

RC 23

Castle Cape Fisheries  
PO box 971 - Homer, Alaska 99603

October 9, 2012

ADF&G Board of Fisheries  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
(907) 465-6094 FAX

Re: State Water Atka Mackerel Management Plan

Dear Chairman Karl Johnstone,

FV Taurus received a ADFG Commissioners Permit to conduct a limited experimental purse seine fishery for Atka mackerel in the Aleutian Island state waters this summer to evaluate the feasibility of the fishery. A copy of the Commissioner's Permit is attached.

We have submitted a report on the results of our experimental fishery as RC 22.

Our operations under the Commissioner's Permit took place from August 2nd to August 24<sup>th</sup> this last summer. As our report indicates, we are convinced that a state water purse seine fishery for Atka mackerel is feasible.

ADFG staff has informed us that the 125 ton allowance for the Commissioner's Permit is the maximum they can authorize as an experimental fishery. There is currently no state management plan in regulations for authorizing a state waters fishery.

**The next step is to create a Management Plan for a state water Atka mackerel fishery. Approving a Management Plan is a Board of Fish prerogative.**

An ACR must be submitted 45 days before the first fall meeting. Because our experimental research project was still ongoing when the deadline passed it was not possible to submit an ACR proposal for developing a management plan for a state water purse seine fishery for Atka mackerel.

We have discussed working cooperatively with ADFG to develop a draft plan to submit for Board of Fish consideration. We hope to submit a draft plan to the Board in the coming weeks.

In order to have a fishery opening in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013, it will require the Board to initiate a proposal on a Management Plan out of cycle.

The framework of a State Water Management Plan should include:

- Area – *(state waters between 172 longitude to 180 longitude)*
- Gear - *(purse seine, with length and depth limits)*
- GHL - *(a percentage of the federal ABC for the adjacent waters of 541/542)*
- Vessel Size Limits - *(58' LOA)*
- Check-in - *(fishery registration)*
- Catch Reporting - *(daily reports to ADFG)*
- Season - *(July through October)*

This is an opportunity to create a new fishery for small boats delivering to shore plants in the Aleutian Island region, bringing employment to struggling communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Dan Veerhusen  
Captain/Owner  
F/V Taurus

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Veerhusen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.

# Commissioner's Permit Requirements for Experimental Atka Mackerel Harvest



Issuance of this Commissioner's Permit authorizes the fishing vessel Taurus (ADF&G #49747) to harvest Atka mackerel (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*) on an experimental basis using seine gear. The purpose of this permit is to determine if seine gear is a viable method to harvest Atka mackerel. Conditions of this permit are as follows:

1. Valid CFEC interim-use permit card for statewide miscellaneous saltwater finfish using purse seine gear is required (M01B).  
(Description of gear, mesh size, depth, etc) HERALD'S SEINE 200 FATHOM X 82 MESHES (1 1/2")  
SALMON SEINE 225 FATH. X 250 MESHES - 3" MESH
2. This permit is valid for 30 days from issuance and may be extended for one month at a time by contacting ADF&G in Dutch Harbor.
3. Fishing may only occur within state waters (0 - 3 nm) of federal regulatory area 541 (Eastern Aleutian Islands).
4. Allowable harvest of Atka mackerel under conditions of this permit is limited to a maximum of 250,000 pounds; any Atka mackerel taken in excess of this maximum amount must be immediately returned to the water.
5. Steller sea lion protection areas found in Table 12 CFR part 679 and the Seguam foraging area found in CFR part 679.22 are in effect while targeting Atka mackerel and attached to this permit.
6. Waters of Quail, Kuluk and Hidden bays are closed to commercial fishing with purse seine gear as described in attached map.
7. ~~A fishing logbook is required and must be submitted with each fish ticket at each delivery. Logbook must contain the following information: date fished, set number, location by latitude and longitude, bycatch information (species, numbers and pounds), ADF&G statistical area fished (stat area chart will be provided), pounds harvested per set. Additional reporting requirements may be added to permit at the time of extension.~~
8. Allowable groundfish bycatch amounts can be found in Table 11 Part 679 dated October 27, 2010 (see attached).
9. The vessel must notify the department no less than 12 hours prior to landing.
10. The department may deploy ADF&G personnel as an onboard observer during fishing activities with cost borne by the vessel.
11. Failure to complete all fields requested in the fishing logbook, notify ADF&G of landing, or comply with the other stipulations specified above will result in revocation of this Commissioner's permit.

TAURUS                      49747  
Vessel Name                      ADF&G #

MARK RECALMA                      7/30/12  
Vessel Operator                      Date  
[Signature]                      7-30-12  
Department Representative                      Date

I, the CFEC permit holder, agree to allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to publish harvest information obtained under this permit.

[Signature]  
Signature of CFEC Permit Holder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dept. Rep.                      Extension Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dept. Rep.                      Extension Date