



BRISTOL BAY
Regional Seafood Development Association

2020 Bristol Bay COVID-19 Fishermen's Handbook

Last update: 5/18/20

Contact: covid1gteam@bbrsda.com

A letter from the BBRSDA:

To All Bristol Bay Fishermen,

The COVID-19 pandemic presents unprecedented challenges to the entire world, including the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. What we do this year as fishermen will determine the very future of our industry, possibly for years to come.

This manual presents the State of Alaska mandates and local laws, regulations, and common sense guidelines developed to protect your health, that of your crew, and the residents of communities where we homeport. These regulations are not voluntary, and failure to comply is punishable by fines of up \$25,000.

The rules are long and complex and will make the 2020 salmon season unlike any we've ever experienced. But for your well-being and others, and the future of our industry, it's essential that every captain and crewman understand the information in this manual, and strictly follow all state and local regulations.

When in the Bay this season, minimize your contact with others. Obey private business guidelines. Be courteous and professional. We all need to play a role in ensuring community safety.

In addition to the measures outlined in this document, plan your 2020 season to minimize time spent in town and get onto the water quickly. Carefully consider all necessary items you need to travel, arrive, prepare your vessel and fish efficiently and safely. Postpone non-essential projects. Organize your gear and supplies so you're able to stay on the water. Have enough entertainment on hand to maintain crew morale. Plan for complications. Processors may restrict access to plants and other areas commonly used in the past.

If you have health challenges, you might consider taking a break from the fishery this season.

Travel and logistics could be more complex, and it will be difficult to accommodate late or early crew arrivals or departures. When in doubt, use caution. Documentation of all travel, strict quarantine measures, and health screenings for captain and crew are essential and required by law.

The travel and preparation guidelines recommended by Discovery Health are a good way to ensure that you, your crew, and the community have a safe and healthy season. The information provided here is likely to change in-season, and you will have to keep up on new or changing requirements.

Bristol Bay fishermen are a resilient and adaptable lot, and this year we need to protect each other and the watershed community residents with whom we share our livelihood.

Good luck and good fishing.

Fritz Johnson

BBRSDA President

Introduction:

This handbook outlines the necessary information for fishermen participating in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery during the 2020 fishing season. This information is subject to change on a daily basis, and the BBRSDA will attempt to keep materials updated and current, but the responsibility belongs to each individual to ensure that they possess all required documents, and follow all state mandates and local ordinances.

Handbook tip: hyperlinks to important documents have been placed through this document. If you'd like to open those without leaving this PDF, simply right-click on the link and select 'Open link in New Tab' or 'Open link in new window'.

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1. **Mandatory Planning & Preparation**

The following requirements are a summary of [Alaska State Health Mandate 17](#) and its appendices, please refer to the actual mandates for all details ([see Appendix 2](#)).

a. State Documentation

▫ Sign [Mandate 17 Acknowledgement Form - Appendix 2.c.ii](#). A copy is to be submitted to the state, submitted to your processor, and another copy must be on board the vessel. (see Appendix 1.a)

****If you are following a submitted processor plan, note it on this form. This form serves as your travel plan and acknowledges that you will adhere to the guidelines in Mandate 017. Email this form to akcovidplans@ak-prepared.com. You do not need to submit a separate travel plan.****

- Prepare the [Essential Worker Letter](#) for anyone traveling to the region. You must print and carry the Letter during travel. (see Appendix 1.b)
- Fill out and submit the [Alaska Travel Declaration Form](#) online for anyone traveling in Alaska from outside the State. (see Appendix 1.c)

b. Local Documentation

i. City of Dillingham

You must be familiar and in compliance with all local ordinances. For full ordinance text, see [Appendix 2](#). The following are important mandates to plan for.

- [Ordinance 2020-07](#) - Travel & Quarantine Requirements ([see Appendix 2.f.i](#))
Complete Dillingham's Essential Air Travel Permit Application, submit at least 48 hours prior to travel, and receive approval from City of Dillingham. (see Appendix 1.d)
Email: travelpermit@dillinghamak.us OR Fax: 907-842-2060
Travel with a signed and dated copy of this form and City approval.
- [Ordinance 2020-08](#) - Protective Measures ([see Appendix 2.f.ii](#))
All personnel must wear face coverings, adhere to state health mandates, local ordinances, and guidance of local businesses.
- [Ordinance 2020-09](#) - Quarantine & Isolation Measures ([see Appendix 2.f.iii](#))
You must complete a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Dillingham. No more than three (3) people may quarantine at one location. All fishermen are required to take a COVID-19 test on the 13th day of quarantine (testing is available at the Animal Shelter in the Boat Harbor). See Section 2 for protocols on working during quarantine.
- [Ordinance 2020-10\(A\)](#) - Hygienic Standards and City Facility Use ([see Appendix 2.f.iv](#))
No person may use any city facilities, including, but not limited to, all city port facilities governed by DMC 2.42, unless the person adheres to all mandates. According to the current 2020-10(A) ordinance, arriving crewmembers will not be allowed to use the City dock to board a vessel unless they are symptom-free and: a) have completed a quarantine OR b) have obtained a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to arriving in Dillingham.

*Fishermen can call the City of Dillingham at 907-842-2321 for more information or provide comments about how to comply with ordinances.

c. Vessel Logbook

Carry a logbook to track health screening, travel, quarantine, and other required documentation. (see [Appendix 1.f - PDF of Logbook](#)).

d. Contact Partner Businesses Prior to Arrival

- You must contact boatyard managers and essential vendors for protocols.
- You must contact your processor for office, dock, plant, and tender protocols.

e. Supplies & Materials

- Thermometer
- Hand sanitizers & hand soap
- Lima Flag (yellow and black checkered flag, provided at no-cost by BBRSDA to be distributed by processors in late May or early June)
- Spray bottles
- Disinfectants
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Acetaminophen (NOT ibuprofen if COVID-19 is suspected)
- Cough suppressants
- Cough drops
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Disposable gloves
- Surgical face masks (in case someone gets sick)
- Cloth face masks (general use)
- Face shields

Suggested Items:

Vessel and Housekeeping Modifications:

Quebec flag to signal "all clear" – to be provided by BBRSDA to processors in late May.

Logistics for Groceries and Supplies:

Try to stage and organize all items to eliminate the need for fishermen to leave the vessel. Try and limit tender trips.

Package groceries in a reasonable size and weight containers

Put frozen goods in small to medium sized coolers and fasten lids shut

Don't procrastinate on getting food supplies. Procuring meat or other food stuffs may be difficult due to stores around the country limiting purchases, and items may be less available than normal seasons in Bristol Bay.

Personal Gear:

Reading and entertainment supplies for prolonged downtime

Load devices with entertainment content
Consider getting a satellite texting device like INREACH
Solar showers (fill at tender) - [link](#)

2. Mandatory Travel & Quarantine Requirements

Travel requirements must be carefully read and understood for each traveler. Quarantine is required for everyone traveling into the state of Alaska from outside. Currently, State Mandate 018 does not require essential workers traveling within the state of Alaska to submit to quarantine. Crew members going to a vessel from outside Alaska that do not have a separate quarantine space will require the entire crew to submit to a 14 day quarantine (see appendix 2.a.i) Local mandates may outline additional requirements (e.g.: Dillingham mandate 2020-09. ([See appendix 2.f.iii](#))) please read all mandates to understand the requirements.

a. General Travel

- You must wear a face mask throughout travel.
- You must carry copies of travel and essential worker documents.
- You must travel directly to established lodging or worksite/vessel upon arrival.
- You must complete an initial health screening for yourself and crew (Section 3) prior to arrival. If symptoms arise that cannot be attributed to another condition (e.g. allergies), the worker must be isolated and treatment sought.

b. Working During Quarantine

Use these guidelines to conduct essential business during the mandatory 14-day quarantine. A vessel crew may share lodging and workspace during quarantine — whether on board or in town. If a new crew member joins the vessel that has not completed a 14-day self quarantine in the region, the 14 days must restart for all crew sharing lodging and workspace.

Quarantining In Dillingham:

([See Appendix 2.f](#)) for full Dillingham mandates)

You may only leave your quarantine location to: receive essential medical care, go to your place of employment, use designated toilets or showers, be tested for COVID-19, or leave Dillingham.

Designated quarantine locations are only accessible to those quarantining there, vessel owners working at that location, essential vendors or delivery workers, and those providing medical care.

Face masks are required in all quarantine locations other than private residences. Social distancing to the maximum extent possible is required at all times.

If you are completing quarantine in Dillingham, you must obtain a COVID-19 test on the 13th day of quarantine (or remain in quarantine for the duration of your time in Dillingham).

You may not use any city facilities unless you have completed a 14-day quarantine (either in Dillingham or prior to arrival), unless you have obtained a negative COVID-19 test.

A business owner or manager shall be held responsible for any violations of this order; fines and jail time may apply.

i. When Arriving in the Bay by Vessel

You and your crew may quarantine on your vessel. Days at sea count toward a 14-day quarantine period. If you must have contact with another vessel, processor or harbormaster, report that your vessel is under quarantine. You must fly a Lima flag during this time, and use strict distancing and sanitation practices during any contact with other vessels or docks, such as refueling, resupply, and offload.

ii. When Arriving in the Bay by Air Travel

- You must travel directly to lodging or worksite upon arrival.
- Lodging for you and your crew must be isolated from others.
- Restrict movements to vessel and quarantine lodging. (Lodging may be on the vessel.)
- Arrange for delivery of essential supplies by telephone, or utilize curbside pickup. Have supplies delivered outside of your lodging or worksite. Disinfect supplies upon delivery.
- Do not permit anyone other than crew onto the vessel, worksite, or in lodging.
- Maintain a 6-foot distance from others. Reduce face-to-face contact as much as possible.
- No more than 3 people may quarantine on a vessel in Dillingham at one time.

Suggested: Arrange for transport of crew members, and personnel through your processor or private means and avoid using taxis.

- Do not share tools or exchange goods with others. If goods must be exchanged, wash hands before and after exchange and sanitize any items received.

c. Travel Between Bristol Bay Communities

Travel between communities not on the road system or marine highway is prohibited unless essential for critical infrastructure or critical personal needs. Commercial fishing is considered essential, and travel between communities associated with

your commercial fishing activity is permitted. State Mandate 18 ([see appendix 2.b](#)) outlines intrastate travel conditions.

3. Mandatory Health Screening

a. Prior to Arrival

*Utilize Captain's log ([see Appendix 1f](#)) to record health screenings and information.

- Assess crewmember risk factors (older age, presence of chronic medical conditions, compromised immune systems), and put in place extra protective measures as necessary.
- Take and note the temperature in the logbook (should be below 99.8). The crew should take their own temperature, or the person taking it should wear a mask and gloves.

Verbal Screening:

- Cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, sore throat, unusual fatigue, or symptoms of acute respiratory illness in the past 72 hours?
- Fever over 99.8 in the past 72 hours?
- Unusual chills, aches, or pains in the past 72 hours?
- Travel to an area with widespread COVID-19 transmission, without practicing social distancing in the past 14 days?
- Close contact (within 6 feet for longer than 10 minutes) with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 patient in the past 14 days?

****If the answer is yes to any of the above, seek testing and treatment, and do not travel to the region.****

b. During Quarantine

- Take and note the temperature in the logbook twice daily. Seek COVID-19 testing if signs of a fever (above 99.8 deg).
- If symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, isolate the ill crew member and use face masks, and consider the entire crew under isolation. Seek medical evaluation.

c. Throughout the Season

- Check all crew members daily for new signs of illness: fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, unusual fatigue.
- If a respiratory illness is identified, complete health screening for all crew and take temperature twice daily for all crew. Document all screening.

A word on testing: receiving a test for COVID-19 does not exempt you from any regulations outlined here, by the State of Alaska, or local governments. Local communities may have strict testing guidelines that must also be followed.

4. Working in Town

a. Social Distancing & Precautionary Practices

You must follow social distancing in all public places per [Alaska State Mandate 16](#).

- Minimize contact with the public to the greatest extent possible.
- Use social distancing and sanitation practices during any essential interaction with the community or public spaces, e.g., fueling, offload, maintenance, and resupply.
- Wear a face mask in all businesses and offices and in shared workspaces, and maintain a 6-foot distance from others.
- Sanitize any goods exchanged.
- Do not attend public gatherings or social events.
- Ensure the crew stays on the vessel or at the worksite. No crew should leave the vessel unless it is essential (such as needing medical care).
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces multiple times per day (radio, doorknobs, faucets, handles, railings, coffee pot, etc.).

b. Service & Supply

- Do not allow anyone aside from crew and essential vendors aboard.
- Complete and document a health screening (with date and time) of any additional vendors that *must* board the vessel (e.g. welder, electrician, etc.). Use the crew screening protocol (Section 3).

Suggested practices: Avoid touching surfaces that might be infected when in public or common-area spaces, and when you must touch surfaces like this, do not touch your face, phone, or other items until you wash your hands thoroughly. Disinfect anything that you may have needed to touch prior to washing/disinfecting your hands, such as keys, credit cards, phones, etc.

- Ask for contactless deliveries of parts and supplies whenever possible.
- Disinfect any deliveries to the vessel. Do not allow delivery workers aboard.
- Have vendors work alone where possible.
- Disinfect all workspaces and tools after the vendor leaves.

5. Working on the Water

A list of best practices are provided below, see [Appendix 4.a](#) (*COVID-19 ONBOARD PROCEDURES from Discover Health*) for more detail about suggested on-board procedures.

- Regularly sanitize shared workspaces, surfaces, living quarters, supplies, and tools. Establish a vessel protocol and assign duties for regular sanitation.
- Use ventilation fans when working in the engine room.
- Encourage good hygiene practices for the entire crew. Practice regular hand washing, cough covering, and social distancing where possible and safe.
- Identify one crewmember to handle, prepare, and serve food.

- Wear gloves and face masks when exchanging any necessary items (groceries, garbage, paperwork, etc.) between vessels or at the dock.
- Minimize interaction with other vessels and docks. Plan to stay on the vessel the whole season.
- Know and follow all preventive protocols of fuel docks, tenders, and harbors.
- Reduce as much face-to-face contact with others as possible.
- Deliveries should be disinfected before being brought on board.
- Wash hands and gloves before and after offloading. (Wear a mask if possible).
- Discourage the sharing of personal items.
- Wash hands before preparing or eating food.
- Anyone with a cough or respiratory symptoms must eat separately, and their dishes should be cleaned separately.

6. Working at a Set Net Site

[Mandate 017 Appendix 3](#) establishes general guidance for commercial fishing harvesters operating from shore, open skiffs, and other means where the crew is not living on board a vessel for multiple days at sea. Read the full mandate carefully, and adhere to the guidelines.

- A senior designated 'site manager' will be responsible for enacting and enforcing all mandates.
- Site managers must sign [Mandate 17 Appendix 2 \(see appendix 2.c.ii\)](#), in acknowledgement all members of the harvesting operation will adhere to the mandate.
- Site managers must submit a signed copy of [Mandate 17 Appendix 2 Acknowledgement Form \(see appendix 2.c.ii\)](#) to the tender/processor before they can sell any fish.

Mandate 17 guidelines and applicable apprentices still apply, and must be followed.

Quarantine is still mandatory for out-of-state travelers - per Mandate 10 ([see appendix 2.e](#))

Site managers are responsible for documenting and logging crew members quarantine and screening of all crew. ([see appendix 1.f](#) for [captain's logbook](#) - this may need modification per your operation and crew size)

If a harvester becomes ill, the site manager must isolate the individual in separate facilities (as available), and notify local health officials for further direction.

7. Documentation (Reference logbook in appendix)

- Travel: Document the arrival location, date, and time for all workers (including yourself) into Alaska *and* into the region.
- Health Screening: Document all health screening steps taken prior to arrival, during quarantine, and throughout the season.
- Quarantine Log: Document the start and end dates of quarantine for all crew members.
- Non-Crew Interactions: If an outside service provider or supplier boards your vessel, document their arrival and departure, and verbal health screening.

8. Responding to Illness & Emergencies

a. Screening & Isolation

- Check all crew members daily for new signs of illness: fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, unusual fatigue.
- If a respiratory illness is identified, complete health screening for all crew, and take temperature twice daily for all crew.
- If symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, isolate the ill crew member and use face masks, or consider the entire crew under isolation. Seek medical evaluation.
- If a vessel returns to port with a sick crew member, no other crew shall leave the vessel.
- If COVID-19 exposure or symptoms are suspected, isolate crew, use strict social distancing and sanitation precautions, and contact Emergency Services for further guidance.

b. Emergency Contacts

[Bristol Bay Health Corporation](#)

If you have clinical questions about COVID-19, please call the Emergency Room at 907-842-5201 or 907-842-9244. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

- South Naknek: (907) 246-6546
- Dillingham: (800) 478-5201
- Egegik: (907) 233-2378

[Camai Community Health Center](#)-Naknek:

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (907) 246-6155

[AirMedCare \(medevac\):](#)

After becoming a member, 24/7 availability (907) 602-8012

[LifeMed Alaska:](#)

24/7 Medevac Dispatch (800) 478-5433

[City of Dillingham:](#)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (907) 842-5211

[Bristol Bay Borough:](#)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (907) 246-4224

The Bristol Bay Borough encompasses the communities of Naknek, South Naknek, and King Salmon. If you have questions for the Bristol Bay Borough regarding Covid-19 please contact Deputy Incident Commander Donald Wood at (907)-246-4224 (ext 311).

[Lake and Peninsula Borough:](#)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (907) 246 - 3421
[Alaska Department of Health & Social Services:](#)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (907) 269-7800
[State of Alaska](#)

[COVID-19 Information](#)

For current information related to COVID-19, dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221. Available 7 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week.

Office of Governor Mike Dunleavy: Phone (907) 465-3500

[ADF&G](#)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Dillingham: (907) 842-5227

King Salmon: (907) 246-3341

Acknowledgment:

Signed acknowledgement is not required by State Mandate, but does ensure that all fishermen involved in the fishing operation have been informed about COVID-19 requirements and recommendations. All of the members of this fishing operation have read, understand, and will complete all of the items mandated and outlined here, and will attempt to stay updated on any future changes.

Name [print] _____ [signature] _____

Appendices:

1. Forms & Documents
 - a. [Mandate 17 Acknowledgement Form](#)
 - b. [Fillable Essential Worker Letter](#) (May 13, 2020)
 - c. [Alaska Travel Declaration Form](#)
 - d. [Dillingham Essential Air Travel Permit](#) & [Supplement](#) (for group permits & accompanying minors)
 - e. [Fillable crew contract](#)
 - f. [Logbook: BBRSDA Captain's Log](#)
2. Mandates
 - a. State Mandates 18, 17, & 10 - Link to all Health Mandates [here](#).
 - b. [State Mandate 18 - Intrastate Travel](#)
 - c. [State Mandate 17 - Protective Measures for Independent Commercial Fishing Vessels](#)
 - i. [Mandate 17- Appendix 01](#)
 - ii. [Mandate 17- Appendix 02](#)
 - iii. [Mandate 17- Appendix 03](#)
 - d. [State Mandate 16](#)
 - e. [State Mandate 10](#)
 - i. [Mandate 10- Attachment A](#)
 - f. Local Mandates
 - i. [Dillingham Mandate 2020-07](#)
 - ii. [Dillingham Mandate 2020-08](#)
 - iii. [Dillingham Mandate 2020-09](#)
 - iv. [Dillingham Mandate 2020-10\(a\)](#)
3. Emergency contacts & resources
 - a. [City of Dillingham](#) (907) 842-5211
 - b. [Bristol Bay Borough](#) (907) 246-4224
 - c. [Lake and Peninsula Borough](#) (907) 246-3421
 - d. [State of AK Covid-19 Hotline](#) 1-800-478-2221
 - e. [AirMedCare \(medevac\)](#) 907-602-8012
 - f. [LifeMed Alaska](#) (800) 478-5433
4. How To's
 - a. [COVID-19 On-board procedures](#)
 - b. Flowchart: [Screening for Covid-19 Symptoms](#)



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