



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

# OBSERVER JOURNAL

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KEY ELEMENTS OF YOUR JOURNAL

## Reason for Journal

- Provide information that is not captured on the forms or to provide a better description than can be included on the forms.
  - used by debriefers to verify information and unusual events
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- by compliance officers to assess incidents and compile case reports.
  - Freestyle – freedom to describe the operation of the vessel and other oceanographic or social features of the trip.
  - personal observations relevant to the daily operation of the vessel as well as more sensitive information in relation to possible vessel operational non-compliance
  - a legal document and is used as evidence in prosecutions, so be careful to be factual
  - differs from the Trip Report in that it is a chronological record, it records events in a time sequence of hours and days, and the Trip Record is a summary into subjects

# JOURNAL FEATURES

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- Consistent
- Legible
- Relevant
- Use prescribed formats
- Provide extra detail, relevant diagrams and illustrations

# CONSISTENT

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- Regular Daily Entries maintained
- make an entry every day, with some detail of what happened or why nothing happened
- Start a new page each day
- daily from the day your board, you may also include your days travelling to the vessel if relevant
- use more than one page or section if you need

# LEGIBLE/READABLE

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- Handwriting – others have to read it, be neat.
- Thought process - When writing, keep your sentences clear and short to focus your descriptions on what is important. Your thought process should be logical and easy to follow for the readers of your journal
- In paragraphs - Separate into subject paragraphs. Each event or incident should be separated into a paragraph.
- Use headings - Use headings to identify important events or incidents This makes it easier to read and find events or incidents

# RELEVANT

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- Keep to Facts - reporting the relevant facts. . If you were told some information you think is relevant then indicate that you were told this rather than witnessed it
- **Events** - An event is something that happens or is regarded as happening; an occurrence, especially one of some importance.
- **Incidents** - An incident is a unique event that is unexpected, may affect a normal operation and usually has a negative sense to it. Incidents can also be given a ranking of more significance where they are described as **critical incidents** or **infringements**. These are generally on your GEN-3 form. Report these to your debriefer.

## RELEVANT (CONT.)

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- **Descriptions** - Your descriptions of events and incidents should be clear, concise and factual. In particular if the incident is critical or especially if describing an infringement, the journal description will be used as evidence. If you report a critical incident you **MUST** provide a description.
- **Implications** - An implication is what you predict may be the outcome of an event without seeing the outcome. This should be based on what you have seen, but you should make it clear that this is what you think might have happened but you did not see it.

# USE PRESCRIBED FORMATS

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- There is a standardised format that the journal must keep to ensure important facts are recorded and to simplify for others that are searching for information in your journal.
- **Date** - The date in the standard format at the top of **every** page, include the day of week.
- **Record times of events** –The journal is a time sequence of events, it is essential to the record times when events start and end (or duration) if possible. In text or in margin.
- **Page numbers** - Every page must be numbered, at the bottom margin of the page
- **Signature** - Journal is a legal record and so you should sign every page, this declares your record is a true statement. Put your signature at the bottom of each page

# JOURNAL STANDARDISED FORMAT



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	SATURDAY 20/8/11/17	JOCIS-01	PAGE 46 OF 127
	FISHING SET NO. 24 DETAILS		
0600hrs	Early this morning, I observed vessel deploying of fishing set no. 24 at latitude 06°20.010'S longitude 158°44.007'E of Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic zone. There were a total of 155 baskets consisting of 3410 hooks having being deployed that uses a total amount of 370kg of Sardine bait fish. There were of any encounter of unusual set observed during setting activities.		
	Fine weather and slight seas conditions encountered this morning in the area fished. Sky cloudy and haze with little sunshine.		
1310hrs	Set ends sometime after mid-day, at latitude 06°20.180'S longitude 158°48.006'E. At the end of set, the vessel resume searching to start of set position to drift at soak time.		
1350hrs	Vessel stopped and was drifting at soak time at latitude 06°20.992'S longitude 158°43.898'E of the fishing area, at about a mile from the set position.		
	HAULING ACTIVITY DETAILS		
1700hrs	Began hauling activities at latitude 06°20.589'S longitude 158°43.259'E of Solomon Islands fishing areas. Total baskets monitored during hauling is 151 consisting of 3322 hooks along with some catch retained by the vessel and were all recorded on U-4 forms page 28 and 29. There was no problems encountered during hauling and/or monitoring activity. Baskets not monitored were retrieved onboard while hauling dinner and Teat break.		
0404hrs	Hauling activities end at early in the morning, at latitude 06°21.657'S longitude 158°48.495'E. At end of hauling the Captain navigates the vessel to searching to a fishing position.		

Chif 20/8/17

Pg 13	140	TUESDAY	19.09.17	DAY 9
TIME	SET 7: OPERATION STARTED.			
0349hrs	AT position <sup>22°13.399'S</sup> 173°46.606'W first radio beacon was deployed, Captain set its line towards north as vessel heading pointed as we still at the east Tonga and Eua waters, wind direction south east as wind is on our starboard quarter, sea-slight 7-10 kts.			
1005hrs	Last radio beacon <sup>21°32.534'S</sup> deploy 173°54.904'W, vessel headed towards wind direction and drift to the last radio beacon as it soaking time.			
	HAULING OPERATION.			
1420hrs	First radio beacon retrieve at position <sup>21°33.695'S</sup> 173°56.766'W and the wind direction south east as the wind is at our Port bow, wind speed 10-15 kts, it was windy as the hauling started. Sea slight.			
	GEN-3 Pollution AND SSI INTERACT.			
1757hrs	PW-9: One of the crew dump some branchline overboard as he finish repairing the branchline. about 50 meters usually they collect it for being Retain fish.			
2017hrs	SI-6: An oceanic white tips (OCS) was caught by hook #6 (IHD) it was too crew as always hurried and cut the branchline at the joint as the OCS was free with meter branchline still attach.			
0130hrs	One silky shark (FAL) also was caught by hook #13 (IHI) it was too their condition codes. crew cut free at joint of branchline at the "FAL" swim away with meter still attached.			
	HAULING OPERATION FINISHED.			
0245hrs	RETRIEVE our last radio beacon at the position <sup>22°17.045'S</sup> 173°38.704'W. The wind direction was north west as it at our astern, wind speed 10-15 kts, sea slight.			
	CATCH RESULT TARGET & BYCATCH			
	YFT-22	ALB-13	TARGET	BYCATCH-SPIC 413-2-BLM-1-SHO-1-LEC-1
			Adufui	SKJ-1

## PROVIDE EXTRA DETAIL, RELEVANT DIAGRAMS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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- that “a picture speaks a thousand words”.
- Drawings or diagrams can often describe an object or layout better and more efficiently than describing in many words

# EXTRA DETAIL

Diagram



Photo



## SPECIAL SECTIONS

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- Special sections are useful for summarise repeated incidents or to summarise information that is not clear in the forms. Ensure the page is near the back and has a title.
- Photos' – for you to write notes about any photos that you might have taken onboard;
- Repeated events that you do not have sufficient forms or space for eg. 'Pollution Events'
- General descriptions 'A day in my life on board', 'Quality of life on board', 'The Crew' - for notes about different aspects of onboard life or build a profile of the crew.
- Any special projects you are asked to do, e.g. 'Biological sampling' or 'Tag Seeding'

# JOURNAL MARKING

	Regular Daily Entries maintained	Readable/Legible	Relevant observations	Prescribed formats	Extra detail	
		▪ Paragraphs	Factual detail	▪ Date	▪ relevant diagram	
		▪ Handwriting	▪ Events	▪ times of events	▪ illustrations etc)	
		▪ Thought process	▪ Incidents	▪ page numbers		
			▪ Descriptions ▪ Implications			
Score	25	20	25	25	5	100%
bla bla	20	18	23	20		81% missed first day/day of week/reat descriptions
wah wah	20	18	23	20		81% day of week/last day missing/good detail
zup-di-du	20	16	20	24		80% handriting/missed last day
ho humm	20	17	19	20		76% more detail of events/ description