



Fishing and Port Access Requirements for U.S. North Pacific Albacore Tuna Vessels in the Canadian EEZ

Original - May 29, 2018
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What's New in 2018?

Starting in 2018, all U.S. North Pacific Albacore Tuna fishing vessels will need an *EEZ Albacore Tuna Fishing Licence for U.S. Vessels* (EEZ tuna fishing licence), before entering Canada's EEZ to fish.

DFO has developed an approach that builds on the existing EEZ Port Access (EEZ port access licence) licensing application process. **Agents/harvesters only need to check an additional box to apply for the EEZ tuna fishing licence.**

The requirement applies to all U.S. vessels fishing North Pacific albacore tuna in Canada's EEZ under the *Canada-U.S. Albacore Tuna Treaty*.

The licence will allow U.S. North Pacific albacore tuna vessels to enter and fish in Canada's EEZ in accordance with Canadian law.

The EEZ tuna fishing licence will need to be applied for on an annual basis.



Reminder about the EEZ Port Access Licence

- The EEZ port access application process is unchanged. As in previous years, U.S. harvesters wishing to access Canada's ports need to obtain an EEZ port access licence, prior to entering the Canadian EEZ.
- Each subsequent port visit requires a new application for a new EEZ port access licence. These applications will be processed within 5 clear business days.



No new forms/No licence application fees

The same application form is used to apply for both port access and fishing licences.

No new forms are required.

There are **no fees** for either licence for U.S. harvesters accessing Canada's EEZ, either to fish or to access port.

A fishing vessel could potentially have two licences at the same time: one for port access and one for tuna fishing.

If you have previously applied for an EEZ port access licence, only an additional box (box #7) needs to be checked to apply for a fishing licence.

Licence application forms can be found here →

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/licence-permis/forms/eez-instruc-zee-eng.html



EEZ Tuna Fishing and Port Access Licence Application

Information to be provided in application:

- Name and description of vessel, equipment and compliment
- Flag state and homeport of the vessel
- Name of the master, owner and charterer, if applicable
- Registry number, call sign and radio frequencies
- Description and proposed purpose and period of licence
- Sign and date both page 1 and 2 of the application form
- Name of the authorized representative, and any other information the Minister considers necessary.



Application form: The fishing licence section

Reason for Visit to Port, EEZ Access:

1	<input type="checkbox"/> Shore leave, obtaining provisions (including bait), and/or repairs (provide details):
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Crew exchange # Embarking <input type="text"/> # Disembarking <input type="text"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Landing/Reloading/Transshipping any Equipment other than Fishing Gear of the Vessel (provide details): Name of vessel: <input type="text"/> Side number: <input type="text"/>
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Loading/offloading any fishing equipment and/or fishing gear (provide details):
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Offloading Fish (provide details): Species: <input type="text"/> Product Form: <input type="text"/> Quantity: <input type="text"/> Area fished: <input type="text"/> Port of offloading: <input type="text"/> Plant: <input type="text"/>
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Transshipping fish at sea or port (provide details): Species: <input type="text"/> Product Form: <input type="text"/> Quantity: <input type="text"/> Area fished: <input type="text"/> Port of offloading: <input type="text"/> Plant: <input type="text"/>
7	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing in Canadian EEZ (provide details): Species: <input type="text"/> Quota: <input type="text"/> Fishing Area: <input type="text"/> Approximate Dates (From - To): <input type="text"/>
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Processing at sea (provide details): Species: <input type="text"/> Product Form: <input type="text"/> Quantity: <input type="text"/> Area fished: <input type="text"/> Port of offloading: <input type="text"/> Supplier: <input type="text"/>
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Other activities (provide details):

Canadian Port:	Pier or berth, if applicable:	Date of Entry:	Time Requested (UTC):	
Estimated Date of Departure, Remarks:	Time of Departure:	Date Inspected:	Inspection Number:	Next Area to be Fished:



Licence Application Processing Times

- Apply as soon as possible and **before** entry into Canadian fisheries waters!
- Under Canadian law, 30 days is provided for processing an application. However, licence applications under the Treaty will generally be processed within a shorter time frame.
- For 2021 EEZ tuna fishing licences, DFO's service standard is up to **10 business days from the day the application is received.**
- For 2021 EEZ port access licences, DFO's service standard is **5-10 business days from the day the application is received.**
- For amendments to the EEZ port access licences, DFO's service standard is **5-10 business days from the day the application is received.**



Entry into Canada's EEZ without a Licence

- There are limited circumstances where foreign fishing vessels may enter Canada's EEZ without a licence. The circumstances are:
 - Where the vessel is in distress, for the purpose of ensuring the safety of vessel and crew;
 - Rendering assistance to a vessel described above;
 - Obtaining emergency medical assistance for a crewmember at a Canadian port;
 - Other instances of *force majeure*; or,
 - Passing through certain parts of Canada's EEZ in continuation of a voyage to a destination outside of Canada's EEZ.
- In these circumstances, the master of a foreign fishing vessel entering Canadian fisheries waters shall, as soon as is reasonably possible, notify DFO by calling the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre Victoria, **Telephone:** 1-800-567-5111, **Satellite, local, or out of area:** 250-413-8933, **Email:** jrccvictoria@sarnet.dnd.ca



Questions?

Q: When was the EEZ Fishing Licence requirement implemented?

A: The EEZ tuna fishing licence was/is required for the 2018 fishing season and all years thereafter. The season opens on June 15th. Please apply as soon as possible. DFO's service standard for the EEZ tuna fishing licence is up to 10 business days from the day the application is received.

Q: How will the NOAA U.S. vessel list be used?

A: DFO will review the application to determine if the vessel is on the list. If the vessel is not on the U.S. list, DFO will reply to the applicant and instruct them to contact NOAA officials to get the vessel listed on NOAA's Pacific Tuna Treaty list. Only vessels appearing on the NOAA tuna treaty list will receive tuna fishing licences for Canadian waters.

Q: How can I find out more information?

A: Please contact

DFO Pacific Region Fishery Licence Unit

Telephone: 1-877-535-7307 (ask for the PACIFIC REGION)

Email: fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca (Specify PACIFIC REGION in subject line)



Next Steps/Questions

2018 was the first year for the new EEZ fishing licence process. You may have questions;

Additional information can be found at DFO's public Fishery Notice site at: notices.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fns-sap/index-eng.cfm, (or by performing an internet search for "DFO Fishery Notice"). Once in the Fishery Notice website, search under "COMMERCIAL – Pelagics: Tuna". The current relevant Fishery Notice for American tuna vessels (in 2021) is FN0276.

Additional information can be found on the DFO site at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/commercial/pelagic-pelagique/tuna-thon/index-eng.html>

More information can be found on the NOAA site at http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/us_canada_albacore_treaty.html

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