



Compliance Guide

New Area Closures and Permit and Reporting Requirements for Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fisheries in Federal Waters around Guam

December 2006

This guide¹ provides information for fishermen on how to comply with new area closures, and permit and reporting requirements for bottomfish fisheries in Federal waters around Guam. The information provided here pertains only to the final rule published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2006 (71 FR 64474) and on December 1, 2006 (71 FR 69495). For the complete set of official regulations, please refer to Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 665 (50 CFR 665).

Regulations are subject to change, so fishermen must familiarize themselves with the most recent changes and are responsible to comply with them. Any discrepancies between this compliance guide and the regulations will be resolved in the favor of the regulations published in the *Federal Register* (71 FR 64474, November 2, 2006 and 71 FR 69495, December 1, 2006) and in the Code of Federal Regulations

Q1. Who is affected by the new regulations?

A1. The new regulations affect operators of U.S. domestic large vessels, i.e., those 50 ft (15.2 m) or longer, who engage in fishing for bottomfish management unit species in Federal waters around Guam.

Q2. What is the purpose of these new regulations?

A2. The regulations are the result of an amendment to the Western Pacific Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) developed by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and approved by the Secretary of Commerce. The 50-nm area closure and data collection program are intended to provide for the collection of adequate fishery information for effective management and to maintain viable community participation and bottomfish catch rates by small vessels in the fishery, to maintain traditional patterns of the bottomfish supply to local markets, and to reduce the potential risk of local depletion of deepwater bottomfish stocks near Guam.

Q3. What are the new regulations?

A3. The new regulations prohibit large vessels (\geq 50 ft or 15.2 m) from fishing for bottomfish in Federal waters within 50 nm (92.6 km) around Guam. The new regulations also establish a

¹ This compliance guide is issued in accordance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996: Title II of Public Law 104-21.

requirement for these large bottomfish fishing vessels to obtain Federal fishing permits, and to report catch, effort and other information on Federal fishing logbooks.

Q4. When do the new regulations take effect and for how long are they effective?

A4. The new regulations were effective on October 12, 2006, and the reporting and permit requirements were effective on January 2, 2007. The regulations will remain effective until they are revised or removed by the NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Q5. How do I obtain a permit?

A5. Permits are issued by NMFS, Pacific Islands Regional Office, in Honolulu. Call 808-944-2231 or 808-944-2275 or by accessing the web site: (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir/index.htm>)

Q6. What are the required fishing record forms?

A6. The operator of a Guam large bottomfish vessel must maintain an accurate and complete record of catch, effort, and other data in logbooks provided by the NMFS Regional Administrator. All information specified on the forms must be recorded within 24 hr after the completion of each fishing day. Each form must be signed and dated by the fishing vessel operator. The original logbook form for each day of the fishing trip must be submitted to the Regional Administrator within 72 hr of each landing of bottomfish management unit species.

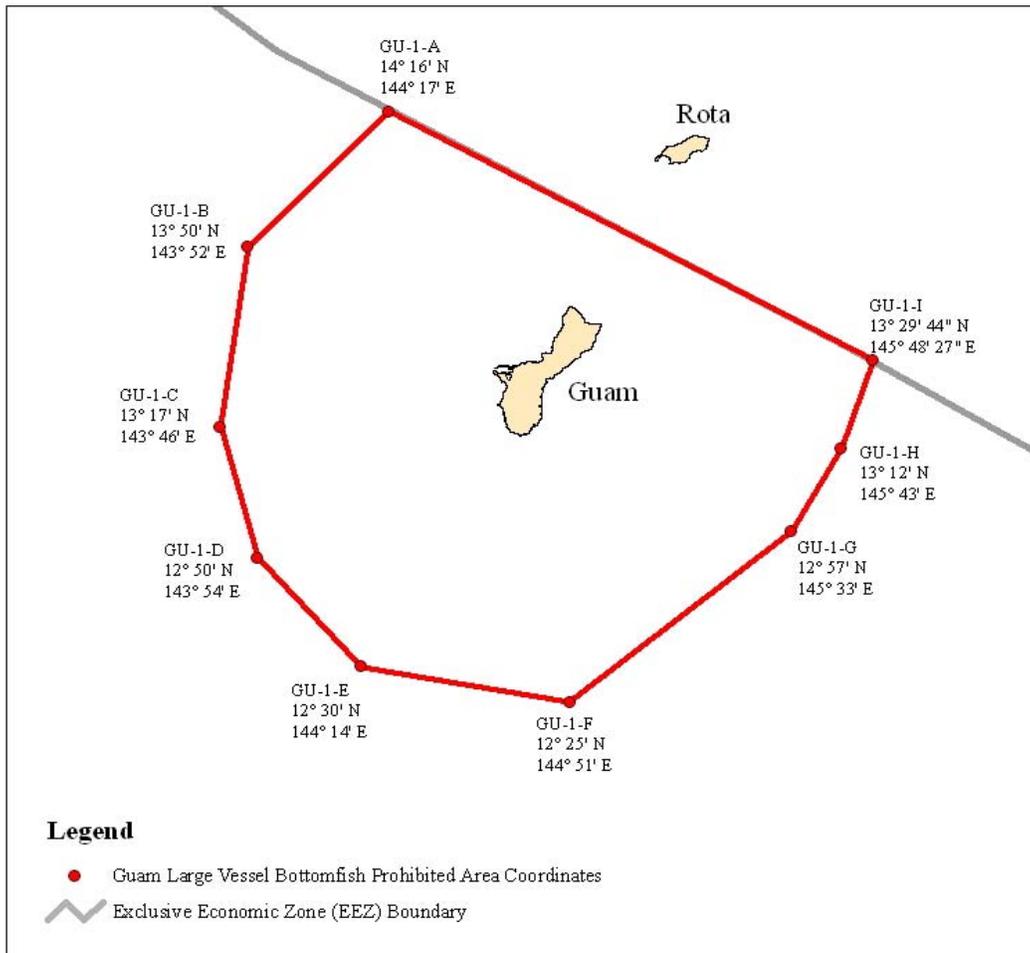
Q7. Where can I obtain the fishing logbook?

A7. To obtain a logbook, please contact the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center at 808-983-5330 (or at 2570 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822-2396).

Q8. Where are the large vessel bottomfish prohibited areas?

A8. The large vessel bottomfish prohibited areas around Guam means the waters of the US EEZ around Guam that are enclosed by straight lines connecting the following coordinates, in the order listed:

<i>Point</i>	<i>North latitude</i>	<i>East longitude</i>
GU-1-A	14° 16'	144° 17'
GU-1-B	13° 50'	143° 52'
GU-1-C	13° 17'	143° 46'
GU-1-D	12° 50'	143° 54'
GU-1-E	12° 30'	144° 14'
GU-1-F	12° 25'	144° 51'
GU-1-G	12° 57'	145° 33'
GU-1-H	13° 12'	145° 43'
GU-1-I	13° 29' 44"	145° 48' 27"
GU-1-A	14° 16'	144° 17'



Guam Large Vessel Bottomfish Prohibited Area

Q9. Where can I obtain additional copies of this guide or more information on these regulations?

A9. Pacific Islands Regional Office
 NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
 1601 Kapiolani Blvd. 1110
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pir/guides.htm>

You can also read the notices for this rule in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 71, No. 212, pp. 64474-64477 (November 2, 2006), and Vol. 71, No. 231, pp. 69495-69496 (December 1, 2006).