



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division
7600 Sand Point Way Northeast
Seattle, Washington 98115-0070

Owner Name
Send to Address Line 1
Send to City
Send to State - Zip

November 05, 2012

Dear Send to Name

We have identified your vessel as one that will be impacted by the new North Pacific Observer Program (Observer Program). In January 2013, NMFS plans to change observer coverage requirements for vessels and processing plants operating in North Pacific groundfish and halibut fisheries. This letter and the enclosed program summary contain information that will help you comply with the requirements of the new Observer Program.

The new Observer Program will place all vessels and processors in the groundfish and halibut fisheries off Alaska into one of two observer coverage categories: (1) a full coverage category, and (2) a partial coverage category.

The information in this letter applies to vessels in the partial coverage category only. Vessels in the partial coverage category will see substantial changes in how observers are deployed and paid for. For the partial coverage category, NMFS will place vessels into three pools with differing requirements. These pools and requirements are described in the program summary included with this letter.

We have identified the following vessel/s under your ownership as being in the **Trip Selection** pool of the partial coverage category:

My Vessel Name

If you think this designation is incorrect, please contact us at ODDS.HELP@noaa.gov and we will check our records and respond to you with any potential corrections.

As a participant in the Trip Selection pool, you will be required to log each fishing trip for the listed vessels at least 72 hours in advance of a trip's departure date, and comply with observer requirements when a logged trip is selected for observer coverage. Vessel owners or operators must use the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS) to log fishing trips. You have two options for logging fishing trips in ODDS. To help with planning, you will be able to log up to three trips in ODDS.

ODDS website: Using a web browser, go to the ODDS website at <https://odds.afsc.noaa.gov>. Below is your ODDS User ID and temporary password for the ODDS website. Please note that we prefer you use the convenient ODDS website to log your fishing trips.

ODDS User ID = **Vessel Owner First Name.Last Name**

Temporary Password = **A96TFWXduon52**



You will be required to change your Temporary Password the first time you sign in to the ODDS website.

Telephone: You may call the NOAA Data Technician Office at 800-304-4846, option #1 or 907-586-7163. The NOAA Data Technician Office is open from 6 am to midnight, 7 days a week. You will need to give your ODDS User ID and your phone number to the NOAA Data Technician Operator to log your trip in ODDS.

When using either option for logging trips, ODDS will immediately inform you if the logged trip has been selected for observer coverage. ODDS will also immediately notify the observer contractor, AIS, Inc., of your trip coverage requirement. If your trip is selected for observer coverage, staff from AIS, Inc. will contact you to coordinate getting an observer to your vessel for the selected trip. AIS, Inc. can be reached at: 855-247-6746. If you do not hear from AIS within 12 hours of having a trip selected for coverage, please contact them directly.

If you have previously taken observers under the old partial coverage rules, please note that NMFS is removing those requirements and you will only be required to take observers if your trip is selected through ODDS. You will no longer have 30 percent coverage by quarter, and you will no longer contract independently with an observer provider.

As the 2013 fishing year approaches, NMFS will be conducting outreach to explain the new Observer Program requirements. We will announce our outreach activities and provide answers to frequently asked questions on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/observers/>. NMFS will also post the final regulations on this website once they are published.

The new Observer Program will help ensure we provide the best available scientific data to NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council so that we can work together to successfully manage our Alaska fishery resources. I look forward to your help and cooperation as we implement the new Observer Program in 2013.

Sincerely,



Martin Loefflad

Director
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 99802

Enclosure:

- 1) Program summary