

GULF OF ALASKA
GROUND FISH FISHERY
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT
AUTHORITY: 50 CFR 600.745(b) AND 50 CFR 679.6

PERMIT 08-01

The Administrator, Alaska Region, (Regional Administrator), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), acting on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, hereby authorizes the vessel acting under the direction of the permit holder, Julie Bonney, working on behalf of the Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, to test an electronic monitoring (EM) system to estimate halibut bycatch in the central Gulf of Alaska (GOA) rockfish fishery. The EM system is designed to collect data at sea that will allow a shoreside reviewer to enumerate the number of halibut discarded at sea and to estimate their lengths. If effective, the EM system may allow improved estimation of halibut bycatch and reduce the need for at-sea observer coverage. The exempted fishing permit (EFP) describes regulation exemptions that are necessary to facilitate the project.

The United States exercises fishery management authority in the GOA under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq* (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The permit holder and the owner(s) and operator(s) of the participating vessel must comply with the provisions of this EFP and the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR parts 600 and 679, except as provided in the attached terms and conditions. An authorized representative for the vessel participating in fishing authorized pursuant to this EFP must complete and sign a copy of page A-1 of this EFP.

This permit is valid from May 1, 2008, to November 15, 2008, or until the cooperative reaches its quota allocation, whichever occurs first. This permit may be terminated or modified by the Regional Administrator in accordance with provisions of this EFP, 50 CFR part 679, 15 CFR part 904, and 50 CFR 600.745.



Robert D. Mecum
Acting Administrator,
Alaska Region, NMFS

4/25/08

Date Signed



Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank

4/24/08

Date Signed

GULF OF ALASKA
GROUNDFISH FISHERY
EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT 08-01
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

AUTHORITY: 50 CFR 600.745(B) AND 50 CFR 679.6

DEVELOPING AND TESTING AN ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM TO ESTIMATE
HALIBUT BYCATCH IN THE CENTRAL GULF OF ALASKA ROCKFISH FISHERY

A. Permit Holder

Julie Bonney
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
P.O. Box 788
Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-3033

B. Permitted Vessels

The vessels authorized to participate in this Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) project will belong to a single fishing cooperative chosen by the permit holder, and in conjunction with NMFS. Information described below about the vessels eligible to participate in the EFP will be supplied to NMFS before fishing begins. The participating vessels shall be trawl vessels capable of providing the platform for the collection of data necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the project; and must be members of the fishing cooperative chosen for the project.

The required information regarding the permitted vessel must be provided to the Regional Administrator within five days of selection of a vessel for the EFP work. Information that must be provided to the Regional Administrator is attached to this permit as Appendix A. This list shall include the following information:

- Vessel name
- Vessel length and tonnage (gross)
- Federal permit number and USCG registration number
- Name, address, telephone number, and fax number of owner
- Name of managing company
- Name of responsible person
- Home port
- Signature of authorized representative

A copy of this EFP must be onboard the permitted vessel when fishing under the EFP.

C. Timing and Notification of the Experiment

Experimental fishing under the terms of this permit is authorized for the period between May 1, 2008, and November 15, 2008.

The permit holder must notify the NMFS Alaska Regional Office by email or fax within 24 hours of the beginning each fishing trip conducted under the EFP. The 24-hour notice will also include the name and Federal permit number associated with the vessel.

D. Reporting Requirements

Unless otherwise exempted in the permit, the permit holder, vessel owners, and operators fishing under this EFP must comply with recordkeeping and reporting regulations, including catch recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Records must be separate from any non-EFP fishing records, identified as such, and consistent with Federal recordkeeping and recording requirements at 50 CFR 679.5. Additionally, the permit holder is responsible for reporting requirements specific to the Central GOA rockfish program at §§ 679.4(n), 679.5(r) and 679.7(n). The permit holder is responsible for reporting to NMFS, Alaska Region, the groundfish and prohibited species catch (PSC) while fishing the EFP.

E. Area of the Experiment

Experimental fishing under the terms of this permit is authorized in the Central GOA.

F. Total Allowable Groundfish Harvest and Prohibited Species Catch (PSC)

This EFP does not grant the permit holder additional groundfish or halibut PSC. All catch of primary and secondary species allocated under the rockfish pilot program at § 679.80 will accrue against the cooperative's quota account, and all catch of halibut PSC will accrue against the cooperative's PSC quota account. All groundfish harvested under the EFP, in addition to the primary and secondary quota species, must be retained and made available for shoreside sampling. The applicant is exempt from maximum retainable amounts at § 679.20(e) and Table 10 to 50 CFR part 679.

G. Exemption from Observer Requirements

The permit holder is exempt from a portion of the observer coverage requirements at § 679.50 (c)(7)(ii)(A) while participating in activities under this EFP. The permit holder and NMFS staff in consultation the vessel owners will develop a schedule of observer coverage such that each vessel carries an observer on no less than 30% of the fishing days in which the vessel engages. Coverage obtained under the EFP may be applied to coverage for other fisheries. Vessel owners will be responsible for procuring that observer coverage as set forth at § 679.50. On unobserved trips vessel owners must agree to carry an at-sea sampler provided by NMFS or the EFP applicant and make all halibut PSC catch available to that sampler. Except for purposes of meeting observer coverage requirements, the at-sea sampler is considered an observer.

H. Fishery Closures

The EFP would not exempt the applicant from any Central GOA directed fishing closures.

I. Gear for Testing

The fishing gear used for the experiment shall be trawl gear as described under the definition for authorized gear at § 679.2.

J. Requirements for Participating Vessels

Owners of a vessel participating in the project must comply with the following provisions:

1. Supply adequate facilities for sea samplers to fully account for all halibut PSC catch on a tow by tow basis.
2. Follow all procedures and requirements of the field experiment, including installation of all electronic monitoring (EM) equipment. The vessels selected for the EFP work must conduct fishing operations in accordance to the requirements of the EFP, as detailed in the application materials.
3. Halibut must be sorted from the catch at sea and discarded only through the single authorized discard chute.
4. Abide by the experimental protocol and adjustments to the sampling protocol deemed necessary by the permit holder in consultation with the NMFS.
6. Participate in the experiment until its conclusion or termination, unless released from participation by the permit holder.
7. Retain all groundfish.
8. Provide all catch data needed for the analysis. Participants must submit all data from the EFP to the permit holder who will provide the data to NMFS personnel associated with this project.
9. Participants in the study will be allowed to sell all fish that would be legally retainable under the terms and conditions set forth above.
10. Ensure compliance with the experimental protocols. The permit holder must immediately notify the NMFS Alaska Regional Office and the vessel owner if there are indications that a vessel is not meeting requirements for participation in the experiment.
11. Have a valid Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal that certifies compliance with regulations found in 33 CFR Chapter I and 46 CFR Chapter I for the duration of participation in this project.
12. Make the vessel available in Kodiak, Alaska to NMFS staff and the EM provider at least 24 hours prior to departure of the first fishing trip of the 2008 rockfish pilot program fishery.
13. In consultation with NMFS or permit holder staff, build and install a discard chute suitable for the EM measurement of discarded halibut. The discard chute must be made of durable plastic, aluminum or stainless steel. The discard chute must be at least 1 ½ feet wide and at least 3 feet long.

APPENDIX A

EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT: 08-01
PERMITTED VESSEL

Vessel Name:

Federal Permit Number:

USCG Official Number:

Owner Name:

Owner Address:

Phone:

FAX:

Length (LOA):

Gross Tonnage:

Type of Vessel:

Homeport:

Signature(s) of Authorized Representative(s):

Date signed

Date signed

The signature(s) above confirm this information, but do not constitute a final commitment to participate in the test operation.