

## Fishery Conservation and Management

## § 660.17

(j) Refuse to make accommodations available for an observer when so directed by the Regional Director under § 660.28, § 660.49, or § 660.65, or under any provision in an EFP issued under § 660.17.

(k) Fail to notify officials as required in §§ 660.23, 660.28, 660.43, and 660.63.

### § 660.16 Vessel identification.

(a) Each fishing vessel subject to this subpart must display its official number on the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, and on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be visible from enforcement vessels and aircraft.

(b) The official number must be affixed to each vessel subject to this subpart and subparts C, D, E, and F of this part, in block Arabic numerals at least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for fishing and receiving vessels of 65 ft (19.8 m) LOA or longer, and at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for all other vessels, except vessels subject to Subpart F and 65 ft (19.8 m) LOA or longer must be marked in block Arabic numerals at least 14 inches (35.6 cm) in height. Marking must be legible and of a color that contrasts with the background.

(c) The vessel operator must ensure that the official number is clearly legible and in good repair.

(d) The vessel operator must ensure that no part of the vessel, its rigging, or its fishing gear obstructs the view of the official number from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

### § 660.17 Experimental fishing.

(a) *General.* The Regional Director may authorize, for limited purposes, the direct or incidental harvest of management unit species that would otherwise be prohibited by this subpart and subparts C, D, E, and F of this part. No experimental fishing may be conducted unless authorized by an EFP issued by the Regional Director in accordance with the criteria and procedures specified in this section. EFPs will be issued without charge.

(b) *Observers.* No experimental fishing for crustacean management unit species may be conducted unless an NMFS scientific observer is aboard the vessel.

(c) *Application.* An applicant for an EFP must submit to the Regional Director at least 60 days before the de-

sired date of the EFP a written application including, but not limited to, the following information:

(1) The date of the application.

(2) The applicant's name, mailing address, and telephone number.

(3) A statement of the purposes and goals of the experiment for which an EFP is needed, including a general description of the arrangements for disposition of all species harvested under the EFP.

(4) A statement of whether the proposed experimental fishing has broader significance than the applicant's individual goals.

(5) For each vessel to be covered by the EFP:

(i) Vessel name.

(ii) Name, address, and telephone number of owner and operator.

(iii) USCG documentation, state license, or registration number.

(iv) Home port.

(v) Length of vessel.

(vi) Net tonnage.

(vii) Gross tonnage.

(6) A description of the species (directed and incidental) to be harvested under the EFP and the amount of such harvest necessary to conduct the experiment.

(7) For each vessel covered by the EFP, the approximate times and places fishing will take place, and the type, size, and amount of gear to be used.

(8) The signature of the applicant.

(d) *Incomplete applications.* The Regional Director may request from an applicant additional information necessary to make the determinations required under this section. An applicant will be notified of an incomplete application within 10 working days of receipt of the application. An incomplete application will not be considered until corrected in writing.

(e) *Issuance.* (1) If an application contains all of the required information, NMFS will publish a notice of receipt of the application in the FEDERAL REGISTER with a brief description of the proposal and will give interested persons an opportunity to comment. The Regional Director will also forward