Attention Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Commercial Fishing Vessels

The Northeast Fisheries Observer Program will be discontinuing the usage of supplemental valise life rafts by Observers and At-Sea Monitors on June 30, 2023. According to 46 U.S.C. § 4502(b)(2)(B) it is the vessel's responsibility to have a properly installed life craft, when applicable, with capacity to hold all persons on board, including the observer.

Vessels selected for Observer or At-Sea Monitor coverage must meet all USCG safety regulations and must also display a current USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination (CFVSE) decal. These requirements are outlined in the USCG publication “Federal Requirements for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels.” All safety equipment, servicing, and registrations must be present and current (i.e. not expired). A checklist of the required safety gear can be created using the USCG’s “Commercial Fishing Vessel Checklist Generator.”

Links to the “Federal Requirements for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels” and the “Commercial Fishing Vessel Checklist Generator” can be found using the QR codes, or by contacting the Safety Operations Specialist with the Fisheries Monitoring Operations Branch.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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