

this section may still be eligible for a fishery endorsement if the vessel is engaged exclusively in the menhaden fishery in the geographic region governed by the South Atlantic Fisheries Council or the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Council.

(e) The owner of a vessel that meets any of the criteria in paragraph (a) of this section is required to submit a certification each year in conjunction with its Affidavit of U.S. Citizenship in order to document that the vessel is eligible for documentation with a fishery endorsement. The certification should indicate that the vessel meets the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section; however, it is eligible to be documented with a fishery endorsement because it complies with the requirements of either paragraph (b), (c), or (d) of this section. A sample form for the certification is available on the MARAD Web site at <http://www.marad.dot.gov/afa.html> or may be obtained by contacting the Citizenship Approval Officer.

[65 FR 44877, July 19, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 5582, Feb. 4, 2003]

§ 356.49 Penalties.

If the owner or the representative or agent of the owner has knowingly falsified or concealed a material fact or knowingly made a false statement or representation with respect to the eligibility of the vessel under 46 U.S.C. 12102(c), in applying for or applying to renew the vessel's fishery endorsement, the following penalties may apply:

(a) The vessel's fishery endorsement may be revoked;

(b) A fine of up to \$100,000 may be assessed against the vessel owner for each day in which such vessel has engaged in fishing (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802)) within the exclusive economic zone of the United States; and

(c) The owner, representative or agent may be subject to additional fines, penalties or both for violation of the proscriptions of 18 U.S.C. 286, 287, and 1001.

§ 356.51 Exemptions for specific vessels.

(a) The following vessels are exempt from the requirements of 46 U.S.C. 12102(c) as amended by the AFA until such time after October 1, 2001, as 50% of the interest owned and controlled in the vessel changes; *provided*, the vessel maintains eligibility for a fishery endorsement under the federal law that was in effect prior to the enactment of the AFA:

(1) EXCELLENCE (United States official number 967502);

(2) GOLDEN ALASKA (United States official number 651041);

(3) OCEAN PHOENIX (United States official number 296779);

(4) NORTHERN TRAVELER (United States official number 635986); and

(5) NORTHERN VOYAGER (United States official number 637398) or a replacement for the NORTHERN VOYAGER that complies with paragraphs 2, 5, and 6 of section 208(g) of the AFA.

(b) The NORTHERN VOYAGER (United States official number 637398) and NORTHERN TRAVELER (United States official number 635986) will forfeit the exemption under paragraph (a) of this section if the vessel is used in a fishery under the authority of a regional fishery management council other than the New England Fishery Management Council or Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council established, respectively, under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)(A) and (B)).

(c) The EXCELLENCE (United States official number 967502), GOLDEN ALASKA (United States official number 651041), and OCEAN PHOENIX (United States official number 296779) will forfeit their exemption under paragraph (a) of this section if the vessel is used to Harvest fish.

(d) Owners of vessels that are exempt from the new ownership and control requirements of the AFA and this part 356 pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section must still comply with the requirements for a fishery endorsement under the federal law that was in effect on October 21, 1998. The owners must submit to the Citizenship Approval Officer on an annual basis:

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(1) An Affidavit of United States Citizenship in accordance with § 356.15 demonstrating that they comply with the Controlling Interest requirements of section 2(b) of the 1916 Act. The Affidavit must note that the owner is claiming an exemption from the requirements of this part 356 pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section; and

(2) A description of the current ownership structure, a list of any changes in the ownership structure that have occurred since the filing of the last Affidavit, and a chronology of all changes in the ownership structure that have occurred since October 21, 1998.

(e) The following Fishing Industry Vessels are exempt from the new ownership and control standards under the AFA and this part 356 for vessel owners and Mortgagees:

(1) Fishing Industry Vessels engaged in fisheries in the exclusive economic zone under the authority of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1)(H) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)(H)); and

(2) Purse seine vessels when they are engaged in tuna fishing in the Pacific Ocean outside the exclusive economic zone of the United States or pursuant to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Treaty.

(f) Fishing Industry Vessels that are claiming the exemption provided for in paragraph (e) of this section must certify to the Citizenship Approval Officer that the vessel is exempt from the ownership and control requirements of this part 356 pursuant to the exemption in paragraph (e) of this section. The vessel owner will be required to follow the U.S. Coast Guard's procedures for documenting a vessel with a fishery endorsement, as in effect prior to the passage of the AFA. The vessel owner must also notify the Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center that it is claiming an exemption from the ownership and control requirements of this part 356 pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section.

[65 FR 44877, July 19, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 5583, Feb. 4, 2003]

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Subpart H—International Agreements

§ 356.53 Conflicts with international agreements.

(a) If the owner or Mortgagee of a Fishing Industry Vessel believes that there is a conflict between the AFA or 46 CFR part 356 and any international treaty or agreement to which the United States is a party on July 24, 2001, and to which the United States is currently a party, the owner or Mortgagee may petition the Chief Counsel of the Maritime Administration at any time after July 19, 2000 to request a ruling that all or part of the requirements of this part 356 do not apply to that particular owner or particular Mortgagee with respect to a specific vessel; provided, the petitioner had an ownership interest in the Fishing Industry Vessel, or a mortgage on the vessel in the case of a Mortgagee, on July 24, 2001, and is covered by the international agreement.

(b) A petition for exemption from the requirements of this part 356 must include:

(1) Evidence of the ownership structure, or mortgage structure in the case of a Mortgagee, of the Fishing Industry Vessel as of July 24, 2001 (or on the date of the petition, for petitions filed prior to July 24, 2001), and any subsequent changes to the ownership structure, or mortgage structure in the case of a Mortgagee, of the vessel;

(2) A copy of the provisions of the international agreement or treaty which the owner or mortgagee believes are in conflict with the regulations in this part 356;

(3) A detailed description of how the provisions of the international agreement or treaty and the regulations in this part 356 are in conflict; and

(4) A certification in all petitions filed on or after July 24, 2001, that no interest in the vessel-owning entity has been transferred to a Non-Citizen after July 24, 2001.

(c) A separate petition must be filed for each Fishing Industry Vessel for which the vessel owner or a Mortgagee is requesting an exemption unless the Chief Counsel authorizes consolidated filing. Petitions should include two copies of all materials and should be