

Western Fishboat Owners Association
Regulations for U.S. West Coast Albacore Fishermen
Updated – May 2021

2021 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: <https://tinyurl.com/yjxw9tor>

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

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

High Seas permit info and app: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/high-seas-fishing-permits>

FOR INFORMATION CALL - NOAA/NMFS Permits Office - 562 980-4238 or email wcr-permits@noaa.gov

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

LOGBOOKS: All U.S. vessels fishing HMS are required to fill out logbooks and return them to 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 owyn.snodgrass@noaa.gov

To Request a Hook and Line Albacore Logbook contact, NOAA/NMFS Permits Office - 562 980-4238 albacore.fish@noaa.gov, (direct email) or, wcr-permits@noaa.gov

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 your 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.

Also, for both the IATTC and WCPFC registries just Google the name of the vessel (F/V Name) and links will show up with vessel information and AIS locations. 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)

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/western-and-central-pacific-commission-area-endorsement>

<https://www.wcpfc.int/record-fishing-vessel-database>

<https://www.wcpfc.int/vessels>

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	IMO #	Canadian Fishing and Port Access App	Canada Check in/Out Prince Rupert, CG	WCPFC Endorsement	VMS** Vessels < 24m (79ft)	VMS** Vessels > 24m (79ft)	AIS > 65ft
Inside US EEZ-200nm	X		X *				Required if Vessel has an HSFCA permit	X	X
Outside US EEZ - 200nm	X	X	x				Required if Vessel has an HSFCA permit	X	X
In Canadian EEZ	X		X *	X – Box # 7	X				X
Enter Canadian Port- Jan 1-June 15	X			X	X				X
Enter Canadian Port - June 15 - Dec 31	X			X	X				X
West of 150 W*	X	X	x			X	X	X	X
South Pacific	X	X	x			X	X	X	

* All US albacore and HMS species boats over 12m (39 ft) and less than 100 gt that have the HMS High Seas permit and fish pursuant to IATTC regs, (Coast out to 150W and up to 50N) need to have an IMO number even if you do not fish outside the 200nm zone. If you do not have a High Sea Permit and fish all the time within 200nm in the US or Canada you do not need the IMO #.

If you have questions regarding these new requirements, please contact Will Stahnke at 562-980-4088 or william.stahnke@noaa.gov. You may also contact Stuart Emery at IHS Markit for assistance in

attaining an IMO Number. He can be reached via email at stuart.emery@ihsmarket.com. IHS Markit issues IMO numbers on behalf of the IMO. You will need to register with an IHS Markit account at <https://imonumbers.ihs.com>

** 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.

Vessel Markings:

CFR: Title 50. Wildlife and Fisheries - <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/50>

1) HMS requirements:

§660.504 Vessel identification.

(a) Official number. Each fishing vessel subject to this subpart must display its official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft.

(b) Numerals. The official number must be affixed to each vessel subject to this subpart in block Arabic numerals at least 14 inches (35.56 cm) in height. Markings must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background.

2) Pacific Albacore (Treaty) requirements:

§300.173 Vessel identification.

Each U.S. vessel fishing under the Treaty must be marked for identification purposes, as follows:

(a) A vessel used to fish on the high seas within the Convention Area as defined in §300.211 [the WCPFC Convention Area] must be marked in accordance with the requirements at §§300.14 and 300.217.

(b) A vessel not used to fish on the high seas within the Convention Area as defined in §300.211 must be marked in accordance with either:

(1) Sections 300.14 and 300.217, or

(2) The vessel's name and U.S. Coast Guard Documentation number (or if not documented, the state registration number) followed by the letter U must be prominently displayed where they are clearly visible both from the air and from a surface vessel. Numerals and the letter U must meet the size requirements of §660.704 of this title. Markings must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background.

3) 660.704, referred to above:

§660.704 Vessel identification.

(a) Applicability. This section only applies to commercial fishing vessels that fish for HMS off, or land HMS in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington. This section does not apply to recreational charter vessels that fish for HMS off or land HMS in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington. Each fishing vessel must be marked for identification purposes, as follows:

(1) A vessel used to fish on the high seas within the Convention Area as defined in §300.211 of this title must be marked in accordance with the requirements at §§300.14 and 300.217 of this title.

(2) A vessel not used to fish on the high seas within the Convention Area as defined in §300.211 of this title must be marked in accordance with either:

(i) Sections 300.14 and 300.217 of this title, or

(ii) The vessel's official number must be affixed to the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck so as to be visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft. The official number must be affixed to each vessel subject to this section in block Arabic numerals at least 10 inches (25.40 cm) in height for vessels more than 25 ft (7.62 m) but equal to or less than 65 ft (19.81 m) in length; and 18 inches (45.72 cm) in height for vessels longer than 65 ft (19.81 m) in length. Markings must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background.

U.S. / CANADA ALBACORE TREATY 2021: General Info: <http://tinyurl.com/lopjffb>

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 U.S. - Canada Albacore Treaty.

NOTE – 12 miles: 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.

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 enter a Canadian port (for example to pick up foreign crew) or to fish. Since neither the license to enter the Canadian EEZ or to fish in the Canadian EEZ have a fee, it is advisable to obtain both at the same time in case the vessel decides unexpectedly to later fish in the Canadian EEZ.

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:

U.S. Site: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/tuna-treaty-permit> or;

Canada Site: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/eez-instruc-zee-eng.html>

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

Message from DFO – Canada on fishing in the Canadian zone 2021 In advance of the 2021 albacore season. From: Gibson, Jason Jason.Gibson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Subject: New DFO Licencing Website - EEZ Foreign Fishing Vessel Info

Dear NOAA/NMFS counterparts, I'm happy to let you know that DFO Pacific Region now has a stand-alone public licensing web page that explains EEZ Foreign Fishing Vessel Licences in Canada and their requirements in detail. This new information source, coupled with the new EEZ Fishery Notice from earlier this year, (link included in the webpage) should provide American fishing vessel owners and harvesters with clearer information on the various requirements when fishing or accessing ports in Canadian waters. Please feel free to distribute this link to any fishers and vessel owners who enter Canada, primarily your albacore tuna harvesters.

Link: <https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/eez-instruc-zee-eng.html>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

JASON GIBSON

Regional Enforcement Coordinator – Foreign Vessels and Tuna
 Fishery Officer – Conservation & Protection
 Senior Compliance Program Officer, Enforcement Operations
Jason.Gibson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca / Tel: 250-754-0206

Additional Info on U.S./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.

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: <https://tinyurl.com/v2e9h2j>

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://pacificalbacore.com/afrf/tagging/>

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.

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 sport 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.

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!

NOAA Certificate of Origin Update: NOAA Fisheries announces an impending update to its catch and origin certification to meet increased needs of the EU and other trading partners. The new certificate, Legal Harvest U.S., was released March 2, 2021. For Information see: <https://tinyurl.com/ydgbzvc>

The revised U.S. Catch Documentation Scheme is designed to issue a single form of legal harvest certification for export consignments US harvested of fish and fish products and processed products derived from such raw materials from the United States.

The U.S. producer or processor will be responsible for retaining all information corresponding to the vessels or list of vessels which contributed to the consignment and providing that information to the US Government competent authority upon request. While previously the vessel name and registration information had been required to be maintained in records, going forward this information will be listed directly on the harvest certificate. The NOAA Handbook will be updated on March 2, 2021, to include all relevant policy and procedure updates.

Future Updates: Any updates made to this document will be posted at www.wfoa-tuna.org under both "Fish Reports" and "Permits/Regs" in PDF and will be downloadable.

Covid Masks on Your Boat: USCG FAQs to the CDC Mask Order See: <https://tinyurl.com/4uw2evc5>

1. What vessels does the CDC Mask Order apply to? The CDC mask order applies to all persons traveling on commercial maritime conveyances into, within, or out of the United States and to all persons at U.S. seaports. The term commercial maritime conveyance means all forms of commercial maritime vessels, including but not limited to cargo ships, fishing vessels, research vessels, self-propelled barges, and all forms of passenger carrying vessels including ferries, river cruise ships, and those chartered for fishing trips, unless otherwise exempted.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES MANAGEMENT ACRONYMS

AAFA	American Albacore Fishing Association	MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
AFRF	American Fishermen's Research Foundation	MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
ALBWG	Albacore Working Group (ISC)	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ATA	American Tunaboat Association	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
BCTFA	British Columbia Tuna Fishermens Association	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
BRP	Biological Reference Point	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CMM	Conservation and Management Measure	NPAFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission
CDF&W	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	NPFMC	North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NRDC	Natural Resources Defense Council
CITIES	Convention in International Trade of Endangered Species	NWHI	Northwest Hawaii Initiative
CPUE	Catch Per Unit of Effort	OAC	Oregon Albacore Commission
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada)	ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
DWFN	Distant Water Fishing Nation	OY	Optimum Yield
EA	Environmental Assessment	PFMC	Pacific Fisheries Management Council
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	PIN	Pacific Island Nation
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat	PIRO	Pacific Islands Regional Office (NOAA/NMFS)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	PNG	Papua New Guinea
ESA	Endangered Species Act	PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
ETP	Eastern Tropical Pacific	RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
EU	European Union	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device	SAC	Sport Fishing Association of California
FAO	U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization	SAFE	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency	SBA	Small Business Administration
FFC	Forum Fisheries Committee	SBREFA	Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act
FMP	Fisheries Management Plan	SFA	US Magnuson-Stevens Sustainable Fisheries Act
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	SMNV	Standard Marine Communication Phrases
GAC	General Advisory Committee (IATTC)	SPC	South Pacific Commission
HCR	Harvest Control Rule	SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
HLA	Hawaiian Longline Association	STAR	Stock Assessment Review
HMS	Highly Migratory Species	SWFSC	Southwest Fisheries Science Center
HMSAS	Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel	TAC	Total Allowable Catch
HMSMT	Highly Migratory Species Management Team	TAE	Total Allowable Effort
HSFCA	High Seas Fisheries Compliance Act	TCC	Technical and Compliance Committee
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	TRP	Target Reference Point
ICCAT	International Conv.for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	UNIA	UN Implementing Agreement (Straddling Stocks)
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota	USCG	United States Coast Guard
IMO	International Maritime Organization	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
ISC	International Scientific Committee	USG	United States Government
ISSF	International Seafood Sustainability Foundation	USTF	United States Tuna Foundation
IUU	Illegal, Unregistered, Undocumented (vessels)	UTC	United Tuna Cooperative
IVQ	Individual Vessel Quota	VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
LE	Limited Entry	WCP	Western Central Pacific
LOS	Law of the Sea Convention	WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
LRP	Limit Reference Point	WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
MPA	Marine Protected Area	WFOA	Western Fishboat Owners Association
MSA	Magnuson Stevens Act	WPFMC	Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council
MSC	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	WTA	Washington Trollers Association
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council	WWF	World Wildlife Fund