



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

Tab F, No. 6

# Southeast Region Permitting System Update 2025

**Kevin McIntosh**

Assistant Regional Administrator - Operations, Management, and Information Services



# History of Southeast Region Permitting System

- **2007** - Permit Information Management System (PIMS) developed and launched.
- **2015** - Added ability to submit renewal applications online
- **August 2021** - PIMS 1.0 launched with the ability to submit new and transfer applications along with renewals
- **Early February 2026** - Planned PIMS 2.0 launch - Enhancements discussed below

# Success of PIMS Modernization

- E-Applications
  - All permit applications (vessel, dealer, operator, aquaculture live-rock, wreckfish) and permit requests (duplicate, renewal, transfer, new) are available to submit online
- Reduction in application processing times
  - Since July 2022, the permitting backlog has never exceeded more than 2-3 days and more than 100 applications waiting to be processed
  - Application deficiencies letters are now e-mailed, which reduces notification to applicants from days or weeks to minutes and hours.

# Success of PIMS Modernization

- Digitally transmitted Permits
  - Open Access permits are available to download and use immediately after issuance versus waiting days/weeks for permits to arrive in the mail.
  - A replacement Open Access permit can be downloaded again directly from the user's account without having to submit a duplicate permit request form. Duplicate permits are requested when a limited access permit is lost or damaged.



# Future of PIMS

- Permit Data available in real-time
  - A new SERO Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) page will directly connect to PIMS. This page will have real-time permit updates and information for the public.
- Additional Online Account Control
  - Renewal application are no longer auto-generated, but instead will be initiated by the permit holder when they are ready to renew.
    - This prevents permits from being locked by renewals started by accident
    - Cleaner user homepage: System generated renewal applications will no longer linger on the user's home page



# Future of PIMS

- Enhanced Validation
  - Application validations were added to reduce application deficiencies and erroneous data.
- Back-end Database Design
  - The challenges with the current design stem from how the data was stored in the database, limiting the ability to use the data for programs, analyses, and Council purposes.
  - The new design mirrors the structure of the original PIMS system. By doing so, the new system will accept existing written data queries.



Questions?