

American Commercial Tuna Fishing Vessel Access to Port Hardy, BC

US Tuna vessels may receive customs clearance from the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to access port services in Port Hardy (which does not house a CBSA office) by one of two methods:

1. Apply for Seasonal Clearance from CBSA after your initial CBSA report inward (the first time you report in to CBSA during your fishing trip in Canadian waters)

After reporting inward, and prior to continuing your fishing season in Canadian waters, submit an application for Seasonal Commercial Vessel Clearance by sending the below listed requirements to CBSA by email to fishingclearance@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.

- a) An initial clearance (A6) Form *A6, General Declaration*,
- b) A complete Crew list: in order to have the seasonal clearance remain valid, vessels are required to update CBSA with any crew changes,
- c) Valid Fishing licenses (both Canadian and American) as appropriate and,
- d) A clearance (A6) Form *A6, General Declaration* at the end of the fishing season or within 12 months of the initial outward clearance.

Seasonal Clearance is available to foreign vessels fishing under a Treaty and who will be fishing outside of 12 nautical miles from shore. A Seasonal Clearance allows the vessel to access any port on the Treaty list without applying for a customs clearance each time. A Seasonal Clearance is valid only for entries in which the vessel has not come alongside other vessels and/or have not entered into another country's territorial waters. Seasonal Clearance is available only to vessels operating without bonded stores. Licensed foreign fishing vessels landing fish and fish products in Canada must still file a paper Form *A6A, Freight/Cargo Manifest* with the CBSA. Vessels must file a cargo manifest with the tonnage of their load and update CBSA of any and all crew changes.

DFO port-access EEZ authorizations and licences will still be required.

(or)

2. Apply to the Comox CBSA office for clearance into Port Hardy on an as-needed basis

Vessels must make a request to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) by submitting the normal customs clearance request (Form A6) to the Comox office of CBSA. Comox CBSA will provide Port Hardy clearance to vessels on a case-by-case basis, provided that all documentation is in good order and after receiving approval from the CBSA Chief. This can be done by contacting the Comox CBSA office by calling 250-339-8950. A CBSA clearance Form (A6) plus a crew list is also required to be faxed to the Comox CBSA office at 250-339-7890. CBSA requires that the request be made at least 24 hours in advance of accessing Port Hardy.

DFO port-access EEZ authorizations and licences will still be required.

General CBSA Information:

CBSA Requirements for Commercial Vessels: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/aci-manif-ipc/req-exig-eng.html>

CBSA Toll free Info Contacts:

(Inside Canada): 1-800-461-9999
(Outside Canada): 1-204-983-3500, or 1-506-636-5064
(TTY Phone): 1-866-335-3237
(e-mail): contact@cbsa.gc.ca
(Website) : www.cbsa.gc.ca/contact/bis-sif-eng.html