**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
*National Marine Fisheries Service*
*P.O. Box 21668*
*Juneau, AK 99802-1668*

January 1, 2026

Dear Alaska State or Federal Commercial Fishing Permit Holder:

You are receiving this letter and enclosed 2026 Authorization Certificate for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

The MMPA requires that all US commercial fisheries be listed as a Category I, II, or III fishery according to the level of incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals associated with each fishery. Category I fisheries are those with the highest levels of marine mammal serious injury and mortality relative to the health and stability of marine mammal populations; Category III has the lowest levels. Participants in Category I and II fisheries must be registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) to be authorized for lawful incidental, but not intentional, marine mammal takes during fishing.

If you participate in a Category I or Category II fishery in Alaska listed on the enclosed authorization certificate, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has registered you in the MMAP. Registration in the MMAP provides commercial fishery permit holders in specified fisheries exemption from the MMPA's general prohibition on the taking of marine mammals that are not listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Incidental takes of ESA-listed species are authorized separately under the ESA. Your registration in the MMAP and issuance of this authorization is based on your current, valid State of Alaska or Federal commercial fishery permit for one or more of the fisheries listed below the Certificate.

If you participate in one of the Alaska fisheries not listed on the enclosed certificate, this fishery is considered to be a Category III fishery under the MMPA. Category III fishery participants are automatically exempted from the incidental take prohibition. Therefore, those fisheries participants do not need to maintain the enclosed certificate aboard your vessel. However, **you must report any incidental takes of marine mammals (including mammals that were entangled and released alive) within 48 hours of the incident or your return to port, regardless of the Category of the fishery you participate in**. Three options for report submission are available:

1) Complete the enclosed reporting form and mail to the address on the form;

2) Download and complete a pdf form and submit to the address on the form; or

3) Complete the form online and submit electronically.

The websites for pdf forms and electronic submission are shown below.

If you plan to participate in one or more of the Category I or Category II fisheries identified on the reverse side of the enclosed Certificate, **you must:**

- Maintain the enclosed MMAP Authorization Certificate or a photocopy of it on board the vessel while engaging in any of the fisheries identified on the reverse side of the certificate. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, the enclosed Certificate or a photocopy of it must be in the possession of the permit holder during fishing operations. This Certificate, in combination with a current, valid State of Alaska or Federal fishing permit, will serve as your authorization to incidentally take marine mammals not listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA in the course of commercial fishing operations.

- Report all injuries and mortalities of marine mammals within 48 hours of returning from the trip during which these takes occurred using the enclosed Mortality/Injury Reporting Form. Alternately, you may visit the following website to download a PDF of the reporting form or complete and submit the online version of the form: www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program

Please review the Terms and Conditions listed on the enclosed MMAP Certificate. This Certificate may be suspended or revoked by NMFS for failure to comply with any of these Terms and Conditions. If you have any questions regarding MMAP registration or general questions about the MMAP and/or List of Fisheries, please contact Suzie Teerlink at 907-586-7240. For additional information, you can visit the NMFS MMAP web page shown above.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Kurland
Regional Administrator