



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Date Prepared: _____

Dear Vessel Owner, Operator, or Fisherman:

As an active participant in a fishery that requires Federal Fisheries Observer coverage, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has selected your fishing vessel,

F/V _____

(United States Coast Guard (USCG) documentation or state # _____), to take an observer on:

your next _____ fishing trip(s) or next _____ days fishing;

all fishing trips between the dates of _____ and _____.

Additional trip criteria (if applicable):

When fishing the following gear type(s), _____;

When fishing under the following Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) declaration code(s), _____;

When fishing under a non - groundfish Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) declaration code.

You must notify the Observer Service Provider representative noted below at least twenty four (24) hours before the start of the vessel's next fishing trip. If you received this letter on the same day as a planned fishing trip, you must notify the Observer Service Provider immediately upon receiving this letter.

You must contact:

_____ at phone number _____
 (Contact name, completed by NMFS, Observer Service Provider staff, or observer and contact phone number)

You are required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act to facilitate observer deployment by complying with the instructions in this letter. Failing to notify the observer program as instructed in this letter or fishing without an observer when required is unlawful and may subject you to fines and permit sanctions.

Observer Safety Requirements

A vessel must meet all applicable USCG safety regulations. These requirements are generally outlined in the most current USCG publication 'Federal Requirements for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels' available at: <http://www.fishsafe.info/>. All certificates, equipment and equipment servicing, registrations, and hydrostatic releases must be current/not expired and a vessel must have a current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel (CFV) Safety Examination decal or a USCG certificate of examination with proof of passing the USCG CFV Safety Examination.

Once a vessel is selected for coverage, the assigned observer is required to review emergency instructions with the vessel operator and complete a pre-trip safety check of the vessel's emergency equipment prior to departing on a trip. If a vessel fails to pass the required pre-trip safety check, the observer may not deploy

Revised 03/2018



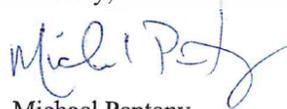
on a trip. It is the vessel's responsibility to keep all required safety equipment in sufficient quantity, current, and in working order, which includes a properly installed liferaft with capacity to hold all persons on board, including the observer. Federal regulations state that a vessel that would otherwise be required to carry an observer, but is inadequate for the purposes of carrying an observer (i.e. does not meet the safety requirements) is prohibited from fishing without observer coverage. Additional Federal regulations prohibit interfering with an observer conducting her duties and harassing or intimidating an observer. **It is a Federal crime to forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, sexually harass, bribe, or interfere with any observer deployed on a vessel.**

Please ensure that all contact information associated with your Operator Permit and/or Vessel Permits are up to date. Federal regulations (Operator Permits 50 CFR 648.5, Vessel Permits 50 CFR 648.4) state that notice of a change in the permit holder's name, address, or telephone number must be submitted in writing to, and received by, the Regional Administrator within 15 days of the change in information, or the permit is void.

This Vessel Selection Letter will expire on _____ if your vessel takes no fishing trips that fall within the selection criteria outlined above.

Contact Amy Martins, Branch Chief, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, at 508-495-2266 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael Pentony
Regional Administrator

OMB Control No.: 0648-0593
Expires on 12/31/2021

