



16731

October 20, 2022

## BRISTOL BAY FISHERMEN

Congratulations on a safe and successful 2022 Bristol Bay season!

Feedback received from USCG enforcement units patrolling the Bristol Bay fishery this past season indicated that some of the vessels they encountered at-sea during the fishery were unaware of: 1) the existence of a survival-craft exemption entirely or, 2) the requirement to have a current (within 2 years) Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety (CFVS) Decal to validate/take advantage of this exemption. Though the content, applicability and stipulations of the exemption have not changed, it has been determined that this is an appropriate time to update and reissue the 1998 version of the letter.

As you are likely aware, a vessel of less than 36 feet, with 3 or fewer persons aboard and operating 0-12nm from the coast, has NO requirement to carry a survival-craft. However, if that same vessel carries 4 persons, there is a statutory requirement to carry a survival-craft; in this instance a vessel can take advantage of the survival-craft exemption by showing compliance via the presence of a current CFVS decal in lieu of carrying a survival-craft onboard. It is important to note that the exemption letter is limited to 4 persons on-board. Vessel's carrying more than 4 persons must have an appropriate survival-craft.

In order to not have your fishing season impeded, please ensure that you are in compliance with the survival-craft requirements or the conditions/stipulations of the exemption letter.

USCG Dockside Examiners are **generally** available for examinations in the King Salmon/Naknek and Dillingham regions for a 10-14 day period in the middle of June each year and often are able to make shorter visits during that time to more remote areas like Egegik, Pilot Point, etc. Please take advantage of the opportunity to receive a dockside examination in either your homeport or when examiners are present in Bristol Bay.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Dave Schaeffer at Sector Anchorage (907) 428-4179 or myself for any questions, assistance or scheduling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. S. Wilwert".

A. S. WILWERT

D17 Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator

U. S. Coast Guard