for chemical dependency, or drug abuse is suspected, the NPGOP encourages observer providers to assist their employees in finding and completing a drug assessment and treatment program.

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