



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

**JAN 21 2010**

Dear Permit or License Holder:

This letter is to inform you of a recently published final rule to implement certain provisions of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (Convention), under the authority of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*). Generally, these regulations apply to U.S. fishing vessels used for fishing for highly migratory species in the western and central Pacific Ocean, but some requirements apply more broadly. Among the requirements in these regulations are requirements related to permitting, compliance with laws of other nations, vessel monitoring systems, vessel observers, vessel markings, reporting and recordkeeping, at-sea transshipment, and boarding and inspection on the high seas by authorized inspectors of other countries.

The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on January 21, 2010, and will become effective on February 22, 2010. A copy of the final rule is enclosed for your reference. Also enclosed is a small entity compliance guide for this rule. The guide is intended to inform owners and operators of affected fishing vessels, and other affected entities, how to comply with these new regulations.

Further information about these regulations and about U.S. implementation of the Convention is available on the website of the Pacific Islands Regional Office of NOAA Fisheries Service:  
<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/>.

If you have any questions about this matter, you may contact Tom Graham at 808-944-2219 or [tom.graham@noaa.gov](mailto:tom.graham@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Robinson".

William L. Robinson  
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

