Location and Display of DLNR Annual Bottomfish Vessel I.D. Number
(HAR Chapter 13-94)

Case 1: State registered vessels. HA number already displayed properly. BF can only go on cabin or below gunwales.

Case 2: Federal fishery permitted vessels. If federal fishing permit number already displayed, add BF only.

Case 3: USCG documented vessels. Display documentation number and BF.

First, register your vessel with the DLNR as a bottomfishing vessel, using the DLNR Annual Vessel Registration form. Then, display the letters BF on your vessel according to one of the examples below (and illustrated above), whichever one fits your situation.

Case 1: State registered vessel. If you have an HA number obtained from the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR), you must also display the BF on the sides of the vessel.

The BF should NOT be displayed right next to or after the HA number. DOBOR does not allow other numbers or letters to be displayed near the HA number. The BF should be put on the sides of the vessel, either on the superstructure (cabin) or on the hull just below the top edge, approximately amidships.

Case 2: Federal fishery permitted vessel. If you have a federal fishing permit issued by NMFS, you should already have your permit number (probably same as USCG documentation number) painted on the sides of the vessel's hull or superstructure. In this case, you only have to display the letters BF as a suffix to the existing number.

Case 3: U.S. Coast Guard documentation number, no federal fishing permit. If you have a documented (not state registered) vessel but don’t have a federal fishing permit, you will have a USCG documentation number. But it will not be displayed on the outside of the vessel. In this case, you must display the documentation number plus the BF on the sides of the hull or superstructure of the vessel.

Case 4: DLNR bottomfish vessel registration number. If the vessel used to bottomfish does not have any of the other three numbers described above as Cases 1, 2, and 3, the DLNR will issue the vessel a unique number. This number, plus the BF, should be displayed on the sides of the hull or superstructure of the vessel.

The DLNR is not supplying stickers, tape, or paint for displaying the number, because the choice of colors is yours. Use block lettering. The characters should be no smaller than 6 inches high and 3 inches wide in black or solid contrasting color to the background, and need to be clearly visible and unobstructed.

DLNR-DAR 7/29/11