

Western Fishboat Owners Association
Regulations for U.S. West Coast Albacore Fishermen
Updated for 2019

2019 ALBACORE REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS - General Information NMFS West Region:

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y3yjc6gg>

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

These permits are valid for (2) two years and expire 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: NMFS Permits Office, 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. Keep in mind that most fisheries require VMS now and the only region where it's not a requirement for albacore is within the 200 mile EEZ of the United States.

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.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselList.aspx?List=RegVessels

The Regional Vessel Registry (RVR) is updated quarterly. If a vessel is not listed, it may be on the next list or they did not renew before the list was generated. If their vessel is missing, contact Shannon Penna (Shannon.Penna@noaa.gov) and have it added. If a vessel has an HMS permit, they are automatically considered compliant with the RVR.

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

VMS - If a vessel is 24 meters or longer the IATTC Resolution C- 14-02 requires VMS within the U.S. EEZ.

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

General Pacific Island Region (PIR) permit information and links:

http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html

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

NOTE: Vessels in the WCPFC Registry are required to use International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) and not Document # on their vessels for ID. Also, make sure the photo you submit to register reflects this (**Make Sure the Image is Clear and Readable**). Having it wrong could result in prosecution and heavy fines for the U.S. vessels.

The Following Table Shows Which Permits and Applications Are Required Where and When? These could change from time to time and WFOA will update via member communications.

Fishing Where?	HMS Permit	HSFCA Permit	Canadian Fishing and Port Access App	Canada Check in/Out 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 – Box # 7	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 2019: General Info: <http://tinyurl.com/lopjffb>

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) 980-4238 or email albacore.fish@noaa.gov, as well as contacting Prince Rupert CG (250) 627-3074 * prior to entering and when exiting Canadian waters. Additional requirements and instructions can be found in the Guide for Complying with US.-Canada Albacore Treaty.

NOTE – 12 mile: U.S. vessels are not allowed to fish within the 12nm, territorial sea of Canada, and Canadian vessels cannot fish within the territorial sea of the U.S.

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

Fishing Season: Canadians access to U.S. waters is 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 obtaining the 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. Application to Enter Canada Ports: See Below.
<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>

Canadian EEZ Permits Required by U.S. Boats: All U.S. North Pacific Albacore Tuna fishing vessels will need Canadian EEZ License, 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 **(#7)** to apply for the EEZ tuna fishing license.

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

License application forms can be found here:

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

For faster service include an email and phone number. Email it or fax it to:

fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca (Specify PACIFIC REGION in subject line) fax
Fax: 604-666-5855 phone: 1-877-535-7307 (ask for the PACIFIC REGION)

Canadian Marine Protected Areas - No Fishing: UPDATE: The first one concerns the Endeavour Hydrothermal Vents Marine Protected Area at roughly 48N x 129W. Vessels fishing surface gear such as troll albacore ARE ALLOWED to fish there. Only bottom gear is excluded. The MPA on the Bowie Seamount restrict ALL gear types.

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

To Request a Hook and Line Albacore Logbook contact Shannon Penna at 562-980-4238, albacore.fish@noaa.gov, (direct email) or, wcr-permits@noaa.gov

E-Log Information and Download Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6kpsrcr>

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

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/lzmgifh>

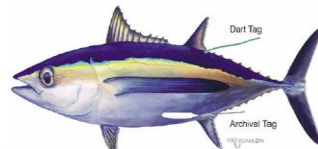
ARCHIVAL ALBACORE TAGS: Watch for albacore tags this season as over 1,000 have been tagged since 2001. AFRF completed a large project compiling and analyzing the past data over the past two years. Retain whole fish even if you suspect it's a tag, there is a \$500 reward. For More Information See: <http://tinyurl.com/myho44q>

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

For more details refer to the Treaty Compliance Guide which is on the WFOA website, www.wfoa-tuna.org under the permits/regs page or on the NOAA page at <https://tinyurl.com/y3yjc6gg>

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 individuals potentially can falls into the hands of ENGO's and other nations. We will keep on it!

GOOD FISHING IN 2019 AND TRY TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!