



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

APR 15 2009

To U.S. Albacore Tuna Vessel Owners and Operators:

**Instructions for Complying with Federal Regulations  
to Fish in Canadian Waters for 2009**

On December 15, 2008, Canadian and United States officials initialed amendments to the Canada-U.S. Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty (Treaty), and plan to have the new regime in force for the 2009 Fishing Season. In anticipation that this will take place, this letter is intended to provide you with information on requirements for U.S. fishermen planning to fish for albacore tuna in the waters of Canada.

Effective in the 2009 season, hailing to ShipCom (the U.S. third party service provider) will no longer be required for both U.S. and Canadian harvesters. Vessel masters will continue to be required to hail into the Canadian Coast Guard station at Tofino, British Columbia.

**1. You must register for the 2009 Annual Vessel Fishing List by:**

- Contacting NMFS at: (562) 980-4024, FAX: (562) 980-4047, or email (albacore.fish@noaa.gov) at least 7 days prior to the first day you plan to fish in Canadian waters; and
- Providing to NMFS: (1) vessel name, (2) home port, (3) radio call sign or vessel identification marking that identifies the flag state of the vessel ("Vessel Identification Marking"), (4) fishing vessel registration number, (5) captain or operator's name, if known, and (6) vessel length. Ensuring: a) the vessel is clearly marked with the name and identification number (either U.S. Coast Guard Documentation number or state registration) followed by the letter "U"; and b) the vessel identification is clearly visible both from the air and from other vessels on the water.

**2. The list is only valid for a single year, and every fishing vessel that fishes under the treaty with Canada must be on the List. Individual fishermen are responsible for this registration, not the various albacore fishermen associations. Upon verification of permit status and eligibility, vessel owners will receive an email or phone call confirming they have been added to the 2009 Annual Vessel Fishing List. For the United States, a provisional list shall be provided to Canada by July 1 and may be revised during the fishing season.**



3. **You must report to the Canadian Coast Guard at Tofino at least 24 hours prior to entering Canadian waters and at least 72 hours before leaving Canadian waters.**

Ways to contact Tofino:

VHF channel 26 (within a 60 mile range);

MF channel 2054 (within a 200 mile range);

HF channel 4125 (within a 400 mile range);

Using a satellite phone or cellular phone and dialing 250-726-7716.

- 4 **You must submit Federal Albacore Troll Logbooks for all fishing activity in the U.S. EEZ and any albacore landed to U.S. ports.** You are also encouraged to report fishing activity in the Canadian EEZ and landed to Canadian ports.
- Submit logbooks to the Southwest Fisheries Science Center within 15 days of the end of a trip to Mr. John Childers, Southwest Fisheries Center, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037-1508, (858) 546-7192, john.childers@noaa.gov.
  - Need a logbook? Call (562) 980-4024 or check <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/logbooks.htm>
  - You are encouraged to document any IUU (Illegal, Unregistered, Unreported) fishing vessel activity in your logbook, including pictures, email and radio reports. Contact the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) hot line at 1-800-853-1964. You may also contact the Southwest OLE at (562) 980-4050 or the Northwest OLE at (206) 526-6133.
5. **You must have a valid HMS Permit from NMFS if you also fish in U.S. waters!**
- Permit applications can be obtained at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hms/hmsapp.pdf>
6. **Do Not Fish Inside of 12 NM from Canadian Shores**

The information listed above is provided as a quick reference. Any discrepancies between this public notice and the regulations will be resolved in favor of Federal regulations at 50 CFR Part 300, subpart L.

If you have any questions regarding the above instructions please refer to the "Guide for Complying with the Vessel Fishing Requirements of the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty" found at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/fmd/compguide.htm> or contact Chris Fanning at (562) 980-4198 or email [chris.fanning@noaa.gov](mailto:chris.fanning@noaa.gov).

Your cooperation with the above procedures will assist the U.S. in meeting the Treaty obligations and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



*Re*

Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator