

Regulations Governing Freezing Onboard

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Do not be afraid

- Intimidating, but should not be insurmountable
- 17 pages, 5 to actually fill out
- This is just the beginning - if you can't handle this paperwork, don't direct market

Freezing = Processing

- DEC says you are a processor if you:
- Head or butcher product, recover roe, shuck, pickle, cook in water or steam, salt or brine, dry, mix or formulate, **freeze**, make surimi or create retorted thermal packaging

Processing does not include

- Gutting
- Gilling
- Sliming
- Icing
- Decapitating shrimp

DM or Catcher/Processor

- You are a Direct Marketer if:
- Hold fishing permit or quota share
- Are sole proprietor
- Own or lease vessel
- Process and export only own catch
- Will not purchase fisheries resources
- Work from a vessel less than 65 feet
- DM's get simpler paperwork/lower taxes

Three main agencies

- ADF&G - regulates take of fisheries resources
- Department of Revenue (DOR) - collects fisheries business and other taxes
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - ensures the safety of seafood products

ADF&G

- Requires “Intent to Operate” - part of Direct Marketing or Processor application
- Fish Tickets - you complete and submit to local office
- Alaska commercial Operators Annual Report - file by April 1 of each year

Department of Revenue

- Requires Fisheries Business License - part of DM or Processor application
- \$25 fee
- Fisheries Business return by March 31
- FB tax = 3.0% for Direct Marketer, 5.0% for Catcher/Processor, must be secured in advance if estimated over \$500
- Salmon Enhancement tax, local sales tax

DEC

- Requires Seafood Processors Permit included in group application
- \$325 fee for DM

For the DEC application

- Need to identify source of water and your sewage disposal method
- Processing waste disposal must be done at least 1/2 mile offshore
- Include scale drawing of vessel showing toilet, hand-washing station, plumbing lines, locations and types of processing equipment, how waste will be discharged (1/2 mile offshore), location of cover, etc.
- Submit at least 60 days prior to start-up

For the DEC inspection

- Need to do Hazard Analysis for each process- HACCP training highly recommended (shrimp additives are a CCP)
- Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure (SSOP) plan required
- Daily Sanitation Logs, including testing cleaning water for proper chlorine level

HOMELAND SECURITY

- Must also register with FDA
- Free, one-time registration
- Can be done online
- Fairly straightforward information collected (name, business name, etc)

Working with regulators

- They are not the bad guy, have own missions
- Get them involved early, so they will work with you
- It is their job to make regulations clear to you