



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Office for International Affairs and Seafood Inspection
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Phone:301-427-8350

Dear Importer/Exporter:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is transitioning from our current, paper-based trade documentation programs to an electronic reporting system operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP.) As part of this transition, NMFS will issue a single/consolidated permit that will replace the two separate international trade permits currently issued for the Highly Migratory Species and Antarctic Marine Living Resources programs. Additionally, the new consolidated permit will be required of importers of products subject to documentation under the Tuna Tracking and Verification Program.

As a result of this new regulation, effective on **September 20, 2016** (www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-03/pdf/2016-18401.pdf), the Highly Migratory Species International Trade Permit (HMS ITP) and the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Dealer Permit (AMLR Dealer Permit) will be eliminated and replaced by the National Marine Fisheries Service's International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP.) Importers of products covered by the NOAA Form 370 Tuna Tracking and Verification Program (TTVP) will also be required to obtain the IFTP. A single IFTP will entitle the holder to conduct trade under any of the three current NMFS trade programs: HMS ITP, AMLR, and TTVP. Information about these trade programs is available at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ia/our_work/importing_exporting_seafood.html.

Current HMS and AMLR permit holders may continue to use their HMS and/or AMLR permit until September 19, after which they must begin using the IFTP. TTVP importers may continue to import without a permit until September 19, after which they must also begin using the IFTP. The IFTP number will be needed when filing an import, export, or re-export with CBP for any of the applicable products under the HMS ITP, AMLR, and TTVP programs.

All importers and exporters who deal with HMS ITP, AMLR and TTVP program covered products will need to establish a National Permit System (NPS) account to obtain an IFTP. NPS is a computer-based system accessible through the internet twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. After the initial application, an update and renewal to the IFTP will be required annually, also through the NPS.

The current fee for processing an IFTP application is \$30.00. Note that payment of the application fee is processed on the pay.gov secure website of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, not the NMFS NPS website. Applicants will be automatically redirected to pay.gov when applying for the IFTP. Pay.gov supports payments via credit/debit cards (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and AMEX) and electronic checks.

To make a payment online via credit card, you will need a valid credit card number, billing name, billing address, and expiration date. For electronic check payments, a valid bank routing number and Savings/Checking account number are needed.



To apply for the IFTP, importers and exporters must access the NPS and follow the instructions below.

First, please go to the National Permit System website: <https://fisheriespermits.noaa.gov/npspub>

If you do not already have a username/password for NPS, press the "Register" button on the screen. Follow the registration process to create an account. After you register, you will receive an email with your username/password and you will be able to login.

Once you login, press the "APPLY FOR A NEW PERMIT" link, select "International Trade – Import and Exports" button and press "Next". Find and select the "INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES TRADE APPLICATION" link and enter your information as indicated. Payment will be processed on pay.gov and you will be returned to the NPS website. When you finish the permit application process, press the "Permit" link to view and print your permit.

The IFTP is required for electronic filing with CBP as of September 20, 2016. Thank you for your cooperation and prompt attention to this matter.

Paperwork Reduction Act Notification: The International Fisheries Trade Permit is an information collection subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. This information collection was approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control Number: 0648-0732 and expires on 08/31/2019.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Office for International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires potential respondents for an International Fisheries Trade Permit to be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for a the permit. One of the regulatory steps taken by NMFS to carry out conservation and management objectives is the requirement of a permit for importers and exporters of the fishery products subject to trade monitoring programs. Section 307(1)(Q) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act authorizes the promulgation of regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to prevent the import and export of fishery products taken in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, a foreign law or regulation, or a binding conservation measure of a regional fisheries organization to which the United States is a contracting party.

Name and address information of permit holders may be released via a NOAA website. Pursuant to Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and consistent with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100 (Confidentiality of Fisheries Statistics), the Agency does not release confidential information submitted in compliance with provisions of the Act, other than in aggregate form and under circumstances required or authorized by law. Whenever data are requested or released to the general public, the Agency ensures that information on the pecuniary business activity of a permit holder is not identified.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to, a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.