



United States Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Region  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

February XX, 2009

Dear Fishing Vessel Owner:

Included in your permit renewal package is the Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey (attached) that the Permit Office is administering in cooperation with the Social Sciences Branch of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. I am writing to ask you to participate in this survey that will provide better information about some of the costs incurred by fishing vessels. Participation is voluntary; permit renewal is not affected by whether you participate in the survey.

Cost information is needed by fishery economists at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to further understand the factors that influence business decisions made by vessel owners. The data will also be used to estimate the economic impact of proposed fishing regulations (trip limits, closed areas, days-at-sea, quotas, etc.) and how these regulations will affect different components of the industry, different ports, and different groups of fishermen and fishing communities. With better data about costs, fishery managers will be better able to develop regulations that increase the net benefits from fishery resources.

To do these analyses, information about annual costs is needed. Annual costs include insurance, mooring and dockage fees, repairs and maintenance, and other costs that are not directly determined by the number or duration of trips a vessel makes. The survey is a mechanism for gathering more accurate information about annual costs. If enough vessel owners participate in this survey, annual cost questions may be phased out of the observer program (although the observers will continue to gather trip cost information).

Any data you submit in the survey must and will be kept confidential. In reports, the data from vessel owners will be combined to give a summary of costs by gear type, vessel size, region, etc. No individual owner's data will be published or made available to anyone other than the owner and analysts specifically authorized to work with the data.

Thank-you in advance to all owners who participate in the survey. Your cooperation will help fishery economists better evaluate the impacts of proposed regulations and will help fishery managers to make more informed choices.

For questions about completing the survey, contact Mike Morin in the Permit Office at 978-281-9196 or [Mike.Morin@noaa.gov](mailto:Mike.Morin@noaa.gov). Other Permit Office staff members are also available to assist you by calling 978-281-9370. For questions about economic data collection programs in the Northeast, contact Andrew Kitts at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center at 508-495-2231 or [Andrew.Kitts@noaa.gov](mailto:Andrew.Kitts@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul

Regional Administrator

**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:** *The Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey provides economic data for all federally permitted fisheries in the Northeast region. This information will be used to improve research and management of these fisheries. Public reporting burden for this information collection, including time for reviewing instructions and collecting the needed data, is estimated to average 1 hour per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Andrew Kitts, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02540; Email: [Andrew.Kitts@noaa.gov](mailto:Andrew.Kitts@noaa.gov), Phone: 508-495-2231.*

**Confidential name and address information may be released via a NOAA Fisheries website for informational purposes. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number**



# Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey



United State Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Permit Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276  
Tel: (978) 281-9370



**Instructions:** Please record the annual costs associated with only the vessel identified below. If you own more than one vessel, certain costs may need to be divided among vessels (for example, divide office expenses by the number of vessels owned). Record the combined annual cost for all fisheries you may have participated in this fiscal year. This survey does not have questions about trip costs such as fuel, ice, bait, and supplies. This type of information is collected by observers at sea. **IMPORTANT:** *if you do not know the cost of a particular item (but an expense was incurred), please leave the question blank. If this expense does not apply to your vessel, please check the "not applicable" box.*

**Please return completed surveys to the Permit Office  
(may be returned with the permit renewal form)**

## SECTION A - Vessel Information

Coast Guard Documentation or State Registration Number: **12345678** (one survey per vessel)

Fiscal year that corresponds with the annual costs you will provide below (use the most recent year for which you have complete records). Please provide information for *one* year only. Format: (mm/dd/yyyy)

Start date: |\_|\_|/|\_|\_|/|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_| End date: |\_|\_|/|\_|\_|/|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

Vessel Ownership Type (*check one*):

- A. Sole proprietorship
- B. General partnership
- C. Limited partnership
- D. Corporation
- E. Other  |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

If you checked "D" (Corporation), please check which type:

- C corporation
- S corporation
- Limited Liability Corporation

Please list the number of owners: |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

Was the vessel purchased from a previous owner or was it bought new? Previous owner  New

In what calendar year did you acquire the vessel? |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

Please estimate the market value of your vessel (including all equipment, fishing gear, permits, and fishing history).

\$ |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_| , |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_| , |\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

**SECTION B -  
Improvements, Quota Transfer/Lease, Repair/Maintenance, Crew Compensation**

What improvements (new or replacement gear, equipment, electronics, etc.) were made to the vessel this fiscal year? Please use the table to list the improvements. Also in this table, **please include the cost of buying PERMANENT quota** (surf clam/ocean quahog ITQ shares, for example). If you leased quota or days-at-sea, please provide those costs in the next question.

Description of improvement or quota transfer	Cost of improvement or quota transfer
	\$           ,           ,
	\$           ,           ,
	\$           ,           ,
	\$           ,           ,
	\$           ,           ,
	\$           ,           ,

What was the cost of **LEASING** quota or days-at-sea for use this fiscal year (include one-year leasing of surf clam/ocean quahog ITQ, days-at-sea in the multispecies fishery, or sector quota)?

\$ |   |   |   | , |   |   |   |    *not applicable – did not lease quota or days-at-sea this fiscal year*

Was the vessel hauled out this fiscal year?    Yes     No

If yes, what was the cost of the haul-out (not including the cost of vessel improvements listed above)?

\$ |   |   |   | , |   |   |   |    *not applicable – vessel was not hauled out this fiscal year*

What is the typical number of years between haul-outs for this vessel?    |   |   |

What was the cost of all other repair/maintenance for this fiscal year (not including haul-out and improvement

Costs)? \$ |   |   |   | , |   |   |   |    *not applicable – no repair/maintenance costs this fiscal year*

Please record the total payments to crew for the fiscal year: \$ |   |   |   | , |   |   |   | , |   |   |   |

*not applicable - no crew payments this fiscal year*

Please record the annual cost of the benefits you provided for your crew (e.g., retirement benefits; your portion of health, life, or disability insurance premiums):

\$ |   |   |   | , |   |   |   |    *not applicable – no benefits were provided for the crew this fiscal year*



