

## Western Fishboat Owners Association - 2018 Regulatory Issues for U.S. West Coast Albacore Fishermen

### 2018 ALBACORE PERMITS: General Information NMFS West Region:

Link: <http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/permits/>

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

These permits are valid for (2) two years and expired in the month of your birthday.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/mpcco4s>

### 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 Shannon Penna - 562 980-4238

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

Note: U.S. HMS vessels that have this permit for fishing beyond 200nm of the U.S. are required to have VMS tracking. However, if you have no intention of fishing beyond 200 nm you can surrender the permit to NMFS and not fall under the VMS requirements. Keep in mind that most fisheries require VMS now and the only region where its not a requirement for albacore is within the 200 mile EEZ of the United States. . If a vessel is 24 meters or longer the IATTC Resolution C- 14-02 requires VMS within the U.S. EEZ.

**IATTC REGISTRY** - Applies to **ALL** U.S. vessels holding an HMS permit and fishing within the IATTC zone.

NOAA sends updates to the IATTC with vessels that need to be added to the register - which is what you received - it is not a complete list.

The register is publicly available here: [www.iatcc.org/VesselRegister/VesselList.aspx?List=RegVessels](http://www.iatcc.org/VesselRegister/VesselList.aspx?List=RegVessels)

It is the same as the IATTC register list, but if you would like, you can search for vessels here or contact Shannon Penna (Shannon.Penna@noaa.gov)

An HMS permit would not trigger a vessel being added to the WCPFC Register, as they only apply to the West Coast Region

**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](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html)

WCFPC Area Endorsement: <http://tinyurl.com/lywnp6m>

**NOTE:** Vessels in the WCPFC Registry are required to use IRCS and not Document # on their vessels for ID. Also, make sure the photo you submit to register reflects this. Having it wrong could result in prosecution and heavy fines for the US vessel.

**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	Canadian Fishing Permit **NEW**	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	X
Outside US EEZ - 200nm	X	X					Required if Vessel has an HSFCA permit	X
In Canadian EEZ	X			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
South Pacific	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. VMS IS REQUIRED on ALL U.S. tuna fishing vessels greater than 24 meters (79ft) in all areas as of Jan 2016.

**U.S. / CANADA ALBACORE TREATY 2018:** General Info: <http://tinyurl.com/lopiffb>

**NOTICE** - U.S. Canada Albacore Treaty a three-year regime was negotiated under the US/Canada albacore treaty. This regime will last through the 2019 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](mailto:albacore.fish@noaa.gov), as well as contacting now **Prince Rupert CG (250) 627-3074** \* prior to entering. Additional requirements and instructions can be found in the Guide for Complying with US.-Canada Albacore Treaty.

**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 for any reason other than force majeure (an emergency) 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>

**NEW – 2018 - Canadian Permits Now Required by U.S. Boats:** Starting in 2018, all U.S. North Pacific Albacore Tuna fishing vessels will need an EEZ Albacore Tuna Fishing Licence for U.S. Vessels (EEZ tuna fishing licence), before entering Canada's EEZ to fish.

DFO has developed an approach that builds on the existing EEZ Port Access (EEZ port access licence) licensing application process. Agents/harvesters only need to check an additional box to apply for the EEZ tuna fishing licence.

The requirement applies to **ALL** U.S. vessels fishing North Pacific albacore tuna in Canada's EEZ under the Canada-U.S. Albacore Tuna Treaty.

- The licence will allow U.S. North Pacific albacore tuna vessels to enter and fish in Canada's EEZ in accordance with Canadian law.
- The EEZ tuna fishing licence will need to be applied for on an annual basis.
- The same application form is used to apply for both port access and fishing licences. No new forms are required.
- There are no fees for either licence for U.S. harvesters accessing Canada's EEZ, either to fish or to access port.
- A harvester could potentially have two licences: one for port access and one for tuna fishing.
- If you have previously applied for an EEZ port access licence, only an additional box (box #7) needs to be checked to apply for a fishing licence.

Licence application forms can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/y75ww26f> and at <http://tinyurl.com/mvy4pvg>

**NEW – 2018 - Canadian Marine Protected Areas - No Fishing:**

(a) Fishing for tuna is not permitted in the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area, as set out in the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area Regulations:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8t5meps>

The area 47°54 N, 129°02 W, from there west to a point at 47°54 N, 129°08 W, from there north to a point at 48°01 N, 129°08 W, from there east to a point at 48°01 N, 129°02 W

(b) Fishing for tuna is not permitted in the SGaan Kinghlas-Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area, as set out in the Bowie Seamount Marine Protected Area Regulations:

<http://tinyurl.com/y73a4x29>

The area 53°03'07.6 N, 135°50'25.9 W, to a point 53°16'20.9 N, 134°59'55.4 W, then to a point 53°39'49.2 N, 135°17'04.9 W, then to a point 53°39'18.0 N, 135°53'46.5 W, then to a point 53°52'16.7 N, 136°30'23.1 W, then to a point 53°49'19.6 N, 136°47'33.1 W, then to a point 53°40'02.5 N, 136°57'03.5 W, then to a point 53°13'59.2 N, 136°10'00.0 W

**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](mailto:john.childers@noaa.gov)

**To Request an Albacore Logbook** contact Shannon Penna at 562-980-4238, [albacore.fish@noaa.gov](mailto:albacore.fish@noaa.gov), (direct email) or, [wcr-permits@noaa.gov](mailto:wcr-permits@noaa.gov)

**Download Electronic Logbooks:** <http://tinyurl.com/mvj45xh> These e-logs are being re-worked and new prototype is being tested for ease of use and more relative information.

**USCG UPDATE ON VESSEL REQUIREMENTS:** See Link: <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 vessels are 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>

**ARCHIVAL ALBACORE TAGS:** Watch for albacore tags this season as over 1,000 have been tagged since 2001. AFRF will be undertaking a large project compiling and analyzing the past data over the next year. Retain whole fish even if you suspect it's a tag. For More Information See: <http://tinyurl.com/myho44q>

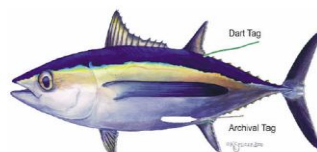
**USCG Safety Exam Notice:** Passing a U.S. Coast Guard fishing vessel safety examination became mandatory Oct. 15, 2015. Any fishing vessel crew operating beyond three miles off shore will need to complete their safety examination and receive a commercial fishing vessel safety decal, which should be displayed on the vessel good for 2 years.

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.

**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.

#### RECOVERY INSTRUCTIONS FOR ARCHIVAL TAGS IN ALBACORE

Tagged fish can be identified by 1 or 2 green dart tags located at the base of the second dorsal fin. Archival tags are electronic devices that are implanted in the belly of various tunas (albacore, bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack). They have a stalk that sticks out of the belly. The reward for the return an archival tag is \$500!



If a tuna is caught with one of these archival tags please follow these procedures to ensure the tag does not get damaged and can be returned to the scientists intact:

1. Immediately dispatch (kill) the fish by inserting an instrument such as a knife or screwdriver into its brain (just behind the soft spot on its head between the eyes). This prevents the fish from damaging the tag when it thrashes on deck.

U.S. Vessels fishing in Canada with no intention to enter a Canadian port do not need an 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.

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

**Recreational Sales of Albacore:** Just a reminder that selling recreational albacore and/or buying it is illegal. If 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 license 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

**STATES:** State Licensing costs apply also to all vessel and crew fishing albacore in WA, OR, and CA. Check with your local Depts of Fish and Wildlife for up to date fees, new requirements for vessel registration fees, landing fees, and crew licenses. WFOA will update those on this page in the next 2 months and post it to members.

**VMS INFORMATION:** There have been some articles lately about VMS tracking and fishing information being used for purposes other than the ordinal intent of VMS sold to fishermen as a way to better enforce closed areas and other resource laws. As with most data collected by electronic means there seems to be no guarantee of privacy and all know that information can be tapped by those that may want to use the data for purposes other than enforcement. WFOA strongly opposes this sort of data drip especially in a clean fishery that has no closed zones other than entry of EEZ's in of other nations and territorial waters of Canada under the treaty. WFOA fears data on fleet movements and individual's potentially can falls into the hands of ENGO's and other nations. We will keep on it!

**GOOD FISHING IN 2018 AND TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!**