

## **Instructions to Gillnet Permit Holders Fishing in ADF&G Districts 6, 8, & Anita Bay in 2012**

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During the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program for the commercial drift gillnet fishery, before each weekly commercial period a subset of permit holders fishing in District 6, 8, and Anita Bay will be selected at random for observation each day the fishery is open. Selection will be made from a weekly roster of fishermen intending to fish in those areas. The number of permit holders selected for observation will vary weekly based on total fishing effort. Permit holders randomly selected will be contacted by Saltwater Inc. at least 48 hours prior to the weekly opener to arrange for their observation. Below are the steps that will be taken to notify permit holders and arrange for their observation when selected:

1. Prior to the first day of the weekly opener, permit holders will be randomly selected for observation each day of that opener.
2. Permit holders selected for observation will be notified by phone or in person at least 48 hours prior to the opener.
3. At the time of notification, the permit holder will be informed which day they are to be observed.
4. The permit holder will then establish a time and location on the fishing grounds to **meet the observer before they begin fishing**.
5. If a permit holder does not know the exact location they will be on the selected day of observation, then they will be provided by Saltwater Inc with a "SPOT" signaling device. The device will allow the fisherman to securely transmit their location coordinates to Saltwater Inc. on the assigned observer day **no less than two hours before they begin fishing**. An observer will then be dispatched to that location before the permit holder begins fishing. Specific instructions will be given to selected permit holders on how to operate the unit. Note to permit holders: *The SPOT device will only be used by you to signal your location prior to commencement of fishing for the day, and will not be used to track your location while fishing.*
6. Observers will then meet permit holders on the fishing grounds to begin collecting their data over a 24-hour period (midnight to midnight).

**Permit holders that have been selected for observation but do not plan to fish in the area that opener must inform Saltwater Inc in advance of the selected observation day.** The permit holder will then be reassigned for observation upon their return. However, if sighted fishing on the grounds during that same opener, they will be subject to observation.

### **What is the SPOT Satellite Messenger?**

*SPOT is a location-based communication device that uses GPS and satellite systems to transmit your location coordinates through a secure network at the push of a button. Our observer receives your message through the network and is dispatched to your location.*

### **How will SPOT be used during the observer program?**

*SPOT allows you to maintain a flexible schedule on days selected for observer coverage. If you elect a SPOT, the unit can be picked up in the Petersburg or Wrangell observer offices and returned to the observer or office at the end of observation. For residents outside these communities, arrangements can be made for pick-up on the fishing grounds. You will receive detailed instructions on how to operate the unit at the time of pick-up. Keep in mind the unit must be signaled on the observation day at least 2 hours prior to commencing fishing in order to give the observer time to arrive before you begin fishing.*