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October 20, 2022

Bristol Bay Fisherman's Assoc (BBFA)
P.O. Box 60131
Seattle, Wa. 98160

BRISTOL BAY FISHERMEN

The 1998 Bristol Bay Driftnetters' Association survival craft exemption dated February 19, 1998 has been updated and reissued below.

Your request for an exemption from the survival craft requirements in Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 28.120 has been reviewed. After careful consideration and discussions with USCG Sector Anchorage, the request is approved subject to the conditions outlined below:

The authority for granting exemptions from the requirements of the commercial fishing vessel safety regulations (Title 46 CFR Part 28.60) allows exemptions when good cause exists, and the safety of the vessel and those on board will not be adversely affected. I find that in this case, both criteria are met and this exemption will minimize the disparity of regulations applying to different size vessels and overall improve safety by placing more emphasis on prevention of marine casualties. The exemption is therefore granted with the following conditions:

- a. Operations are limited to those areas of Bristol Bay, Alaska, between the southern-most part of Ugashik Bay and the Western-most part of Togiak Bay that are within 12 miles of the coastline (see chart on page 2).
- b. Operable VHF-FM radio equipment, capable of communicating with other vessels and shore stations in the operating vicinity must be maintained onboard, tested each morning prior to getting underway and monitored at all times.
- c. Each vessel must comply with all other requirements contained in 46 CFR Part 28. To ensure compliance, each vessel wanting to take advantage of this exemption, **must successfully pass a Coast Guard Dockside Safety Examination and receive a Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Decal every two years.**
- d. This exemption is valid for the period between June 1st and August 31st each year.
- e. This exemption only applies when there are 4 or fewer persons on-board the vessel.
- f. A copy of this exemption letter must be carried on-board the vessel at all times and made available to Coast Guard boarding officers and dockside examiners.

My office strongly encourages all Bristol Bay fishermen to take advantage of opportunities to have a Coast Guard dockside examination on their vessel to be able to take advantage of this exemption. Coast Guard examiner visits to Bristol Bay region communities (Egegik, Dillingham, Naknek, King Salmon etc..) are generally for a 10-14 consecutive day period in June. Please keep apprised of the dockside examiners schedules through your respective fishing associations, social media or by contacting my office.

If you feel aggrieved by my decision, you may appeal this decision. Your appeal should be sent to this office and may be forwarded to the Commandant of the Coast Guard (CG-CVC-3) following the procedures in 46 CFR 1.03. Your appeal must contain a description of the decision or action being appealed and your reason(s) why the decision or action should be set aside or revised.

Sincerely,



A. S. WILWERT
D17 Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator
U. S. Coast Guard
By direction of the District Commander

