

pursuant to the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

*ICCAT* means the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas established pursuant to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

*Import*, for purposes of this subpart, generally means the act of bringing or causing any goods to be brought into the customs territory of a country with the intent to unlade them. For purposes of this subpart, goods brought into the United States from a U.S. insular possession, or vice-versa, are not considered imports.

*Importer*, for purposes of this subpart, means the principal party responsible for the import of product into a country. For imports into the United States, and for purposes of this subpart, “importer” means the consignee as identified on entry documentation or any authorized, equivalent electronic medium required for release of shipments from the customs authority of the United States or the separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession. If a consignee is not declared, then the importer of record is considered to be the consignee.

*Insular possession of the United States or U.S. insular possession*, for purposes of this subpart, means the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and other possessions listed under 19 CFR 7.2, that are outside the customs territory of the United States.

*Intermediate country* means a country that exports to another country HMS previously imported as an entry for consumption by that nation. A shipment of HMS through a country on a through bill of lading, or in another manner that does not enter the shipment into that country as an entry for consumption, does not make that country an intermediate country under this definition.

*IOTC* means the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission established pursuant to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission approved by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Council of the United Nations.

*Pacific bluefin tuna* means the species *Thunnus orientalis* found in the Pacific Ocean.

*Permit holder*, for purposes of this subpart, means, unless otherwise specified, a person who obtains a trade permit under § 300.182.

*Re-export*, for purposes of this subpart, means the export of goods that were previously entered for consumption into the customs territory of a country.

*RFMO*, as defined under this subpart, means regional fishery management organization, including CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, or IOTC.

*Separate customs territory of a U.S. insular possession* means the customs territory of a U.S. insular possession when that possession’s customs territory is not a part of the Customs territory of the United States.

*Southern bluefin tuna* means the species *Thunnus maccoyii* found in any ocean area.

*Swordfish* means the species *Xiphias gladius* that is found in any ocean area.

*Tag* means either a dealer tag or a BSD tag.

*Trade permit* means the HMS international trade permit under § 300.182.

**§ 300.182 HMS international trade permit.**

(a) *General*. A person entering for consumption, exporting, or re-exporting fish or fish products regulated under this subpart from any ocean area must possess a valid trade permit issued under this section. Importation of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart by nonresident corporations is restricted to those entities authorized under 19 CFR 141.18.

(b) *Application*. A person must apply for a permit in writing on an appropriate form obtained from NMFS. The application must be completed, signed by the applicant, and submitted with required supporting documents, at least 30 days before the date upon which the permit is made effective. Application forms and instructions for their completion are available from NMFS.

(c) *Issuance*. (1) Except as provided in subpart D of 15 CFR part 904, NMFS will issue a permit within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.

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(2) NMFS will notify the applicant of any deficiency in the application, including failure to provide information or reports required under this subpart. If the applicant fails to correct the deficiency within 30 days following the date of notification, the application will be considered abandoned.

(d) *Duration.* Any permit issued under this section is valid until December 31 of the year for which it is issued, unless suspended or revoked.

(e) *Alteration.* Any permit that is substantially altered, erased, or mutilated is invalid.

(f) *Replacement.* NMFS may issue replacement permits. An application for a replacement permit is not considered a new application. An appropriate fee, consistent with paragraph (j) of this section, may be charged for issuance of a replacement permit.

(g) *Transfer.* A permit issued under this section is not transferable or assignable; it is valid only for the permit holder to whom it is issued.

(h) *Inspection.* The permit holder must keep the permit issued under this section at his/her principal place of business. The permit must be displayed for inspection upon request of any authorized officer, or any employee of NMFS designated by NMFS for such purpose.

(i) *Sanctions.* The Assistant Administrator may suspend, revoke, modify, or deny a permit issued or sought under this section. Procedures governing permit sanctions and denials are found at subpart D of 15 CFR part 904.

(j) *Fees.* NMFS may charge a fee to recover the administrative expenses of permit issuance. The amount of the fee is calculated, at least annually, in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook, available from NMFS, for determining administrative costs of each special product or service. The fee may not exceed such costs and is specified on each application form. The appropriate fee must accompany each application. Failure to pay the fee will preclude issuance of the permit. Payment by a commercial instrument later determined to be insufficiently funded shall invalidate any permit.

(k) *Change in application information.* Within 30 days after any change in the

information contained in an application submitted under this section, the permit holder must report the change to NMFS in writing. If a change in permit information is not reported within 30 days, the permit is void as of the 31<sup>st</sup> day after such change.

(1) *Renewal.* Persons must apply annually for a trade permit issued under this section. A renewal application must be submitted to NMFS, at an address designated by NMFS, at least 30 days before the permit expiration date to avoid a lapse of permitted status. NMFS will renew a permit provided that: the application for the requested permit is complete; all reports required under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, ATCA, and the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 have been submitted, including those required under §§ 300.183, 300.185, 300.186, and 300.187 and § 635.5 of this title; and the applicant is not subject to a permit sanction or denial under paragraph (i) of this section.

### § 300.183 Permit holder reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(a) *Biweekly reports.* Any person issued a trade permit under § 300.182 must submit to NMFS, on forms supplied by NMFS, a biweekly report of imports entered for consumption, exports, and re-exports of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart.

(1) The report required to be submitted under paragraph (a) of this section must be postmarked within 10 days after the end of each biweekly reporting period in which fish or fish products regulated under this subpart were entered for consumption, exported, or re-exported. The bi-weekly reporting periods are defined as the first day to the 15th day of each month and the 16th day to the last day of each month.

(2) Each report must specify accurately and completely the requested information for each shipment of fish or fish products regulated under this subpart that is entered for consumption, exported, or re-exported.

(b) *Recordkeeping.* Any person issued a trade permit under § 300.182 must retain at his/her principal place of business a copy of each biweekly report and supporting records for a period of 2