

Modified Net Notification

Gear and equipment required for valid permit. A vessel possessing a vessel permit for purse seining involving the intentional taking of marine mammals may not engage in fishing operations involving the intentional deployment of the net on or encirclement of dolphins unless it is equipped with a dolphin safety panel in its purse seine, has the other required gear and equipment, and uses the required procedures.

Vessel inspection —

(i) **Twice per year.** At least twice during each calendar year, purse seine nets and other gear and equipment required under [§ 216.24\(c\)\(3\)](#) must be made available for inspection and for a trial set/net alignment by an authorized NMFS inspector or IATTC staff as specified by the Administrator, West Coast Region, in order to obtain a vessel permit. The first such inspection shall be carried out before the vessel's request for a DML is submitted to the IATTC. The second such inspection shall be carried out before notification of any reallocation of DMLs for vessels with full-year DMLs or during the last quarter of the year for vessels with second-semester DMLs.

(ii) **Reinspection.** Purse seine nets and other gear and equipment required by these regulations must be made available for reinspection by an authorized NMFS inspector or IATTC staff as specified by the Administrator, West Coast Region. The vessel permit holder must notify the Administrator, West Coast Region, of any net modification at least 5 days prior to departure of the vessel in order to determine whether a reinspection or trial set/net alignment is required.

(iii) **Failure to pass inspection.** Upon failure to pass an inspection or reinspection, a vessel may not engage in purse seining involving the intentional taking of marine mammals until the deficiencies in gear or equipment are corrected as required by NMFS.

Public Burden Statement

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0648-0387. Without this approval, we could not conduct this information collection. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this information collection

are mandatory for U.S. tuna purse seine vessel permit holders pursuant to 50 CFR § 216.24(b)(8)(iv) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1371). The purpose of this notification is to require vessel permit holders to notify the NMFS West Coast Region or designated IATTC contact at least 5 days in advance of departing on a fishing voyage (including requests for cross-endorsed observers or notifications of operator changes) to coordinate observer placement on every trip. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to National Marine Fisheries Service at: Permits Office, West Coast Region, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, or via email to wcr.permit@noaa.gov.