

Fishing for Highly Migratory Species

Management of highly migratory species falls under the Fisheries Management Plan for U.S. West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species, and is implemented in Federal Waters by the NOAA Fisheries' Highly Migratory Species Program. The highly migratory species include 11 stocks such as North Pacific Albacore tuna, yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, swordfish, common thresher shark, shortfin mako shark, blue shark, striped marlin, and dorado (dolphinfish). Additional information about NOAA Fisheries' Highly Migratory Species Program can be found at:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species.html

Federal Reporting and Permit Requirements:

In Alaska Federal Waters (Exclusive Economic Zone, EEZ):

- No Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit is currently required, but a voluntary logbook can be completed. Contact: Shannon Penna at (562)-980-4238 or shannon.penna@noaa.gov or wcr-permits@noaa.gov
- If targeting or retaining any groundfish species in Table 2a (50 CFR 679) must have a valid Federal Fisheries Permit (FFP). Contact: NMFS Alaska Region Restricted Access Management (RAM), (800) 304-4846.

In California, Washington, or Oregon Federal Waters (EEZ):

- A Pacific HMS Permit is required See: 50 CFR, part 660.707
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/pacific_hms_permits.html Contact: Shannon Penna, Permits Coordinator, at (562) 980-4238 or shannon.penna@noaa.gov or wcr-permits@noaa.gov
- Logbook submission is required See: See: 50 CFR, part 660.708
http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species_logbooks.html. Contact. John Childers at (858) 546-7192 or john.childers@noaa.gov
- Obtain any and all necessary permits, licenses, or logbooks required by California, Washington, Oregon, or NMFS West Coast Region.

In Canadian Waters:

- Vessels may fish for albacore in Canadian waters under the U.S.-Canada Albacore Treaty provided they have been added to the authorized vessel list and follow regulations under 50 CFR Subpart L and 50 CFR 660.704
Contact: Shannon Penna, Permits Coordinator, at (562) 980-4238 or albacore.fish@noaa.gov or wcr-permits@noaa.gov

- As of 2019 U.S. vessels can only fish in Canadian waters between June 15th and October 31st See compliance guide at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/resources-fishing/guide-complying-vessel-fishing-requirements-us-canada-albacore-treaty> additional information is also available at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/us_canada_albacore_treaty.html
- Logbook submission is required under 50 CFR 300 Subpart L. See compliance guide at: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/us_canada_albacore_treaty.html
- U.S. Vessels are authorized to enter specific Canadian ports for the purposes of landing/selling albacore provided they are issued an “EEZ” license from Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada See: <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/2015/EEZ-ZEE-eng.pdf>

Beyond the EEZ (International Waters):

- A High Seas Permit is required. See: 50 CFR part 300.13 http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/high_seas_fishing_compliance.html. Contact: Shannon Penna, Permits Coordinator, at (562) 980-4238 or shannon.penna@noaa.gov or wcr-permits@noaa.gov
- Logbook submission is required. See: 50 CFR part 300.17 http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/highly_migratory_species_logbooks.html. Contact John Childers at (858) 546- 7192 or john.childers@noaa.gov

To land/offload Highly Migratory Species in Alaska at a licensed buyer/processor

Permit/License Requirements:

- Fisherman must possess a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim-use permit, such as a miscellaneous finfish permit to land or offload fish or shellfish (AS 16.05.675(a); AS 16.10.267(a); and (20 AAC 05.110)). The CFEC permit must be for the appropriate species (20 AAC 05.210) gear type (20 AAC 05.220) and area (5 AAC 05.230). Contact CFEC at www.cfec.state.ak.us or call the CFEC Licensing Section at (907) 789-6150.
- The vessel must be licensed with the State of Alaska (AS 16.05.490; 5 AAC 39.120). If you have any questions, see the CFEC website at www.cfec.state.ak.us or call the CFEC Licensing Section at (907) 789-6150.

Reporting Requirements:

- The submission of a completed fish ticket is required for any fish or shellfish species, including highly migratory species harvested outside of Alaska waters (shoreward of 12 nautical miles from the Alaska coastline), that are landed or offloaded in Alaska or Alaska waters (AS 16.05.675(a); AS 16.05.690; AS 16.10.267(a); 5 AAC 39.130(c)). Licensed Buyers/processors may report the landing using eLandings or conventional paper fish tickets. When completing the fish ticket please use stat area 999-8. Currently the species code for albacore tuna is 720, but if instructed by ADF&G staff interim species codes may also be used. Additional requirements apply to buyers as outlined in AS 16.10.265.
- If you have any questions regarding reporting requirements, please contact elandings@alaska.gov or Martina Kallenberger, ADF&G Seafood Industry Coordinator, at (907) 465-6131 or dfg.seafood-coord@alaska.gov.

Additional Requirements:

- Buyers/processors require a fisheries business license from the Department of Revenue under AS 43.75.020 and would be responsible for any landing taxes under AS 43.77.010.
- If there are any crewmembers on board the vessel besides the CFEC permit holder those individuals will need a valid crewmember's license from ADF&G per AS 16.05.480 (based on the definition in AS 16.05.940(4) and 5 AAC 39.110. Please contact the licensing section of ADF&G at 907-465-2376 or visit the website to purchase a crewmembers license online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>

To land/offload and Directly Market Highly Migratory Species in Alaska

- Fisherman must possess a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) interim-use permit, such as a miscellaneous finfish permit for the appropriate gear type, to land or offload fish or shellfish (AS 16.10.267(a), (20 AAC 05.110)). The vessel must be licensed with the State of Alaska (AS 16.05.490), (5 AAC 39.120)). If you have any questions, please see the CFEC website at www.cfec.state.ak.us or call the CFEC Licensing Section at (907) 789-6150.
- Fishermen must be assigned a processor code by ADF&G in order to complete an ADF&G fish ticket. The processor code assigned to the fisherman can either be a fisheries business license type assigned in conjunction with the Department of Revenue and ADF&G or an ADF&G only permit. Fisheries business license types include direct marketer, catcher processor, or floating processor. The appropriate ADF&G only permit would be the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)-only permit. Fisherman must complete an Intent to Operate application and submit the completed form to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (5 AAC 39.130(a)) if applying for the EEZ only permit or a Fisheries Business License application.

To apply for a permit/license see the ADF&G website at:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishlicense.marketers>.

Contact: Martina Kallenberger, ADF&G Seafood Industry Coordinator, at (907) 465-6131 or dfg.seafood-coord@alaska.gov.

- The submission of a completed fish ticket is required for any fish or shellfish species, including highly migratory species harvested outside of Alaska waters (shoreward of 12 nm from the Alaska coastline), that are landed or offloaded in Alaska or Alaska waters (5 AAC 39.130(c)). Exclusive Economic Zone-only (EEZ-only) permit holders may report the landing using eLandings or conventional paper fish tickets. When completing the fish ticket please use stat area 999-8. Currently the species code for albacore tuna is 720, but if instructed by ADF&G staff interim species codes may also be used. Fish tickets are to be completed as one per port unless the period exceeds a one week period. If that is the case then a fish ticket will need to be written once every 7 days.
- If there are any crewmembers on board the vessel besides the CFEC permit holder those individuals will need a valid crewmember's license from ADF&G per 5 AAC 39.110. Please contact the licensing section of ADF&G at 907-465-2376 or visit the website to purchase a crewmembers license online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/Store/>
- If the fish is harvested and processed beyond the 3 nautical mile limit the Alaska Department of Revenue cannot require the fisherman to possess a fisheries business license, however, the fisherman would be responsible for any landing taxes under AS 43.77.010.