

NOAA's NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
MARINE MAMMAL AUTHORIZATION CERTIFICATE
2025

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, 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.

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. Options for submitting reports can be found at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program>.
- < 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 or 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, as required by the deterrence provisions of the MMPA and all guidelines and prohibitions published thereunder.
- < 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.
- < Any marine mammal incidentally taken must be immediately returned to the sea unless directed otherwise by NMFS.
- < Except as provided in 50 CFR 229.10, any person who violates these Terms and Conditions or regulations under 50 CFR 229 or any provisions of Section 118 of the MMPA shall be subject to the penalties set forth in the Act
- < This Authorization Certificate, or 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.
- < If there are changes in the mailing address or vessel ownership, please notify NMFS office within 30 days by email to Meghan.Roberts@noaa.gov.