

## **CERTIFIED OBSERVER PROGRAM**

Beginning in 2007 Tournament Trail will institute a Certified Observer Program (COP) that could benefit all of our salmon fishing tournaments. The program is intended to provide a pool of certified observers where needed. With the increase in the number of tournaments and the number of fishing teams this program could benefit all participants by helping to ensure consistency in rule interpretation and application.

Candidates should have some salmon fishing experience, not be prone to seasickness, and have a desire to help maintain the growth of tournament fishing and the conservation of our marine resources. All candidates must be at least 18 years old and submit a completed application to the COP Coordinator. Approved applicants will be contacted by the COP Coordinator and notified of their acceptance into the program. Each applicant must successfully complete a training session consisting of the following topics: Professional conduct, Species Identification and Rules and Regulations (DNR and tournament). Each applicant will be required to pay a \$50 fee prior to starting the training class. An applicant who fails the examination at the end of the training class will be allowed to retake portions of the class and retake the examination at no cost at a future scheduled class. Individuals who successfully complete the course will be designated a "Certified Observer" (CO) and receive a Certified Observer Identification Card. CO's will receive \$50 per day for each tournament they participate in. The captain/team to which a CO is assigned will be responsible for the observer fee and pay directly to Tournament Trail. Tournament Trail will pay observer at the completion of each event.

In order to retain their CO designation each observer will be required to pay an annual renewal fee of \$25 which covers the cost of administering the program and updated training classes. CO shirts and hats will be made available to members who wish to purchase them. Applications are available in the Tournament Trail magazine and on their website, or by contacting Fred MacDonald. Each successful applicant will be advised as to time and place of the training program.

Teams which would like to utilize this service can contact the certified observer coordinator. If an observer is available for the event in question, a fee of \$100.00 (\$50.00 per day) will be assess to the requesting team. The COP program will provide the observer and will pay the \$100.00 fee after the event to the said observer. This proposed (work-in-progress) COP program has great potential as we develop and grow the Tournament Trail

The purpose is to provide a service to teams participating in observer required events. Obviously providing your own observer will continue to be your choice.

Application  
C.O.P.

Certified Observer Program

**Section 1 – Personal Information**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (to receive tournament info via email)

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you physically able of observing from a boat? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Have you ever been seasick? Never \_\_\_ Sometimes \_\_\_ Often \_\_\_

Are you able to attend a training session? Weekend Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ Weekday Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Are you willing to travel to tournaments outside your area? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

**Section 2 – Fishing Experience**

Have you ever fished professionally? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ Captain \_\_\_ Mate \_\_\_

Have you fished Lake Michigan salmon before? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ How Many Times \_\_\_

Can you identify species of salmon and trout caught in the Great Lakes? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Do you now or have you ever owned a boat? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Have you ever fished or observed in a salmon tournament? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

**Section 3 – Observers Oath**

I swear that all information provided in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

I swear I will uphold the rules and regulation of the various tournaments in which I may participate.

I agree to hold harmless the tournament committee, tournament director, tournament or tournament team in the event of any physical or emotional harm endured by me during my term or service.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Training Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Application fee of \$50.00 must accompany this application to reserve date of training class. In the event the class is cancelled, there will be a full refund. Make checks payable to Target Marketing Group and mail with application to Fred MacDonald PO Box 393, Manistee, MI 49660. Applications can also be submitted on the Tournament Trail website using a credit card [www.tournamenttrail.net](http://www.tournamenttrail.net).

# **Certified Observer**

## **Proposed Training Course Outline**

### **Section 1 – Professional Conduct**

1. Dress appropriately for the occasion.
2. Bring own lunch and beverage
3. Confirm details of tournament (location, date, name of captain and boat, location of boat, departure time)
4. Arrive on time
5. Do not consume alcoholic beverages on the boat.
6. Do not assist crew in fishing unless asked to do so.
7. If you observe rule infraction before it occurs, point out infraction to the captain.
8. Ask permission to use head or go below.

### **Section 2 – Species Identification**

Study photo description and written information on species identification (Chinook, coho, steelhead, brown trout and lake trout).

1. Discuss with class obvious markings and more subtle differences among fish species. Raise any doubts you have on identification to instructor.
2. Understand life cycle of salmon and trout from hatchery/spawning to end of life.

### **Section 3 – Rules and Regulation**

1. Review Michigan DNR Fishing Regulations. Carry copy with you as resource reference.
2. Review General Tournament Rules and Regulations provided by each tournament director. Discuss relationship to DNR Rules and standardization between tournaments.
3. Review Tournament Specific Rules that apply differently from one tournament to another such as no cull, legal limits, and species mix.

### **Section 4 – Reporting Rules Violations**

1. Note time and nature of violation.
2. Do not discuss or debate violation with captain or crew.
3. Report violation to Certified Observer Coordinator as soon as possible upon return to the dock or following weight in of tournament cooler.
4. Be available to present facts of violation to tournament committee if necessary.