



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

*National Marine Fisheries Service*  
*P.O. Box 21668*  
*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*  
December 2012

**To: *Federal Processor Permitholders***

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some information about regulatory changes that impact your Federal Processor Permit (FPP) and to remind you about other existing recording keeping and reporting requirements.

First, new regulations effective January 1, 2013, require that your FPP be renewed on an annual basis beginning in 2013. Therefore, NMFS, Alaska Region, Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program has revised your current FPP to reflect an expiration date of February 28, 2014, instead of the current expiration date. Please note that the revised permit cycle for the FPP is now March 1<sup>st</sup> through the last day of the following February. Your revised permit is enclosed. You will receive information about renewal of this permit in early 2014.

Second, as the holder of an FPP, starting on January 1, 2013, you may be required to collect and submit fees to support the North Pacific Groundfish and Halibut Observer Program (Observer Program). The Observer Program is changing in 2013 and NMFS will collect a fee of 1.25% of the ex-vessel value of groundfish and halibut landings by vessels in the "partial observer coverage category." Proceeds from the observer fee will be used to place observers on a portion of fishing vessels 40 feet and greater length overall, in some shoreside processing plants, and on some stationary floating processors. The eLandings system is being revised to show the estimated Observer Program fee liability for each landing. Processors and registered buyers will be billed by NMFS in January 2014 for fees associated with 2013 landings. Failure to submit fees to NMFS by the deadline of February 15, 2014, will result in non-renewal of your FPP as well as assessments of penalties and interest. Please see the enclosed summary of upcoming changes to the Observer Program for more information. Additional information is available on the NMFS, Alaska Region website at: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/>. You also may call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (907) 586-7228 if you have questions regarding these new regulations.

Finally, your processing plant may be subject to observer coverage under the new requirements. Starting on January 1, 2013, shoreside processors and stationary floating processors are divided into two categories: full observer coverage and partial observer coverage. The enclosed summary provides more information about how processors are assigned to each of these categories. In 2013, the priority for observer coverage in shoreside processing plants and on stationary floating processors in the partial coverage category is to collect genetic samples from salmon bycatch in pollock deliveries to plants in Kodiak. NMFS and the contracted observer provider will coordinate with the Kodiak plants about this observer coverage. NMFS does not intend to place observers in any other shoreside processing plants or stationary floating processors in the partial observer coverage category in 2013. In future years, NMFS, in consultation with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, will assess the priorities for observer coverage and available funds to determine if observers should be deployed to other processing plants in the partial coverage category.



For new permits, renewals, or amendments, including those for different processing activities, you will need to submit a new application form. You may download the applications from our website: <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov>. Alternatively, paper Federal Processor Permit application forms may be obtained by contacting us [NMFS, Restricted Access Management Program at 1-800-304-4846 (select option #2)]. **Please allow at least ten working days for application processing, and note that we do not accept applications by e-mail.**

Note: 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 containing daily processor identification information and all groundfish production data; and
- Use eLandings to submit groundfish landing reports containing all groundfish landings information including prohibited species discard or disposition data.

To request information about the electronic logbook, or information about eLandings, contact:

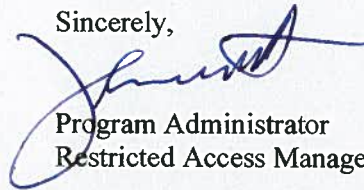
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Region.

by mail: P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802-1668

by phone: 800-304-4846 (select option #3) or 907-586-7228  
by FAX: 907-586-7465

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

Sincerely,



Program Administrator  
Restricted Access Management

Enclosure(s)