

§ 660.20

any vessel, shorebased or floating stationary processing facilities.

(ii) Must not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gratuity, gift, favor, entertainment, loan, or anything of monetary value from anyone who either conducts activities that are regulated by NMFIS or has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the observers' official duties.

(iii) May not serve as observer on any vessel or at any shoreside or floating stationary processing facility owned or operated where a person was previously employed.

(iv) May not solicit or accept employment as a crew member or an employee of a vessel, shoreside processor, or stationary floating processor while employed by an observer or catch monitor provider.

(2) Provisions for remuneration of observers or catch monitors under this section do not constitute a conflict of interest.

(3) *Limitations on conflict of interest for catch monitors.* [Reserved]

(4) *Limitations on conflict of interest for catch monitors providers.* [Reserved]

§ 660.20 Vessel and gear identification.

(a) *Vessel identification*—(1) *Display.* The operator of a vessel that is over 25 ft (7.6 m) in length and is engaged in commercial fishing for groundfish must display the vessel's official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on a weather deck so as to be visible from above. The number must contrast with the background and be in block Arabic numerals at least 18 inches (45.7 cm) high for vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) long and at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) high for vessels between 25 and 65 ft (7.6 and 19.8 m) in length. The length of a vessel for purposes of this section is the length set forth in USCG records or in state records, if no USCG record exists.

(2) *Maintenance of numbers.* The operator of a vessel engaged in commercial fishing for groundfish must keep the identifying markings required by paragraph (a)(1) of this section clearly legible and in good repair, and must ensure that no part of the vessel, its rigging, or its fishing gear obstructs the

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view of the official number from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(3) *Commercial passenger vessels.* This section does not apply to vessels carrying fishing parties on a per-capita basis or by charter.

(b) *Gear identification.* Gear identification requirements specific to fisheries using fixed gear (limited entry and open access) are described at § 660.219, subpart E and § 660.319, subpart F.

§ 660.24 Limited entry and open access fisheries.

(a) *General.* All commercial fishing for groundfish must be conducted in accordance with the regulations governing limited entry and open access fisheries, except such fishing by treaty Indian tribes as may be separately provided for.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 660.25 Permits.

(a) *General.* Each of the permits or licenses in this section has different conditions or privileges as part of the permit or license. The permits or licenses in this section confer a conditional privilege of participating in the Pacific coast groundfish fishery, in accordance with Federal regulations in 50 CFR part 660, subparts C through G.

(b) *Limited entry permit*—(1) *Eligibility and registration*—(i) *General.* In order for a vessel to be used to fish in the limited entry fishery, the vessel owner must hold a limited entry permit and, through SFD, must register that vessel for use with a limited entry permit. When participating in the limited entry fishery, a vessel is authorized to fish with the gear type endorsed on the limited entry permit registered for use with that vessel, except that the MS permit does not have a gear endorsement. There are three types of gear endorsements: Trawl, longline, and pot (or trap). All limited entry permits, except the MS permit, have size endorsements; a vessel registered for use with a limited entry permit must comply with the vessel size requirements of this subpart. A sablefish endorsement is also required for a vessel to be used to fish in the primary season for the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery, north of 36° N. lat. Certain limited