



About the Certificate of Authorization



The Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits harassment, hunting, capture, collection, injury or killing of any marine mammal.

It is illegal for anyone to take a marine mammal. "Take" means to intentionally or unintentionally/ "incidentally", attempt or actually harass, hunt, capture, collect, injure or kill any marine mammal.

The Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAAP) allows registered commercial fishermen to incidentally take a marine mammal in the course of fishing operations. This exemption is effective only when commercial fishermen:

- Are registered in the MMAAP program
- Carry an Authorization Certificate
- Report within 48 hours of the end of a fishing trip when they have encountered a seriously injured or dead marine mammal; for example, caught in their fishing gear
- Be prepared to carry NMFS observers on board their vessels when requested by NMFS or a designated contractor
- Comply with applicable Marine Mammal Take Reduction Plan regulations

Authorization Certificate Hints

- **GENERIC** - no vessel, owner or operator information appears on it
- **PRINTABLE** - from the web
- **COPIES** - Legible copies are acceptable proof of registry
- **YEARLY** - the AC is specific to calendar year; Cat I and II fishers must obtain the new version by Jan 1 to be current
- **LIST OF FISHERIES** - the AC's reverse side lists all Atlantic, Gulf and Caribbean Cat I and II fisheries

Authorization Certificate Protections

- **REQUIRED** - on board during Cat I and II fishing operations
- **PROOF** - that the fisher is exempt from incidental take
- **EXPLAIN** - when, where and how to submit Marine Mammal Injury/ Mortality Reports