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## To GSSA Board Of Directors & Members:

The EPA published final NPDES regulations for commercial fishing vessel discharge permits for all fishing boats less than 79-ft in length on September 10th. The Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) regulations are effective December 19, 2014. The permit documentation is 53 pages long and can be found (along with a 55-page Fact Sheet) at

<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/vessels/Small-Vessel-General-Permit.cfm>.

To make the permit process easier on our clients we distilled the sVGP documentation down to a 10-page reference guide which is attached here for your convenience. We recommend you use the ROMEA sVGP Guide to focus your review but that you also review the permit documentation before making any assumptions, equipment purchases or changes to vessel protocols. We encourage you to contact the EPA or ROMEA staff with any questions.

Attention small vessel owners -- since the sVGP covers all commercial fishing vessels under 79-feet (including the smallest of open boats) we highly recommend ROMEA clients operating any such small-type nearshore coastal vessel (i.e. gillnet skiffs, flats skiffs, etc.) that could generally be considered as “originally manufactured for pleasure and not subject to USCG inspection requirements” carefully examine Page 3 of the EPA Fact Sheet to determine if a permit exemption is an option.

In addition, the EPA will host a free webinar on the sVGP on September 23, 2014 at 1:00pm (EDT). See the information on the webinar pasted below.

With regards,

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## EPA's Small Vessel General Permit (sVGP) for Vessels Less than 79 Feet in Length

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Tuesday, September 23, 2014 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

### Webinar Registration

Your information will be submitted to the Webinar organizer, who will use it to communicate with you regarding this event and their other services.

Are you the owner or operator of a commercial vessel less than 79 feet in length that discharges to US waters? If so, you may be interested in EPA's September 23rd webcast discussing the recently issued small vessel general permit, otherwise known as the sVGP. EPA issued the sVGP in anticipation of the December 8, 2014 conclusion of the existing congressional permitting moratorium for certain discharges from small vessels. This webinar will provide a brief background on the reasons for EPA issuing the sVGP at this time, highlight who may be required to obtain coverage under that permit and how to do so, and describe the actions small vessel operators will have to take to comply with the terms of that permit.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of EPA during the webinar about this newly issued permit.

For more information on the sVGP, see EPA's sVGP Homepage  
<http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/vessels/Small-Vessel-General-Permit.cfm>

Please complete the fields below to register:

\* First Name:

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Organization:

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Webinar organizers are prohibited from soliciting confidential personal information (credit card information, social security numbers, etc.) in the registration form. This questionnaire is not intended to handle sensitive data.

Would you like this email address to be added to EPA's VGP distribution list?:

\* Indicates a required field

By clicking the "Register Now" button you submit your information to the Webinar organizer, who will use it to communicate with you regarding this event and their other services.

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PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Mac®-based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.6 or newer

Mobile attendees

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