

Southeast Fisheries Center
Miami Laboratory
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

{Date mailed}

F/V {Name of vessel}

Dear Permit Holder:

In accordance with the federal Atlantic Highly Migratory Species regulations, 50 CFR 635.7, your vessel {Documentation number of vessel} has been selected for observer coverage. The regulation requires that you contact the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Miami Laboratory, in writing, at least five business days in advance of each trip your vessel makes within the period {Date range of selection}. Failure to call the Observer Program in advance of each departure could result in enforcement action. Based on past logbook reports the Observer Program expects a minimum coverage of {number of sets} set(s) while the observer is assigned to your vessel. The observer will remain in the area to complete the required sets at the discretion of the Program Coordinators. You must report the following:

- (1) Departure information (port, dock, date, and time); and
- (2) Expected landing information (port, dock, and date).

Please provide this information to:

Larry Beerkircher
Observer Program Coordinator
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

FAX (305) 361-4282
PHONE 1-800-858-0624

You may report this information by facsimile (FAX). For any notification received outside federal business hours (8:00 am - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday), the five-day notification period will not start until 8:00 am of the next federal working day.

Once a NMFS certified observer is placed on board your vessel, you no longer need to provide the above information unless you receive a subsequent notice of vessel selection for a period different than specified above.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 50 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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