



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg 176  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
(808) 725-5000 • Fax: (808) 725-5215

Dear Category I or II fishery permit holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service has determined that your fishery is a Category I or II fishery in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) List of Fisheries under Section 118 of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1387). As a Federal permit holder in a Category I or II fishery, you have been automatically registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP). You are receiving this letter and enclosures to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Please find enclosed your MMAP Authorization Certificate. You must carry this certificate on board your vessel with a current Federal permit. Without this certificate, it is unlawful for your vessel to incidentally (or unintentionally) take any non-endangered marine mammal while fishing. This certificate is effective for the period printed on the certificate. If you lose or damage your certificate, you may print a replacement by going to: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/resources-fishing/pacific-islands-fishing-permits>.

As a participant in an MMAP Category I or II fishery, you must:

- Maintain the enclosed MMAP Authorization Certificate, or a legible copy, on board the vessel while engaging in this fishery.
- Accept an observer aboard your vessel, if so requested by NMFS or a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS.
- Report injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours after the end of each fishing trip during which a take occurred. You may submit the report in any of the following ways:
  - Mail the completed postage-paid form (available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese) available from <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program>
  - Fax the completed form to 1 (301) 713-0376
  - Scan and email the completed form to [nmfs.MIreport@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.MIreport@noaa.gov)
  - Complete the online MMAP mortality/injury reporting form, which may be accessed at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program>

Please see the Terms and Conditions listed on the enclosed MMAP Authorization Certificate. Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions of this Authorization Certificate or applicable provisions of the MMPA Section 118 may result in civil penalties and/or criminal sanctions and suspension or revocation of the Authorization Certificate.

For additional mortality/injury reporting forms or general questions about the MMAP, please contact Elena Duke of my staff at (808) 725-5134 or [elena.duke@noaa.gov](mailto:elena.duke@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Malloy  
Acting Regional Administrator

Encl.





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## **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

### **Marine Mammal Authorization Certificate**

**March 4, 2024 through March 3, 2025**

#### Authorization:

Pursuant to Section 118 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1387), the implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 229, and subject to the terms and conditions below, NMFS issues this Authorization Certificate, which, when presented in combination with a current and valid state or federal fishing permit, authorizes the taking of non-endangered marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing in Category I or II fisheries.

#### Terms and Conditions:

- **All incidental mortality or injury of marine mammals occurring in the course of commercial fishing operations must be reported to NMFS within 48 hours after the end of each fishing trip in which the incidental mortality or injury occurred.**
- This Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy of it, must be on board the vessel during commercial fishing operations.
- Authorization Certificate holders must comply with any applicable take reduction plans and emergency regulations.
- If requested to do so by NMFS or a designated contractor providing observer services to NMFS, an Authorization Certificate holder must take aboard an observer to accompany the vessel on fishing trips.
- When necessary to deter a marine mammal from damaging fishing gear, catch, other private property, or from endangering personal safety, the vessel owner, operator, or crew members may use measures which do not result in serious injury or mortality of the animal pursuant to the deterrence provisions of the MMPA.
- A marine mammal may not be intentionally killed in the course of commercial fishing operations except where imminently necessary in self defense or to protect the life of a person in immediate danger. Such lethal taking must be reported to NMFS within 48 hours after the end of each fishing trip in which the intentional lethal take occurred.
- Any marine mammal incidentally taken must be immediately returned to the sea unless directed otherwise by NMFS or a NMFS-authorized observer.
- This Authorization Certificate, or a copy, must be made available upon request to any state or federal enforcement agent authorized to enforce the MMPA, any designated agent of NMFS, or any contractor providing observer services to NMFS.
- This certificate is not transferable. In the event of a change in vessel ownership, the Authorization Certificate is void and a new Authorization Certificate must be obtained by the new owner.
- If the registered vessel is sold or destroyed or is replaced by a new designated vessel, an authorization must be obtained for the new vessel.
- Any person who violates these Terms and Conditions, regulations under 50 CFR Part 229, or any provisions of Section 118 of the MMPA shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the MMPA.
- If there are changes in the mailing address or vessel ownership, notify the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, SFD Permits Office by email [piro-permits@noaa.gov](mailto:piro-permits@noaa.gov) or phone (808) 725-5190 of the change within 15 days.

