



Tonnage Admeasurement - Small Craft for Fishing

For all vessels engaging in commercial fishing in U.S. waters, some type of tonnage admeasurement is required. When we use the term "tonnage" in this context we are not referring to the weight of the vessel but to its volume.

Primarily in the Northeast and Northwest coastal areas, there is a large fleet of foreign-built fishing vessels, many emanating from Canadian boatyards. Usually in the 30-40 foot range, they are often referred to as "Novi" class vessels, and may only be used for commercial fishing in US waters if they are formally admeasured under 46 CFR 69 Subpart C ("Standard" system) and measure in under 5 net tons.

MCG has a network of specialized tonnage admeasurers around the country to expedite the admeasurement process. Our local admeasurers average over thirty years experience and in emergency situations can attend a vessel on as little as 24 hours notice. This process may be done whenever the vessel is accessible, takes only a few hours, and does not necessarily require that the boat be hauled out of the water.

If your vessel does measure under 5 net tons we will issue a U.S. Tonnage Certificate indicating that you have complied with both 46 CFR Part 69 and 16 USC 1802, ie you are not eligible for documentation as a U.S. flag vessel but are eligible for state numbers. Presentation of this certificate to any US Coast Guard or State monitoring official will indicate that your vessel has complied with Federal regulations permitting the use of foreign built vessels in domestic waters and is legally entitled to be used for commercial fishing.

For further information contact Phil Essex, Tonnage Coordinator at Moorsom Consulting Group at phil.essex@moorsom.com , or write to:

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