



January 2017

To South Central Alaska Processors and Fish Buyers,

This letter describes regulatory requirements governing fish ticket reporting for commercial **groundfish** (including octopus) landings in the Cook Inlet (CI) and Prince William Sound (PWS) Management Areas. Protocols for documentation of fish ticket overages and distribution of overage proceeds are provided.

Statewide regulation **5 AAC 39.130 (c)** requires that the first purchaser of raw fish must complete a fish ticket at the time of delivery and submit fish tickets to ADF&G within seven days of the delivery.

At the time of delivery, fish tickets must include:

- processor name and code plate information captured electronically in eLandings or embossed on conventional fish tickets, and signature of the buyer or company representative to whom the code is issued;
- full name, signature, and CFEC permit number of the operator of the gear with which the fish were taken, imprinted on the fish ticket or electronically captured from the valid permit card;
- vessel name and permanent vessel license plate number (ADF&G number);
- the date fishing gear was deployed (date fishing began), the delivery date of the fish, and the gear code number for the type of gear used (see attached eLandings fish ticket codes);
- ADF&G statistical area(s) in which the fish were taken:
 - All statistical areas that were fished must be reported.
 - A combination of the Statistical Area Worksheet and line item data entry may be used if, for example, the majority of the harvest was caught in multiple statistical areas (report on worksheet) and a particular species was only caught in one, a different, or a subset of those statistical areas listed on the worksheet (report on line item(s)),
 - If line items are used for multiple statistical area reporting for certain species, pounds must be reported consistent with the percentage caught in each area,
 - Obtaining this data requires interviewing the fisherman using statistical area maps provided by ADF&G (see attached or contact Homer office for wall maps);
- pounds, delivery condition code, product designation code, disposition code, and overage codes by species (see attached eLandings fish ticket codes);
 - Fish must be differentiated by delivery condition code: for example, if fish are bled (03), report accurately; and if a mixture of fish are delivered, for example, whole (01), bled (03), and gutted (04), fish must be sorted and weighed separately and reported by line item on the fish ticket;
 - Obtaining this data requires interviewing the fisherman when completing the fish ticket – do not assume fish are delivered whole (may confirm with dock crew);
 - Disposition code must also be accurate – for example, if a portion of fish is sold for bait (61) or retained for personal use (95), then weigh separately and report by line item.

Refer to the interim value codes listed on the eLandings code sheet to process a fish ticket with missing values. The interim value must be replaced with a valid value within 72 hours. Contact ADF&G for assistance.

Overage Reporting and Distribution of Proceeds

A **bycatch** overage is an incident where harvest exceeds the maximum retainable amount (MRA) of a bycatch species. Other overage types include exceeded trip limits or quota amounts.

If the **bycatch** overage occurred in:

State waters: proceeds from bycatch overages in all groundfish and halibut fisheries shall be surrendered to ADF&G and submitted by the processor.

Federal waters: proceeds from **lingcod**, **black rockfish**, and **dark rockfish** overages shall be surrendered to ADF&G and submitted by the processor. All other bycatch overages from federal waters are assigned to NMFS; contact NMFS for advisement on payment of federally managed species overages.

Procedure for processing overages is as follows:

Legal and overage harvest is itemized separately by permit holder on an eLandings landing report or on a conventional fish ticket. Overages are calculated and listed on the fish ticket at the time of landing.

For each species with an overage, use the disposition code for overage (62) and include the overage code appropriate to the fishery (state or federal) and type of overage (bycatch or trip/season limit, etc.).

When reporting and calculating overages, any fish retained for personal use shall be deducted from the allowable bycatch amount initially, followed by any fish sold up to the maximum retainable amount (MRA), and then remaining harvest is reported as overage.

In both CI and PWS Areas, in all groundfish and halibut fisheries in state waters, all rockfish must be retained. In federal waters, state-managed rockfish species (black and dark rockfish) must be retained. Due to mandatory retention requirements, a fisherman may retain rockfish bycatch overages for personal consumption (disposition code 62 for overage, overage type code 28) if retaining more than the MRA, however, this would not be permitted when the rockfish GHM has been achieved. Overages of species without mandatory retention requirements from state-managed fisheries may not be retained for personal use.

State overages are payable to the "State of Alaska". Attach the overage check to the fish ticket and submit to the Homer ADF&G office.

Check with NMFS Enforcement for proper procedures for handling federal overages in your area. Contact the NMFS data clerks for IFQ halibut and IFQ sablefish reporting issues toll-free at (800) 304-4846, use Option #1 for red-line errors and use Option #2 for questions on permits, licenses, and fee collection. The eLandings help desk is available 24/7 at 1-888-443-5726.

Species closed to retention may not be sold and therefore must be reported as disposition "confiscated or seized" (code 63) and Alaska Wildlife Troopers should be notified at the time of landing.

Notify Alaska Wildlife Troopers for state-managed fisheries or NMFS Enforcement for federal fisheries in your area if the landing appears to be in violation of regulations.

Be aware, allowable bycatch percentages vary between state and federal waters as well as regionally. Overages must be calculated proportionally to harvest as reported by area, meaning it is possible to have state and federal overages on the same landing report.

If you have questions regarding fish ticket reporting or overage processing, contact ADF&G.

Sincerely,

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