National Marine Fisheries Service
MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM
2026 AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE

A. 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, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issues this Authorization Certificate, which, when presented in combination with a current/valid state or Federal fisheries permit, authorizes the incidental, but not intentional, taking of non-endangered/threatened marine mammals while engaged in commercial fishing operations in the fisheries listed on the reverse side. This Authorization is valid for January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

B. 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 using one of the appropriate MMAP mortality/injury reporting form options. For non-vessel or set net fisheries, reports must be submitted within 48 hours of tending gear or the next delivery of catch.
- This Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy of it, must be on board the vessel during commercial fishing operations. For non-vessel or set net fishing, this certificate must be in the possession of the permitted fishermen.
- 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. For non-vessel or set net fishing, the Authorization Certificate holder must allow observer access to fishing operations.
- 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 Act.
- 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 mortality occurred using the appropriate MMAP mortality/injury reporting form.

For non-vessel or set net fisheries, reports must be submitted within 48 hours of tending gear or the next delivery of catch.

- Any marine mammal incidentally taken must be immediately returned to the sea unless directed otherwise by NMFS or a NMFS-authorized observer.
- 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.
- This Authorization Certificate, or a photocopy of it, must be made available in combination with a current/valid state or federal fisheries permit, 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.
- To acquire an additional or replacement certificate, please download and print from NOAA's Marine Mammal Authorization Program website, the current year certificate: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program

2026 List of Fisheries - ALASKA

CATEGORY I FISHERIES			
Management Authority	Gear	Area	Target Species
State	Drift Gillnet	Southeast Alaska	Salmon

CATEGORY II FISHERIES			
Management Authority	Gear	Area	Target Species
State	Drift Gillnet	Bristol Bay	Salmon
		Alaska Peninsula/ Aleutian Islands	
		Cook Inlet	
		Prince William Sound	
	Set Gillnet	Bristol Bay	
		Alaska Peninsula/ Aleutian Islands	
		Kodiak Island	
		Yakutat	
		Cook Inlet	
Federal	Trawl	Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands	Flatfish
		Bering Sea / Aleutian Islands	Pollock
	Longline	Gulf of Alaska	Sablefish