



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

December 2008

**To: Federal Fisheries Permitholders  
Federal Processor Permitholders**

Dear Permitholders:

Enclosed is your new Federal Fisheries or Federal Processor Permit. This permit is **valid January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011**.

**Changes to Processing Activities or Vessels**

If your processing activities or vessel characteristics change in the future, you will need to complete and submit a new application form. Federal Fisheries and Federal Processor Permit application forms may be obtained by contacting us [NMFS, Restricted Access Management Program at 1-800-304-4846 (select option #2)]. Alternatively, you may download the applications from our website: [alaskafisheries.noaa.gov](http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov). **Please allow at least ten working days for processing of applications for new permits or revisions to existing permits.**

**Logbook Information**

Operators of all catcher vessels, catcher/processors, and motherships must record information for each day of the calendar year in the appropriate logbook. A new logbook appropriate to your current Federal Fisheries or Federal Processor Permit is enclosed. If you need additional logbooks during the 2009 fishing year, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries (SF) Division, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region. The SF Division can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; by phone at 800-304-4846 (select option 3) or 907-586-7228; or via FAX at 907-586-7465.

**eLandings Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements:**

Any manager of a Shoreside Processor or Stationary Floating Processor that is required to have a Federal Processor Permit under 50 CFR § 679.4(f) must:

- Use eLandings to submit a production report to report daily processor identification information and all groundfish production data.
- Use eLandings to submit a landings report for all groundfish landings information including all groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data

Under new federal requirements anticipated to be effective in 2009, any operator of a catcher/processor or a mothership that is issued a Federal Fisheries Permit under § 679.4 and that harvests groundfish must use eLandings to submit a daily groundfish production report including groundfish and prohibited species discard or disposition data. Also under these new federal requirements, all motherships must submit a daily groundfish landing report.

If you need additional information on recordkeeping and reporting requirements, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region. The SF Division can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668; by phone at 1-800-304-4846 (select option 3) or 907-586-7228.

**Participation in the Aleutian Islands Harvest Limit Areas (HLA) Atka Mackerel Fisheries**

For those wishing to participate in the Aleutian Islands Atka mackerel directed fisheries in the HLAs, for the "B" season:



- If you registered for the “A” season you are automatically registered for the “B” season. If you do not wish to participate in the “B” season, you must notify us by the first working day after July 1, 2009.
- If you do not register for the “A” season, but desire to participate in the “B” season, you must register by the first working day after July 1, 2009.

Under Amendment 80 for the Atka mackerel fisheries in the Aleutian Islands three trawl sectors will have separate allocations of HLA Atka mackerel: BSAI trawl limited access sector (trawl gear vessels that are not using an Amendment 80 vessel or an Amendment 80 LLP license), Amendment 80 cooperatives, and Amendment 80 limited access sector. NMFS plans to operate a separate lottery for each sector. Vessels registering to participate in the HLA directed fisheries are prohibited from participating in any groundfish directed fishery, other than Atka mackerel, during the opening of the first HLA directed fishery assigned to the vessel in a season, as specified in 50 CFR § 679.7(a)(19).

### **Changes to Seabird Avoidance Requirements**

Changes to seabird avoidance measures for the Alaska hook-and-line groundfish and halibut fisheries went into effect January 17, 2008. The new regulations no longer require seabird avoidance measures such as streamerlines or buoy bags in all of Prince William Sound, all State waters of Cook Inlet and in most waters of the Eastern Gulf of Alaska Regulatory Area Southeast Inside District. However, pelagic seabirds have been observed more frequently in lower Chatham Strait, Dixon Entrance, and parts of Cross Sound. Hook-and-line fishing vessels must continue to meet seabird avoidance gear requirements and standards in those parts of the nearshore areas. In addition to these area changes for seabird regulation applicability, operators of small vessels (greater than 26 and less than or equal to 55 ft LOA) that are required to use streamer lines must use lines that adhere to specified standards. Also, the Seabird Avoidance Plan is no longer required. Fishermen are strongly advised to read the rule in full detail. It can be found at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/frules/72fr71601.pdf> along with maps of the affected areas.

In the event that you sight a short-tailed albatross from your vessel, we request your cooperation in completing the enclosed U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) form *Endangered Species Encounter Reporting Form*. We are coordinating efforts with the USFWS and they have asked us to seek your assistance with this important sighting information. Completed forms can be mailed to USFWS at the address provided on the form.

Remember that free streamer lines for longline vessels are still available. See our website at <http://fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/streamers.htm> or contact the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission at 503-595-3100 to place your order. The newer light-weight lines are in stock.

For additional information about the reduction of seabird incidental catch in fisheries, see our website at [www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm](http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/guide.htm) or contact Kim Rivera, NMFS’s Seabird Coordinator at 907-586-7424, [Kim.Rivera@noaa.gov](mailto:Kim.Rivera@noaa.gov).

Thanks for your careful compliance with these important permitting requirements. Have a safe and productive fishing year.

Sincerely,



Jessica Gharrett  
Program Administrator  
Restricted Access Management

Enclosures