

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Compliance
Guide

Guam Bottomfish Fishing Large Vessel Prohibited Area, Permits, and Reporting

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This guide provides information for fishermen on how to comply with the prohibited area, permits, and reporting requirements for bottomfish fisheries in Federal waters around Guam. The information provided here pertains only to the final rules published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2006 (71 FR 64474), and December 1, 2006 (71 FR 69495). For the official regulations, refer to Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 665 (50 CFR 665).

Regulations are subject to change, so fishermen must familiarize themselves with the most recent changes and are responsible to comply with them. Any discrepancies between this compliance guide and the regulations will be resolved in the favor of the regulations published in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 64474, November 2, 2006, and 71 FR 69495, December 1, 2006) and in the Code of Federal Regulations. This compliance guide is issued in accordance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996: Title II of Public Law 104-21.

Q1. Who is affected by the regulations?

The regulations affect operators of U.S. domestic large vessels, i.e., those 50 ft (15.2 m) or longer, who fish for bottomfish management unit species in Federal waters around Guam.

Q2. What is the purpose of the regulations?

The regulations are the result of an amendment to the Fishery Management Plan for Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish of the Western Pacific Region, developed by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and approved and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce. The 50-nm prohibited area and the data collection program are intended to provide for the collection of adequate fishery information for effective management and to maintain viable community participation and bottomfish catch rates by small vessels, to maintain traditional patterns of the bottomfish supply to local markets, and to reduce the potential risk of local depletion of deepwater bottomfish stocks near Guam.

Q3. What are the regulations?

The regulations prohibit large vessels (greater than 50 ft or 15.2 m) from fishing for bottomfish in Federal waters within 50 nm (92.6 km) around Guam. The regulations also establish a requirement for large bottomfish fishing vessels to obtain Federal fishing permits, and to report catch, effort, and other information on Federal fishing logbooks. These large vessels must also be identified (marked) according to Federal regulations.

Q4. When did the regulations take effect and for how long are they effective?

The regulations were effective on October 12, 2006, and the reporting and permit requirements were effective on January 2, 2007. The regulations will remain effective until they are revised or removed by the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Q5. How do I obtain a permit?

To apply for a permit, you must submit a complete application form to the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) Permits program (50 CFR 665.404). You may request a permit application from the following sources:

- Website: www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html
- Email: piro-permits@noaa.gov
- Phone: (808) 944-2275, or (808) 944-2200 and ask for permits
- Fax: (808) 973-2940

Q6. Where do I send the completed application and fee?

Mail the completed application, fee, and required documents to:

NMFS PIRO
Attn: Permits
1601 Kapiolani Blvd. 1110
Honolulu, HI 96814

Q7. What are the required fishing record forms?

The operator of a Guam large bottomfish vessel must maintain an accurate and complete record of catch, effort, and other data in logbooks provided by NMFS (50 CFR 665.14). All information specified on the forms must be recorded within 24 hours after the completion of each fishing day. Each form must be signed and dated by the vessel operator. The original logbook form for each day of the fishing trip must be submitted to NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) within 72 hours of each landing of bottomfish management unit species.

Q8. Where can I obtain the fishing logbook?

To obtain or submit logbooks or sales reports, please contact:

NMFS PIFSC
Attn: Fisheries Monitoring and Socioeconomics
2570 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822
Tel: (808) 983-5326
Fax: (808) 983-2902
www.pifsc.noaa.gov

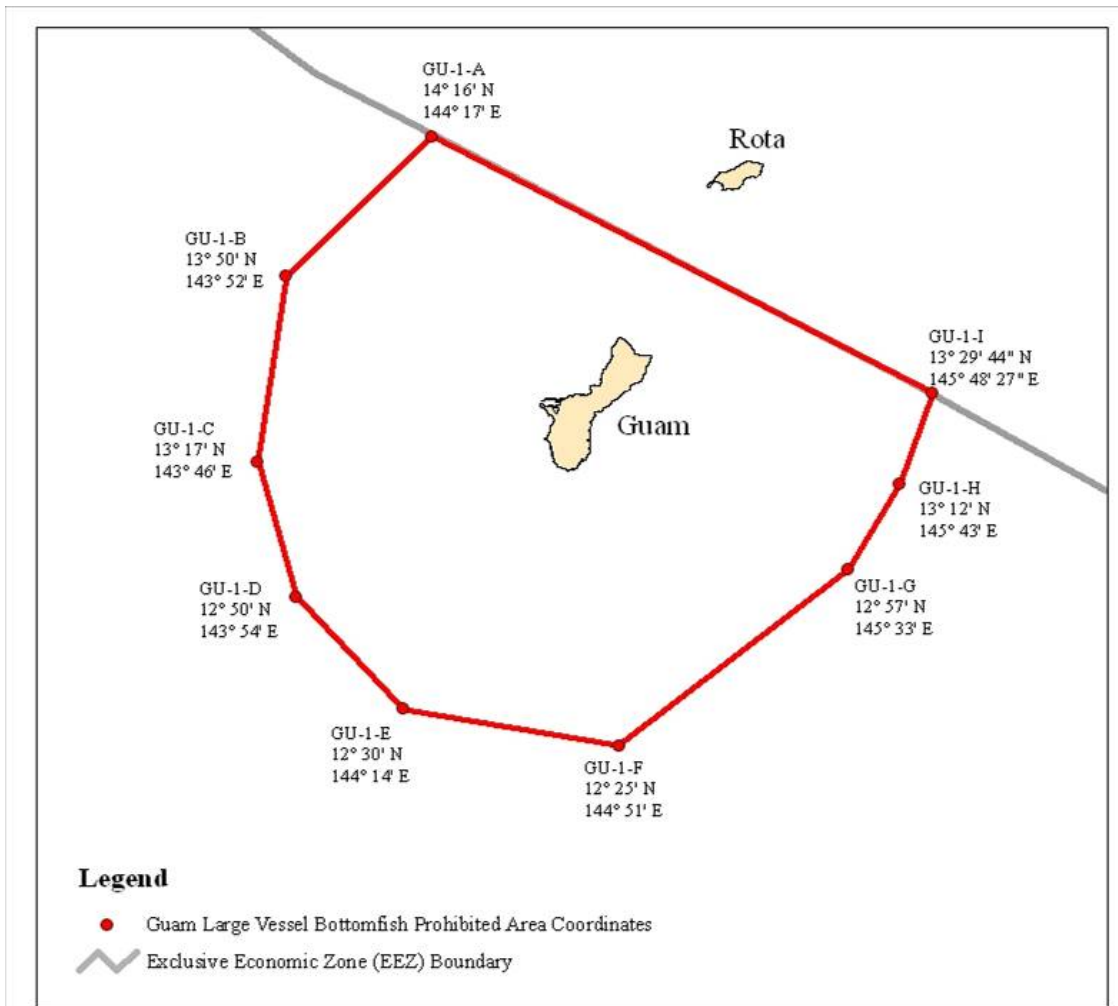
Q9. What are the vessel identification requirements?

Large bottomfish vessels are required to be identified in compliance with Federal vessel identification requirements at 50 CFR 665.16. The vessel's official number must be marked in block Arabic numerals at least 18 inches in height for fishing and receiving vessels over 65 ft, and at least 10 inches in height for smaller vessels. Markings must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background. The vessel operator must ensure that the official number is clearly legible and in good repair, and must ensure that no part of the vessel, rigging, or fishing gear obstructs the view of the official number.

Q10. Where are the large vessel bottomfish prohibited areas?

The large vessel bottomfish prohibited areas around Guam means the waters of the US EEZ around Guam that are enclosed by straight lines connecting the following coordinates, in the order listed (50 CFR 665.403):

<i>Point</i>	<i>North latitude</i>	<i>East longitude</i>
GU-1-A	14° 16'	144° 17'
GU-1-B	13° 50'	143° 52'
GU-1-C	13° 17'	143° 46'
GU-1-D	12° 50'	143° 54'
GU-1-E	12° 30'	144° 14'
GU-1-F	12° 25'	144° 51'
GU-1-G	12° 57'	145° 33'
GU-1-H	13° 12'	145° 43'
GU-1-I	13° 29' 44"	145° 48' 27"
GU-1-A	14° 16'	144° 17'



Guam Large Vessel Bottomfish Prohibited Area

Q11. Where can I obtain additional copies of this guide or more information on these regulations?

NMFS PIRO
 1601 Kapiolani Blvd. 1110
 Honolulu, HI 96814
www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_2.html

You can also read the notices for this rule in the *Federal Register* Vol. 71, page 64474 (November 2, 2006), and Vol. 71, page 69495 (December 1, 2006).

Search the *Federal Register* at www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/search.html.

Search the Code of Federal Regulations at ecfr.gpoaccess.gov.