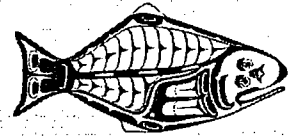


Information Bulletin



Number 43

March 1995

P.O. BOX 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

1995 BERING SEA HALIBUT VESSEL CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

All halibut vessels fishing in Area 4A must obtain a vessel clearance from a designated fish processor either in Akutan or Dutch Harbor both prior to fishing, and prior to unloading.

All halibut vessels fishing in Area 4B must obtain a vessel clearance from Atka Pride Seafoods in Nazan Bay on Atka Island, both prior to fishing and prior to unloading and/or departure from Area 4B. The vessel operator must obtain the clearance required prior to fishing, in person. The clearance required after fishing may be obtained in person, or via VHF radio (call on VHF channel 6) as long as the person granting the clearance can VISUALLY CONFIRM the identity of the vessel. Vessels that fish only in Area 4B and land their total annual halibut catch at a port within Area 4B are exempt from the vessel clearance requirements.

All halibut vessels fishing in Areas 4C and 4D must obtain a vessel clearance prior to fishing from a designated fish processor in either Akutan or Dutch Harbor. The vessel clearance required prior to unloading must be obtained at St. George or St. Paul, either in person, or via VHF radio as long as the person granting the clearance can VISUALLY CONFIRM the identity of the vessel. Clearance at St. George can be obtained from the harbor master (call on VHF channel 16). Clearance at St. Paul can be obtained from either Trident Seafoods (call on VHF channel 73) or from Unisea (call on VHF channel 74). Vessels that only fish in Area 4C and land their total annual halibut catch at a port within Area 4C are exempt from the vessel clearance requirements. Vessels that fish only in Areas 4D and 4E, and land their total annual halibut catch at a port within Areas 4D, 4E, or the Bering Sea closed area, are also exempt from the vessel clearance requirements.

Vessel clearances can only be obtained between 0600 hours and 1800 hours, local time. No halibut may be on board the vessel at the time of obtaining the clearance required prior to fishing in Area 4.

The clearance form for all vessel clearances obtained in person must be signed by the vessel operator. The clearance form for all vessel clearances obtained via VHF radio must be signed by the issuing officer.