

***NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 31-109***

***August 30, 2007***

***Financial Management and Budget***

***POLICY ON NMFS PERMITS ISSUANCE UNDER THE DEBT COLLECTION  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996***

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**OPR:** F/MB (P. Marx)

**Certified by:** F/MB (G. Reisner)

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***SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:***

**1. Introduction**

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1966 (DCIA) requires Federal agencies to confirm whether applicants for Federal financial assistance, including licenses or permits, owe delinquent non-tax debt to the Federal Government. Unless prohibited by law, NMFS will deny, suspend, or revoke licenses, permits, or other privileges within its area of responsibility for an inexcusable or willful failure of a debtor to pay a lawful debt. The Treasury Department's Financial Management Service (FMS) is the agency responsible for implementing the DCIA. Federal agencies are required by the DCIA to submit delinquent debt (delinquent by more than 180 days) to FMS for collection and for maintaining debt information supporting barring delinquent debtors from receiving Federal financial assistance, licenses, permits, or other privileges. The Tax Identification Numbers (TIN) and names of submitted debtors are maintained in the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) database.

**2. Objective**

To specify procedures bringing NMFS processing of applications for licenses, permits, or other privileges into full compliance with the DCIA.

**3. Authorities and Responsibilities**

This policy establishes the procedures and responsibilities to implement the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, 31 U.S.C. 7701, and 15 CFR Parts 19, 21, and 22.

NMFS Office of Management and Budget (F/MB) will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of this Policy Directive and the associated Procedures Instruction documents, review for consistency with policy, analysis of potential budget issues, and timely communication.

**4. Measuring Effectiveness**

NMFS will measure the effectiveness of the Delinquent Debt Check procedures at the end of each fiscal year by evaluating the issuance/non-issuance of permits, licenses, etc., to identified delinquent debtors.

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Signed: William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.  
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8/16/2007

Date