

Fish Transporters FAQ

A fish transporter works on behalf of the fisher. They can remove the catch from the vessel with an accompanying fish ticket and transport the catch to a buyer. Because the transporter never buys the catch, they do not need a code plate and will not put their processor code (beginning with T) on the code plate section of a ticket. Though they should handwrite this number on the margins of the ticket.

What can I transport:

Legally harvested Pacific cod, salmon, and herring. Any other fishery will need to use a tender for transportation.

How can I transport it:

Transporting legally harvested fish can occur by vessel, aircraft, vehicle, four wheeler, etc. Check with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for guidance on proper storage and transportation of seafood for human consumption.

Does a transporter vessel need to be registered with the Commercial fisheries entry commission?

A vessel used to transport fish under the Fish Transporter Permit must have a valid commercial fishing vessel license issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). This includes skiffs transporting salmon from set net sites if the CFEC permit holder is not present in the skiff at the time the fish is being transported. Vessel license application forms are available online at <http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/> or by calling (907) 789-6160.

Does a transporter need to have a crewmember's license?

The fish transporter and any crewmembers working on fish transport vessels must have crewmember licenses. Crewmember licenses may be purchased online from ADF&G at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/>, through a licensed vendor, or by calling (907) 465-2376. Crewmember licenses are only required if transporting fish aboard a vessel. Float plane, airplane, vehicle and four wheeler operators do not require crewmember licenses.

Does a transporter need to register with a local ADF&G office?

Yes, contact your local ADF&G office prior to operating to obtain instructions on allowable activities, reporting, and registration requirements in your fishery.

Do you need an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permit?

A DEC permit is not needed if:

- If Fish Transporters are just delivering gilled/gutted fish (or headed groundfish) to a DEC permitted seafood processor where it will be processed, they do not need a DEC seafood processors permit and may commingle the fish.

A DEC permit is needed if:

- If the destination is not a DEC permitted seafood processor (restaurant, grocery store, airplane to lower 48, etc.), they will need a DEC seafood processors permit in order to transport the fish from the fisherman to its destination. Regardless of the receptacle (box, tote, fiber tote, bag, coleman cooler, etc).
- If the destination is the dock and the customer comes down to the dock to retrieve the fish, the Fish Transporter must have a DEC seafood processors permit in order to sell the fish off the dock. Because they become the approved source. Also, because the Fish Transporter is not selling their own catch, they would not qualify for the Direct Market seafood processors permit and would need one of the processor level permits that allow for the sale of other peoples catch.
- Contact DEC at 907-269-7628 for questions or a permit.

Can a transporter mix fisher's catch?

ADF&G regulations do not require the catch to be kept separate, but DEC must be contacted and approve the transporters plan to store the fish prior to operation. DEC requirements may necessitate keeping catch from each fisher separate.

Do Fish tickets need to be fully filled out?

Fish transporters can transport fish with a partially filled out ticket, the processor code section will be stamped by the buyer of the catch, and an accurate weight will be written in at that time. Follow this [link](#) for instructions on properly filling out a fish ticket.

Does the fisher hiring the Fish Transporter need a Catcher-Seller Permit?

If the transporter plans to sell to the public, the fisher that hires them must be a catcher-seller to complete the code plate section of the fish ticket. If the transporter plans to sell to a licensed processor, then the fisher does not need to be a catcher-seller.

Fish transporters may only transport fish from a person who holds a CFEC commercial fishing permit for the species, area, and gear type used to harvest the fish being transported, or a landing permit issued by CFEC.

Does a Catcher-Seller need a Fish Transporter permit to transport their own catch?

a fish ticket must be filled out completely when the catch is removed from the harvesting vessel. A copy of the ticket must accompany the catch from then on. Catcher-Sellers must contact DEC to approve the method of transportation after the catch is removed from the harvesting vessel.

Do I need to carry an ID?

Yes, all fish transporters must be ready to show a picture ID and fish transporter approval letter when participating in transporting activities.

Does this permit expire?

Yes, all Fisheries Business Licenses and ADF&G only permits expire on December 31st of the license year.

Please contact the Seafood Industry Technician at (907) 465-6131 or dfg.seafood-coord@alaska.gov if you have questions