



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MO 20910

## **NMFS Announces an Administrative Change to the Issuance of Atlantic Tunas Longline Permits**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces an important change that will soon be occurring regarding the issuance of Atlantic Tunas Longline permits. Effective for 2010, the Atlantic Tunas Longline permit will be issued by the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) in St. Petersburg, FL, and not from the [www.hmspermits.gov](http://www.hmspermits.gov) website or telephone number. The purpose of this change is to make the renewal and issuance procedures consistent between Atlantic Tunas Longline permits and limited access permits for swordfish and sharks. This change only affects the Atlantic Tunas Longline permit. All other Atlantic Tunas permits, the HMS Angling permit, and the HMS Charter/Headboat permit will continue to be issued through the website. This new process is intended to make the HMS limited access permit renewal procedures more consistent for commercial fishermen, and more efficient for NMFS to administer.

If you are currently issued, or are eligible for, a valid Atlantic Tunas Longline permit, and are also currently issued other valid permit(s) from the SERO permits office you may not need to take any action regarding this change. Your 2010 Atlantic Tunas Longline permit will automatically be issued and mailed to the address and business name that are currently on file for your other permit(s) issued by SERO permits office. If, however, the address and business name on file with the SERO permits office are not accurate, you will need to correct the information as soon as possible by informing NMFS in writing of any required changes. The SERO permits office mailing address is:

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office, Permits Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

To facilitate this information update, you should submit a "Change of Information Form for Federal Fisheries Permits." This form is available online at [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/forms/Change\\_of\\_Address.pdf](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/permits/forms/Change_of_Address.pdf). Please be aware, if your swordfish and/or shark permits have expired and you are eligible to renew them, you are encouraged to renew those permits as soon as possible.

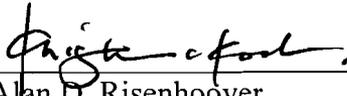
If you are currently issued an Atlantic Tunas Longline permit, but are not issued any other valid permits from the SERO permits office, the 2010 Atlantic Tunas Longline permit will automatically be mailed and issued to the address and business name that is currently listed on your Atlantic Tunas Longline permit.



If your vessel's Atlantic Tunas Longline permit has expired, any applications to renew the permit submitted after December 31, 2009, should be sent to the NMFS SERO permits office at the address above.

NMFS will mail the 2010 Atlantic Tunas Longline permits to eligible vessel owners in November and December of 2009. The expiration date on the 2010 Atlantic Tunas Longline permit will be the same as the expiration date listed on your associated limited access swordfish and shark permits. All subsequent renewals of your Atlantic Tunas Longline permit will be on the same cycle, and will follow the same procedures, as your associated limited access swordfish and shark permits.

If you need additional information regarding your Atlantic Tunas Longline permit, please contact Brad McHale at (978) 281-9260. For all other questions regarding this administrative change, please contact Randy Blankinship or Rick Pearson at (727) 824-5399.

  
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Alan D. Risenhoover,  
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**MAY 28 2009**

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Date

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