

USCG Commercial Fishing Dockside Examination

Kotzebue

July 7 -11, 2025

Call or Text to schedule exam:

907-717-7795





17th District Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety

Federal Regulations for Commercial Fishing Vessels

Safety Requirements for Commercial Salmon Skiffs of Open Construction, Less Than 26 - feet in length, Operating Within 3 miles Offshore and with 3 or Less Persons Onboard

- AK Numbers: Valid Sate Certificate of Number onboard the vessel. Block letters and numbers on the forward half of the vessel. (For example, AK 1234 AK. This is NOT the ADF&G number) Cite: 33 CFR 173
- PFD's / Immersion Suits: Coast Guard Approved Immersion Suit. On rivers, a Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD (lifejacket) is acceptable. They must each have a Coast Guard Approved PFD marker light, with batteries replaced annually. They must also be marked with the name of the vessel or the name of the owner or the name of the person assigned to wear it. Cite: 46 CFR 28.115 - **TERMINABLE**
- Throwable Floatation Device: One Coast Guard Approved Cushion (Type IV PFD) or Ring Life Buoy for vessels over 16 feet. Must be marked with vessel name and at least 31 square inches of retro-reflective tape. Cite: 46 CFR 28.115 - **TERMINABLE**
- Distress Signals (Flares): Operations within 3NM shall any 3 Coast Guard Approved flares. For vessels operating outside 3NM, different rules apply. All flares must be replaced by their expiration dates. Cite: 46 CFR 28.145
- Sound Signal: Means of making an efficient sound signal, for example, a whistle or canned air horn. Cite 33 USC 1603, Navigation Rules (Rule 33)
- Injury Placard: Posted where crew can see it. Available from the Coast Guard. Cite: 46 CFR 28.165
- Navigation Lights: Vessels under 12 meters shall display an all-around white light and combined red/green if operating or at anchor between sunset and sunrise. Cite: 33 USC 1620, Navigation Rules (Rule 23)

Note: This list is summarized for the Kotzebue Sound commercial salmon skiffs of open construction less than 26-feet in length, operated within 3 nautical miles of the Territorial Sea baseline, with less than 3 persons onboard. Additional requirements may apply to these vessels that operate outside these limits. See the applicable Code of Federal Regulations in Title 46 for specific applicability and conditions.

Note: The Coast Guard and the Kotzebue Sound Fisherman's Association plan to seek an appropriate exemption from the requirements to carry immersion suits. Such an exemption will require all individuals onboard to wear a Coast Guard Approved PFD at all times and will require the use of at least one (1) Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) on each commercially operated vessel.

Prepared June 19, 2013

Kenneth M. Lawrenson, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator
(907) 463-2810 – Kenneth.m.lawrenson@uscg.mil

LT Thomas E. Pauser, Asst. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator
(907) 463-2812 – thomas.e.pauser@uscg.mil