

**Western Fishboat Owners Association - 2016
Regulatory Issues for U.S. West Coast Albacore Fishermen**

Information on Here Is Current but Always Changing, We May Update in June 2016 Newsletter. It Will Also Be Posted on www.tuna.org under "Permits and Regs"

2016 ALBACORE PERMITS: General Information NMFS West Coast Region: <http://tinyurl.com/mdf9cde>

HMS PERMIT UNDER PFMC-FMP: (ALL AREAS and All U.S. west coast based boats fishing HMS species)

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/mdf9cde>

HIGH SEAS FISHERIES COMPLIANCE ACT PERMIT: (OUTSIDE of 200 nm - EEZ)

General Info: <http://tinyurl.com/l5wyset>

High Seas permit info and application: <http://tinyurl.com/mpnj35y>

FOR INFORMATION CALL - NOAA/NMFS SW Region - 562 980 4024

Both applications can be obtained and sent to: Permits Office, NOAA NMFS SWR, 501 W Ocean Blvd #4200, Long Beach, CA 90802

NOTE: Boats of all sizes possessing the High Seas Permit are now required to carry a VMS. If you do not plan to fish beyond 200nm of the US, you can surrender the permit by calling the above #.

U.S. / CANADA ALBACORE TREATY 2016: General Info: <http://tinyurl.com/lopjffb>

NOTICE - U.S. Canada Albacore Treaty A new three-year regime was negotiated under the US/Canada albacore treaty in 2014. This regime will last through the 2016 season after which it will expire.

U.S. Vessels wishing to fish in Canadian waters pursuant to the treaty must register with NMFS at least 7 days prior to the first planned day in Canada by contacting NMFS at (562) 980-4024 or email albacore.fish@noaa.gov, as well as contacting now **Prince Rupert CG (250) 627-3074**

Number of Vessels: 45 Canadian Vessels in US EEZ, Historical Number U.S. Vessels in Canadian EEZ.

Fishing Season: Canadians access to US waters from June 15 - September 15, U.S. vessels can fish in Canadian waters outside of 12nm June 15 - October 31.

Port Access Season: U.S. boats June 15 - Dec 31 under regime. Jan 1 - June 15 with approval and application below.

To enter a Canadian port U.S. vessels will need to fill out an application any time of the year. (Not Needed Just For Fishing)

Application to Enter Canada Ports: <http://tinyurl.com/mvy4pvg>

List of Canadian brokers: <http://tinyurl.com/l37knea>

USCG At-Sea Vessel Interaction Report Form: <http://tinyurl.com/ken8zb4>

Copy of Treaty: <http://tinyurl.com/mslth3a>

2016 "TO DO" & REGULATORY ISSUES FOR US ALBACORE VESSELS

From NMFS - April 2015 "We are still advising that U.S. Vessels fishing in Canada with no intention to enter a Canadian port do not need a EEZ license. Vessels entering port for weather will not need an EEZ license but they should not expect to be able to sell fish, pick up crew etc."

NOTE: Force Majeure applies if a boat seeks entry for bad weather, serious illness or injury on board requiring attention, or even a breakdown of the ice , engine or freezing system. That is international law, treaty or no treaty, fishing regime or no fishing regime.

WCPFC AREA ENDORSEMENTS: (All Vessels West of 150°W, and west of 130°W south of 4°S WCPFC,)

General PIR permit information and links: http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html
 WCPFC Area Endorsement: <http://tinyurl.com/lywnp6m>

The Following Table Shows Which Permits and Items Are Required Where!

This table may not reflect accurate requirements on VMS at this time. We will resend in June and post on the WFOA website fish report page after NMFS clarifications.

Fishing Where?	HMS Permit	HSFCA Permit	Canadian Port App	Check in Prince Rupert, CG	WCPFC Endorsement	VMS Vessels < 24m (79ft)	VMS Vessels > 24m (79ft)
Inside US EEZ-200nm	X					Required if Vessel has an HSFCA permit JAN 2016	X JAN 2016
Outside US EEZ - 200nm	X	X				Required if Vessel has an HSFCA permit JAN 2016	X JAN 2016
In Canadian EEZ	X			X			
Enter Canadian Port- Jan 1-June 15	X		X	X			
Enter Canadian Port - June 15 - Dec 31	X		X	X			
West of 150 W*	X	X			X	X	X

* The VMS requirement above under the WCPFC applies to all areas and all vessels once a vessel applies and/or installs and activates the unit. NMFS is preparing to implement domestic requirements under IATTC Resolution C-04-06 requiring VMS on U.S. tuna fishing vessels greater than 24 meters (79ft) in all areas Jan 2016.

USCG UPDATE ON VESSEL REQUIREMENTS: See Links: <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/cfvs/>

GARBAGE DISCHARGE: There have been some changes in MARPOL Regs concerning dumping any garbage at sea. Basically it comes down to the only thing a vessel is allowed to discharge in food items of certain sizes and outside of 12 miles etc.. The coast guard has posted the requirements at: <http://tinyurl.com/lzmgjfh>

LOGBOOKS: All U.S. vessels fishing HMS are required to fill out logbooks and return them to John Childers, SWFSC, 8604 LaJolla Shores Dr., LaJolla, CA 92037-1508 within 30 days if landed in the U.S. Logbooks are available as are e-log options. For Information call 858.546.7192 or john.childers@noaa.gov.

Download Electronic Logbooks: <http://tinyurl.com/mvj45xh>

Vessel Captains Dolphin Free Training and Statement: As of April 2016 this is now required do to a legal matter between the US and Mexico.

ARCHIVAL ALBACORE TAGS: Watch for albacore tags this season as over 800 have been tagged since 2001 with at least 200 in the past two seasons. Reward is \$500. Retain whole fish even if you suspect it's a tag.

For More Information See: <http://tinyurl.com/myho44q>

USCG Safety Exam Notice: Passing a U.S. Coast Guard fishing vessel safety examination will become mandatory Oct. 15. 2015. Any fishing vessel crew operating beyond three miles off shore will need to complete their safety examination and receive a commercial fishing vessel safety decal, which should be displayed on the vessel.

Due to the upcoming mandatory examination date, fishing vessel crews are encouraged to do their examinations now. For inspections along central Washington Coast and the Puget Sound, contact Robert Cuddeback at 206-217-6187. For inspections along the Oregon coast from Brookings to Westport, Washington, contact Curt Farrell at 503-240-9373.

Recreational Sales of Albacore: Just a reminder that selling recreational albacore and/or buying it is illegal. If a recreational vessels want to sell albacore as a commercial vessel they need the following in WA state, other state requirements may be similar but the federal licence requirements and USCG safety equipment are for all to comply:

- Federal HMS license
- WA State food fish license
- WA State wholesale dealers license if selling retail
- U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment
- Buyers must maintain chain of custody records
- Fishermen cannot legally recreational fish and commercial fish during the same trip

Additional Info on US/Canada Treaty:

Pursuant to the Treaty, U.S. fishing vessels are authorized to enter, land their catches, sell or transship their catch, obtain fuel, supplies, repairs and equipment only at Coal Harbour, Port Hardy, Prince Rupert, Victoria, Vancouver and Ucluelet ports.

Vessels will be required to clear with Canadian Customs and Border Services Agency prior to any person or cargo being allowed to disembark the vessel. In addition, all U.S. vessels must obtain Authorization for Port Activity and Exclusive Economic Zone Entry by a Foreign Vessel (EEZ license) from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans prior to accessing Canadian ports Vessels fishing in the Canadian EEZ under the will not need an EEZ license unless they are accessing Canadian Ports.

The EEZ license application form along with a list of approved agents necessary for its completion can be found online: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/2015/EEZ-ZEE-eng.pdf>

Please note that the vessel master is required to sign the EEZ license application form. It is recommended that the vessel master and Canadian authorized agent work together to ensure that the EEZ application is signed prior to submission. Applications missing signatures from the vessel master will be considered incomplete. Applications that have already been signed and submitted may be amended (e.g. for updated entry/exit dates) as required.