
126 – Norwegian Oil and Gas
Recommended guidelines for
the involvement and participation of
fishery liaisons in seismic surveys on
vessels in Norwegian waters

PREFACE

This guideline is supported by the Norwegian Oil and Gas Exploration Mangers' Forum.

It has also been approved by the director general.

Responsible in Norwegian Oil and Gas Association is the Manager, Industry policy and Resource management.

This guideline has been prepared in collaboration with International Association of Geophysical Contractors (IAGC) and Norges Fiskarlag.

The guideline is owned by the Norwegian Oil and Gas Association.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is the following:

- to contribute to good coexistence between the fishing industry and the petroleum industry
- to ensure that fishery liaisons are actively involved in planning and executing seismic surveys
- to provide fishery liaisons with the best and most predictable working conditions possible
- to ensure that the fishery liaison have a free and independent position
- to increase knowledge among responsible personnel on seismic vessels about fishing activities in the areas of seismic operations

1.2 Application

All IAGC and Norwegian Oil and Gas members are requested to use these guidelines. Requirements for training and certification of fishery liaisons are described in chapter 2, Section 6, of the Norwegian Petroleum Directorates resource management regulations.

1.3 Responsibilities

- The operators must require that the seismic companies comply with these guidelines
- The seismic companies must involve the fishery liaisons in the planning and execution of the survey

2 FISHERY LIAISONS INVOLVEMENT

2.1 Number of fishing liaisons on board

The general rule is that one fishery liaison must always be on board.

Sometimes two will be required on board at the same time.

In such cases advice from the Directorate of Fisheries must be followed.

Should circumstances arise during the seismic data acquisitions, where the fishery liaison recommends two fishery liaisons on board at the same time, this advice should be followed.

2.2 Working language

English is the working language on board.

2.3 Working conditions

Provisions must be made for the fishery liaisons to do their job in an efficient manner.

This means they must be given a permanent workplace on the bridge with access to their own chart plotter with automatic identification system (AIS) and pilot plug, VHF, telephone, a computer with internet access, and their own e-mail address.

The fishery liaisons should be assigned a single cabin whenever possible.

This decision rests with the party chief/captain since this could be difficult to accommodate based on the general condition of the vessel and cabin capacity.

2.4 Preparations

It is important to involve the fishery liaisons as early as possible in the planning of the survey, to make sure information regarding expected fishing activity and fishing methods in the relevant area, is taken into consideration in the survey plans.

Start-up meetings with the fishery liaisons present must be held before the survey starts.

The fishery liaisons and responsible crew members on the seismic and supply vessels should attend the start-up meeting and be made aware of the role of the fishery liaisons and the applicable guidelines.

Emphasis must be given to factors which can reduce conflicts with ongoing fishing.

2.5 Daily operations

The fishery liaisons must be involved in the preparation of the daily data acquisition program.

A good dialogue between seismic vessel crew members and the crew on board the fishing vessels is essential for minimising the impact of seismic operations on ongoing fishing activity in the area.

The fishery liaisons are the primary point of contact between the seismic vessel crew members including the supply vessel crew, and the crew on board the fishing vessels.

If the fishery liaison is replaced during a survey, exchange of information (handover) must be arranged when a new fishery liaison comes on board.

3 COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUTHORITIES

The Coast Guard, the Directorate of Fisheries and the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate have entered an agreement to strengthen their cooperation and coordination.

This agreement regulates:

- the role of the Coast Guard as the primary contact for the fishery liaisons
- notification procedures when incidents are threatened or have occurred
- information for or advice to the fishery liaisons

If the fishery liaisons are unable to establish contact with fishing vessels in the survey area, the Coast Guard must be notified immediately.

4 DATABASE/CHART SYSTEMS

It is important that the fishery liaisons are well trained in the use of SAM-X and Barents Watch, and make active use of these tools to identify fishing activities.

The Norwegian Coastal Administration`s (NCA) tracking database contains important information, which should be used by the fishery liaisons.

To gain access to these data, the fishery liaisons must send an application to the NCA on their own initiative.

All fishery liaisons are encouraged to apply for access to the NCA's tracking database.

5 FISHERY LIAISON'S REPORT

The fishery liaison must submit a report to the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate and the Directorate of Fisheries in compliance with the requirements set by NPD in their "manual for fishery liaisons".

A copy of the fishery liaison report must be sent to the Norwegian Fishermen's Association and Norwegian Oil and Gas, to make active use of the information in future improvement processes.

It is recommended that the fishery liaisons, before leaving the vessel, holds a meeting with responsible personnel on board the seismic vessel to summarise experience gained.

Minutes of this meeting should be included in the fishery liaison's report.

6 DIALOGUE FORUM

The fishery liaisons represent an important resource group for strengthening dialogue and interaction between the fishing industry and the petroleum industry to increase the overall value creation and reducing the potential for conflict.

To enhance the expertise of this resource group, the Norwegian Fishermen's Association and Norwegian Oil and Gas have established a Dialogue Forum, which

will be held once a year to systematise experience transfer, learning and improvement measures/processes for active fishery liaisons.

Those invited to attend these events, should give priority to participating.

7 IMPLEMENTATION

Norwegian Oil and Gas and the IAGC recommend that all the above-mentioned points are integrated in the quality assurance systems of the respective companies.

8 APPENDIX A REVISION HISTORY

The changes in revision 1 is done to implement the findings in the Norut's mapping of the fishery liaisons experiences.

Please see appendix B for the Norut report.

9 APPENDIX B LINK COLLECTION

The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate [Resource management regulations](#), chapter 2

[The Norwegian Petroleum Directorate's manual for fishery liaisons](#)

[Fiskerikyndiges erfaring. En kartlegging fra Norut 2015](#)

Marine seismic operations – document giving an overview of methods and techniques (IAGC)