

Letter of Authorization (LOA) Request Form



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service / Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978) 282-8441, Fax: (978) 281-9161

Owner:	Permit Number:
F/V:	Hull Number:

To request an LOA(s), please enter the owner and vessel information requested above, and a valid start date and end date in the appropriate box(es) below. Please see the reverse side of this form for each LOA's enrollment season and minimum enrollment duration. **Please note:** A vessel must hold a valid permit in the fishery(s) for which an LOA(s) is requested. Remember to sign and date this form in the spaces provided below. For additional information on the LOAs listed, please see the back of this form, call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315, or visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/>. **This form may be photocopied. Mail or fax completed forms to the address above.**

➤ The **2012 Permit Year** runs from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013

I am requesting an LOA(s) for the 2012 permit year.

LOA	Requested Start Date	Requested End Date	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine			Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea			No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **			Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*			Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting			Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting			Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)			Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA		April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA			Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting			Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas			Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet		October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea			Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***			
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh			Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)			Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)		October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea			No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring such trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

**VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Applicant's Signature: I, the owner or authorized agent of the vessel named above, affirm subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this Letter of Authorization(s) is true and correct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revised January 2012

LOA Descriptions

Following is a description of each LOA that must be obtained from the Northeast Region Permit Office. A vessel issued a valid LOA(s) must carry the LOA(s) on board at all times while enrolled in the LOA program. A vessel owner/operator may participate in an LOA program for a period no less than its minimum enrollment duration. The effective date of each LOA can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. Unless the participation period specified on an LOA is longer than its minimum enrollment duration and the owner/operator wishes to withdraw from an LOA program prior to its stated end date, an LOA automatically expires at the end of a vessel's participation period. To withdraw from an LOA program (where applicable) after its minimum enrollment duration but prior to its stated end date, an owner/operator must contact the Northeast Region Permit Office or Port Agent to obtain a withdrawal certificate. The effective date of each withdrawal certificate can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. A vessel is not considered officially withdrawn from an LOA program until the owner/operator receives a withdrawal certificate. LOA enrollments and withdrawals may be requested by mail, by phone, or by fax.

The participation period for each LOA may not exceed the permit year for that fishery. Vessel owners/operators must apply each year to be issued an LOA for a given year.

LOA	Enrollment Season	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting	June 15 - October 31	Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting	September 1 - December 31	Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA	May 1 - April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet	September 1 - October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***		
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh	November 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)	June 1 - October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

** VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.



Letters of Authorization Information Sheet

January 1, 2012



This is a description of the Letters of Authorization (LOA) that are currently available from the Northeast Region Permit Office. For further information about these LOAs, please contact the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315. To request one of these LOAs, contact the Permit Office at (978) 282-8438.

The following is only a summary of the regulations and requirements for each LOA program under the respective Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These requirements and the list of current LOAs are subject to change. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions about any regulatory requirements or changes to an LOA program.

To participate in the exempted fishery program, vessels are required to carry the LOA on board for the entire participation period specified on the LOA.

ATLANTIC HERRING FMP

Herring Carrier

This LOA authorizes a vessel issued a valid Federal herring permit to receive, transport, and transfer Atlantic herring (herring) caught by another herring vessel. There is no possession limit for vessels operating under this authorization.

When operating under this LOA, the vessel:

- May only possess, transfer, or land herring transferred from vessels with a transfer at sea LOA. The catcher vessel may not transfer more than their possession limit allows
- May only possess or land Northeast (NE) multispecies transferred by vessels issued either an All Areas Limited Access Herring Permit (Category A) and/or an Areas 2 and 3 Limited Access Herring Permit (Category B) regardless of gear or area fished, or a vessel issued a Limited Access Incidental Catch Herring Permit and/or an Open Access Herring Permit that fished with midwater trawl gear in Herring Management Areas 1A, 1B, or 3 consistent with the vessels possession limits. Those possession limits are unlimited for haddock and 100 lb, combined, of other regulated Northeast multispecies (Atlantic cod, witch flounder, American plaice, yellowtail flounder, pollock, winter flounder, windowpane flounder, redfish, white hake, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish);
- May not conduct fishing activities or possess any fishing gear on board the vessel; and
- Must act as a herring carrier vessel for the duration of the participation period specified in the LOA (currently 7 days minimum).
- The owner/operator of the vessel should report 'zero catch' and the VTR serial number of the vessel that caught the herring on its Fishing Vessel Trip Report (VTR).

Gulf of Maine (GOM)/Georges Bank (GB) Midwater Trawl

This LOA authorizes a vessel to fish with midwater trawl gear in the GOM/GB Regulated Mesh Area (RMA), including Closed Area I, Closed Area II, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, and other areas closed for NE multispecies conservation under 50 CFR 648.81, with nets of less than the minimum mesh size specified in the NE multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(ii).

Midwater trawl gear is defined as trawl gear designed to fish for pelagic species, no portion of which is designed to be or is operated in contact with the bottom at any time. The gear may not include discs, bobbins, or rollers on its footrope, or chafing gear as part of the net. No other gear capable of catching multispecies may be on board the vessel.

When fishing north of 42°20' N. Latitude, the vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any other species of fish except for, blueback herring, or Atlantic mackerel. When fishing south of 42°20' N. Latitude, the vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any other species of fish except for, blueback herring, Atlantic mackerel, or squid. Appropriate Federal permits are required to retain Atlantic mackerel or squid.

GOM/GB Purse Seine

This LOA authorizes a vessel to fish with purse seine gear in the GOM/GB RMA with nets of less than the minimum size specified at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(ii).

A purse seine is defined as an encircling net with floats on the top edge, weights and a purse line on the

bottom edge, and associated gear, or any net designed to be, or capable of being used in such fashion.

No other gear capable of catching multispecies may be on board the vessel. The vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any other species of fish except for Atlantic mackerel, blueback herring, or menhaden. Appropriate Federal permits are required to retain Atlantic mackerel.

The Mid-water trawl and Purse Seine LOAs have the following additional requirements:

If the vessel has a Category A or B permit, fishing on a declared herring trip with midwater trawl gear, or a Category C and/or D permit fishing with midwater trawl gear in Management Areas 1A, 1B, and/or 3, it must provide notice to NMFS of the vessel name, contact information, and the date, time, and port of departure, at least 72 hr prior to beginning any trip into these areas, for the purposes of coordinating observer deployment, and must notify NMFS Office of Law Enforcement through their vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the time and place of offloading at least 6-hours prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on its return trip to port, or, if it has not fished seaward of the VMS demarcation line, at least 6-hours prior to landing.

The minimum enrollment period for these LOAs is 7 calendar days from the first day of the enrollment period.

Vessels issued an All Areas Limited Access Herring Permit or an Areas 2 and 3 Limited Access Herring Permit fishing on a declared herring trip, regardless of gear or area fished, or a vessel issued a Limited Access Incidental Catch Herring Permit and/or an Open Access Herring Permit and fishing with midwater trawl gear, may possess and land haddock or other regulated NE multispecies (Atlantic cod, witch flounder, American plaice, yellowtail flounder, pollock, winter flounder, windowpane flounder, redfish, white hake, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish) consistent with the bycatch caps and catch allowances (which are specified in §648.86(a)(3)). Haddock or other regulated NE multispecies may not be sold, purchased, received, traded, bartered, or transferred for human consumption.

Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea

This LOA authorizes a vessel issued a valid Federal herring permit to transfer or receive herring at sea to/from another herring vessel, a herring at-sea processor, and/or herring carrier vessel. No vessel may transfer to, or receive from, any vessel, herring in excess of the possession limits specified in § 648.204.

In addition, the operator of a vessel that is not issued a herring permit may purchase and/or receive herring at sea for personal use as bait, provided the vessel transferring the herring has this

LOA and the vessel receiving the transfer does not have gear capable of catching fish on board.

When transferring Atlantic herring at sea, the owner/operator of the above named vessel must report on its Fishing Vessel Trip Report (VTR) and via the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) or Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) consistent with the guidance provided on pages 11-14 in the attached September 28, 2011, Atlantic Herring Permit Holder Letter.

MONKFISH FMP

Monkfish Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) Landing Limit Exemption

A current limited access monkfish permit holder may fish exclusively under the less restrictive landing regulations for the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) through this exemption. A vessel without an operational VMS unit fishing exclusively in the NFMA for monkfish must request this LOA in order to be exempt from the more restrictive management measures of the SFMA. This LOA can be issued anytime during the fishing year (from May 1 through April 30). The minimum enrollment period for this LOA is 7 calendar days from the first day of the enrollment period. A vessel that has declared into the NFMA may transit the SFMA, providing that it complies with the transiting and gear storage provision described § 648.94(e), and provided that it does not fish for or catch monkfish, or any other fish, in the SFMA.

NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES FMP

GOM Cod Landing Limit Exemption

A NE multispecies day at sea (DAS) permit holder, authorized to use the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to declare NE multispecies DAS, and fishing exclusively south of the GOM RMA, may receive an LOA that exempts the vessel from the more restrictive GOM cod landing limit. If the vessel declares through VMS, the GOM Cod Trip Limit Exemption form should be sent, via VMS, prior to leaving the dock for each trip, instead of using this LOA. A vessel declared into the U.S./Canada Management Area is exempt from the requirement to declare exemption from the GOM cod landing limit. The vessel must meet the following requirements under this LOA:

- The vessel must have a NE multispecies DAS permit and be authorized to use the IVR system

for declaring into the NE multispecies DAS program.

- The LOA has a minimum 7-day participation period.
- The vessel may not fish in the GOM RMA under a NE multispecies DAS for the during the participation period. The vessel may transit the GOM RMA while under a NE multispecies DAS, provided all fishing gear is stowed and not available for immediate use.

Cultivator Shoals Whiting Fishery (June 1-October 31)

A vessel must be issued a NE multispecies limited access (Category A-F) or open access (Category K) permit to participate in this exempted fishery. A participating vessel is limited to 30,000 lb of silver hake (whiting) and offshore hake combined per trip. Incidental catch allowed may consist of herring, longhorn sculpin, squid, butterfish, Atlantic mackerel, spiny dogfish, red hake, monkfish and monkfish parts (up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board or up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board or up to 10 percent by weight, of all other species on board or 200 lobsters, whichever is less, unless otherwise restricted by landing limits specified in § 697.17).

There is a minimum mesh size requirement of 3-inch square or diamond mesh to participate in this exemption fishery. A vessel participating in both this exemption and the raised footrope trawl whiting fishery is subject to the more restrictive measures of the two programs (e.g., the use of a minimum 3-inch square or diamond mesh and the use of the raised footrope trawl). More information, including the coordinates of this Area, is available in the NE Multispecies Small Mesh Fishery Exemptions Information Sheet available online at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery (September 1–December 31)

A holder of a Federal NE multispecies permit may elect to receive, from the Regional Administrator, an exemption from NE multispecies minimum mesh size restrictions when fishing for whiting or offshore hake in the Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery Exemption Area (Figure 1). Regulations for the Raised Footrope Trawl Exempted Whiting Fishery may be found at § 648.80(a)(15). A vessel participating in this exemption program must comply with the following requirements:

- A minimum enrollment period of 7 days;
- A minimum mesh size of 2.5-inch square or diamond mesh; and
- Use of a raised footrope trawl.

An enrolled vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any species other than whiting and offshore hake, except for the

following allowable incidental species: Red hake, butterfish, spiny dogfish, Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, scup, and squid. The vessel must adhere to the applicable small-mesh multispecies possession limits while fishing in the exemption area.

Codend Mesh Size	Possession Limit (whiting and offshore hake combined)
Less than 2.5 in	3,500 lb
Greater than 2.5 in but less than 3.0 in	7,500 lb
Equal to or greater than 3.0 in	30,000 lb

The exemption program **does not** apply to the Cashes Ledge Closure Areas or the Western GOM Closed Area. A vessel participating in the Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery may participate in other small-mesh exemption areas, provided the vessel adheres to the more restrictive gear, possession limit, and other requirements for the entire participation period specified on the vessel’s LOA.

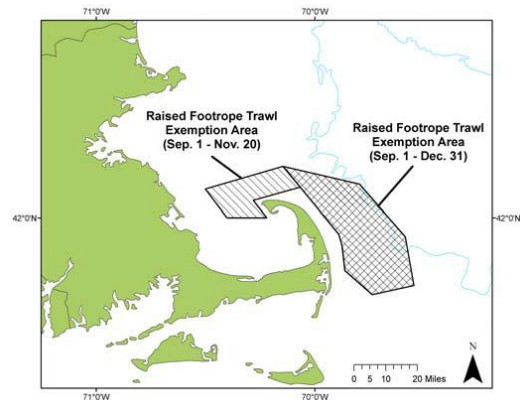


Figure 1. Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery Exemption Area

Nantucket Lightship Closed Area Charter/Party

In order to be exempted from the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA), a charter/party vessel must have an LOA issued by the NE Regional Administrator. Regulated NE multispecies harvested or possessed by the vessel may not be sold or intended for trade, barter, or sale, regardless of where the fish are caught; and the vessel may have no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board. A participating vessel issued this authorization is subject to its requirements and conditions for a minimum of 7 days from the letter’s start date.

**NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP CA CHARTER/PARTY LOA
DECISION TREE**

1. Do you have a current limited access NE multispecies permit or open access NE multispecies charter/party permit?

Answer: YES NO

Continue to #2 LOA does not apply

2. Will you possess aboard, or use, fishing gear other than rod and reel or handline gear?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #3

3. Do you plan to sell, barter or trade any Regulated NE multispecies?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #4

4. Are you aware that the vessel cannot commercially fish outside the Nantucket Lightship CA for the entire participation period for Regulated NE multispecies? Do you agree to these terms?

Answer: YES NO

Nantucket Lightship Closed Area LOA does not apply
Charter/Party LOA needed

2. Will you possess aboard, or use, fishing gear other than rod and reel or handline gear?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #3

3. Do you plan to sell, barter or trade any Regulated NE multispecies?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #4

4. For any NE multispecies vessel, do you intend to use a NE multispecies days-at-sea, fish on a sector trip, or fish under the provisions of a Handgear A, Handgear B or Small Vessel (Category C) permit during the period of participation specified as part of the specific LOA?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Western GOM and Cashes Ledge CA LOA needed

5. Are you aware that the vessel cannot commercially fish outside the exemption area for the entire participation period for Regulated NE multispecies? Do you agree to these terms?

Answer: YES NO

Western GOM and Cashes Ledge CA charter/party LOA needed

Western GOM and Cashes Ledge CA Charter/Party

In order to be exempted from the Western GOM and Cashes Ledge CA, a charter/party vessel must have an LOA issued by the NE Regional Administrator. Regulated NE multispecies harvested or possessed by the vessel may not be sold or intended for trade, barter, or sale, regardless of where the fish are caught; and the vessel may have no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board. The vessel may not use a NE multispecies DAS, fish on a sector trip, or fish under the provisions of a Handgear A, Handgear B, or Small Vessel (Category C) permit during the entire period for which the LOA is valid. A participating vessel issued this authorization is subject to its requirements and conditions from the letter's start date through the end of the fishing year (i.e. there is no withdrawal certificate associated with this LOA).

**WESTERN GOM AND CASHES LEDGE CA
CHARTER/PARTY LOA DECISION TREE**

1. Do you have a current limited access NE multispecies permit or open access NE multispecies charter/party permit?

Answer: YES NO

Continue to #2 LOA does not apply

GOM Rolling CA Charter/Party

In order to be exempted from the GOM Rolling CA for charter/party fishing, a charter/party vessel must have an LOA issued by the Regional Administrator. Regulated NE multispecies harvested or possessed by the vessel may not be sold or intended for trade, barter, or sale, regardless of where the fish are caught; and the vessel may have no gear other than rod and reel or handline gear on board. The vessel may not use a NE multispecies DAS, fish on a sector trip, or fish under the provisions of a Handgear A, Handgear B, or Small Vessel (Category C) permit during the entire period for which the LOA is valid. A participating vessel issued this authorization is subject to its requirements and conditions from the letter's start date for a minimum of 90 days.

**GOM ROLLING CA CHARTER/PARTY
EXEMPTION**

1. Do you have a current limited access NE multispecies permit or open access NE multispecies charter/party permit?

Answer: YES NO

Continue to #2 LOA does not apply

2. Will you possess aboard, or use, fishing gear other than rod and reel or handline gear?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #3

3. Do you plan to sell, barter or trade any Regulated NE multispecies?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #4

4. For any NE multispecies vessel, do you intend to use a NE multispecies days-at-sea, fish on a sector trip, or fish under the provisions of a Handgear A, Handgear B or Small Vessel (Category C) permit during the period of participation specified as part of the specific LOA?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply GOM Rolling CA LOA needed

5. Are you aware that the vessel cannot commercially fish outside the exemption area for the entire participation period for Regulated NE multispecies? Do you agree to these terms?

Answer: YES NO

GOM Rolling CA LOA needed LOA does not apply

Transit Exemptions for GOM/GB RMAs

A vessel subject to the minimum mesh size restrictions may transit through the GOM and GB RMAs with nets on board with a mesh size smaller than the minimum mesh size specified and with small mesh exempted species on board. This exemption program requires the following:

- All nets with a mesh size smaller than the minimum mesh size are stowed.
- A vessel may not fish for, possess on board, or land any fish, except when fishing in specified areas.

TRANSIT EXEMPTION FOR GOM/GB RMAs DECISION TREE

1. Do you have any of the following onboard; trawl gear with less than 6 inch diamond mesh or 6.5 inch square mesh or a gillnet with less than 6.5 inch mesh?

Answer: YES NO

Continue to #2 LOA does not apply

2. Will you be in possession of any small mesh exempt species?

Answer: YES NO

Continue to #3 LOA does not apply

3. Will you be fishing exclusively in state waters?

Answer: YES NO

LOA does not apply Continue to #4

4. Do you have either the Cultivator Shoals Whiting Fishery LOA, the Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Fishery LOA, or the Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery LOA?

Answer: YES NO

This exemption is permitted with these LOAs. Continue to #5

5. Will you be fishing outside of the GOM RMA and the GB RMA?

Answer: YES NO

Transit Exemption LOA needed LOA does not apply

Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas (RGAs)

Amendment 16 to the Multispecies FMP implemented two groundfish RGAs to reduce the catch of flatfish species in Southern New England (SNE) and GB (Figure 2). Any common pool vessel that is fishing any part of a trip in one or both of the RGAs must comply with the requirements listed below. A vessel fishing both inside and outside of these areas on the same trip is subject to the most restrictive regulations among the areas fished.

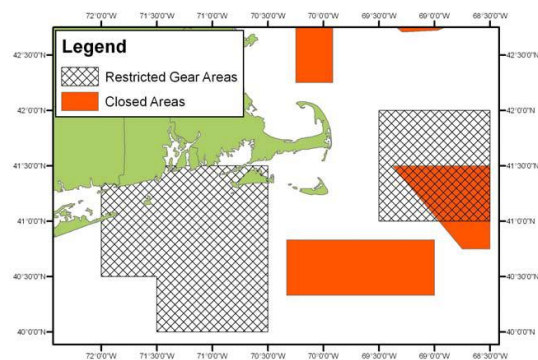


Figure 2. Groundfish RGAs

Declaration Requirements: A common pool vessel fishing in one or both of the groundfish RGAs must declare its intent to fish in these areas via VMS prior to leaving port on a trip under a groundfish DAS. Alternatively, the NE Regional Administrator may issue a vessel an LOA to fish in these RGAs for a minimum participation period of 7 consecutive days.

Gear Requirements: A common pool vessel fishing any part of a trip in one or both of the groundfish RGAs may only use one or more of the gear types listed below on that trip – no other type of fishing

gear may be on board the vessel when fishing in one or both of these RGAs.

- **Trawl gear:** A vessel using trawl gear in the groundfish RGAs may only use a haddock separator trawl or a Ruhle trawl, as currently defined in the regulations, or a rope separator trawl
- **Gillnet gear:** A vessel using gillnet gear in the groundfish RGAs may fish with roundfish (stand-up) gillnets or flatfish (tie-down) gillnets, provided the mesh size of the tie-down gillnet gear is greater than or equal to 10 inches throughout the entire net. Day gillnet vessels must still comply with the existing restrictions on the number of nets for the area fished.
- **Hook gear:** A vessel using hook gear in the groundfish RGAs may only use longline gear, tub trawls, or handgear.

Trip Limits: A common pool vessel fishing in the groundfish RGAs under a groundfish DAS is restricted to 500 lb of all flatfish species combined, unless subject to a more restrictive multispecies possession restriction. Vessels may not possess any SNE/MA winter flounder; 500 lb of monkfish (whole weight), unless also subject to more restrictive monkfish possession restrictions; 500 lb of skates (whole weight); and zero possession of lobsters for the entire trip. A vessel fishing under both a groundfish and a monkfish DAS using gillnet gear is not subject to the 500-lb possession limit (whole weight) for monkfish, but rather the applicable monkfish possession limit specified in the monkfish FMP.

Transiting: A common pool vessel that has not declared its intent to fish in the groundfish RGAs may transit these areas if gear other than allowable gear is properly stowed.

SNE Little Tunny Gillnet Exempted Fishery

A vessel holding this LOA may fish with gillnet gear in the SNE Little Tunny Gillnet Exemption Area (Figure 3) when not operating under a NE multispecies DAS with mesh size smaller than the minimum required in the SNE RMA. All gillnets must have a minimum mesh size of 5.5-inch (14.0-cm) diamond mesh throughout the net. All nets with a mesh size smaller than 5.5 inches diamond mesh must be stowed and unavailable for immediate use. Fishing is confined to **September 1 through October 31**. The NE Regional Administrator shall conduct periodic sea sampling to evaluate the likelihood of gear interactions with protected resources. The vessel may fish only for, possess on board, or land little tunny, as well as bonito, as an allowable incidental species. Vessels fishing under this LOA may also retain:

- Butterfish, spiny dogfish (trawl), Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, ocean pout, scup, shrimp, squid, summer flounder, weakfish, conger eels, searobins, black sea bass, tautog (blackfish), blowfish, cunner, John Dory, mullet, bluefish, tilefish, longhorn sculpin, fourspot flounder, alewife, hickory shad, American shad, blueback herring, sea ravens, Atlantic croaker, spot, swordfish.

- Monkfish and monkfish parts up to 10 percent by weight of all other species on board, or 50 lb tail-weight (146 lb whole weight), whichever is less.
- American lobster up to 10 percent by weight of all other species on board, up to 100 lobsters for trips of 24 hours or less, or 200 lobsters for trips longer than 24 hours, whichever is less.
- Skate and skate parts up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board

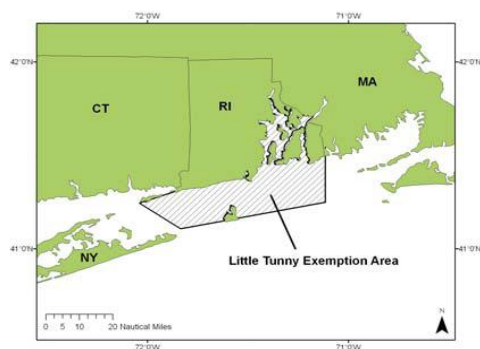


Figure 3. Southern New England Little Tunny Exemption Area

Authorization to Transfer Whiting and Red Hake at Sea

A vessel issued a Federal NE multispecies permit may transfer from one vessel to another, for use as bait, up to 500 lb of whiting and unlimited amounts of red hake, per trip, provided:

- The transferring vessel possesses a Federal NE multispecies permit;
- The receiving vessel possesses a written receipt for any small-mesh multispecies purchased at sea.

The combined whiting and offshore hake possession limit is automatically reduced by 500 lb for every trip made by the vessel during the participation period, regardless of whether a transfer of small-mesh multispecies at sea occurred or whether the actual amount that was transferred was less than 500 lb.

A separate authorization must be obtained to transfer Atlantic herring, *Illex* squid, longfin squid, or butterfish.

Multispecies Permit Exemption for Vessels Fishing in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area

A vessel issued a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance permit under 50 CFR part 300 is exempt from:

- NE multispecies and monkfish permit, mesh size, effort-control, and possession limit restrictions while transiting the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with NE multispecies or monkfish on board the vessel;
- Landing NE multispecies or monkfish in U.S. ports that were caught while fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

The vessel must fish exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area and must also have all gear properly stowed while transiting the EEZ. The vessel must comply with the High Seas Fishing Compliance permit, all NAFO conservation and enforcement measures, and must notify the agency through its vessel monitoring system (VMS) that it will be embarking on a NAFO trip.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS FMP

Summer Flounder Small-Mesh Exemption Area (November 1-April 30)

A holder of a Federal summer flounder moratorium permit may elect to receive, from the NE Regional Administrator, an exemption from summer flounder minimum mesh size restrictions when fishing in the Summer Flounder Small-Mesh Exemption Area from November 1 through April 30 (Figure 4). A vessel must be enrolled in the exemption program for a minimum period of 7 days.

This exemption program **does not** exempt a vessel from minimum fish size requirements. A vessel participating in the exemption program may not fish west of the line that follows 72°30.0' W longitude, and if transiting the area west or south of the line, must stow fishing gear in a manner so that it is not available for immediate use. The Summer Flounder Small-Mesh Exemption Area does not exempt the vessel from any possession limits imposed by any state. If a participating vessel also possesses a NE multispecies permit, there are additional small-mesh restrictions in this small mesh exempted area.

A vessel fishing in the Summer Flounder Small-Mesh Exemption Area may not possess or land more than 200 lb of summer flounder when fishing with mesh smaller than the minimum mesh size requirement of 5.5-in diamond or 6.0-in square from November 1-April 30.

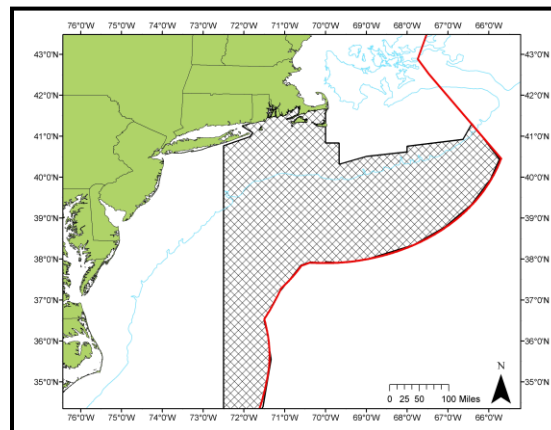


Figure 4. Summer Flounder Small-Mesh Exemption Area (area east of the line that follows 72°30.0' W longitude until it intersects the outer boundary of the EEZ).

SKATE FMP

A holder of a Federal skate permit may request and receive, from the NE Regional Administrator, an exemption from the skate wing possession limit restrictions to land whole skates for use as bait. A vessel participating in the skate bait exemption program must comply with the following requirements:

- The vessel must be enrolled for a minimum period of 7 days;
- The vessel may **only** possess and land whole skates **less than 23 inches** total length, up to 20,000 lb per trip;
- The vessel may only fish for, possess, and land (or transfer at sea) whole skates for use as bait; and
- Vessels that possess or land skate wings during the LOA participation period must comply with the applicable possession limit restrictions for all skates or skate parts on board. For skate wing fishery possession limit restrictions, see the Northeast Skate Fishery Information Sheet at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/NESkateInfoSheet.pdf>.

The Skate Bait LOA **does not** exempt the participating vessel from any DAS requirements of the NE multispecies, monkfish, or scallop fisheries. Therefore, unless a skate bait vessel is fishing in a skate exemption area or is fishing with exempted gear (as defined in the NE multispecies regulations), it must still fish on a NE multispecies, monkfish, or scallop DAS.

SPINY DOGFISH FMP

Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Fishery Exemption June 1 – October 15

This LOA is required to fish for spiny dogfish in the Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Exemption Area (Figure 5). A vessel issued this LOA may use gillnet or trawl mesh smaller than required by the GOM/GB RMA (6.5 in. square or diamond trawl codend mesh; 6.5 in. throughout the entire gillnet) to catch spiny dogfish. Trawl gear is not permitted in the portion of the exemption area that overlaps with the Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area (shown in chart below). When transiting the GOM or GB RMAs any nets with a mesh size smaller than the RMA minimum mesh size must be stowed and unavailable for immediate use.

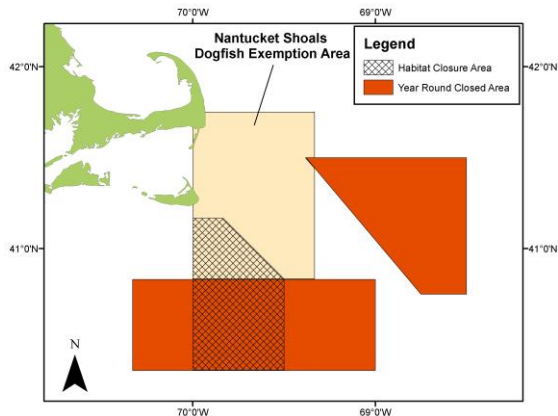


Figure 5. Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Exemption Area

A vessel issued this LOA may not fish for, possess on board, or land species other than spiny dogfish, except the following: Longhorn sculpin; silver hake—up to 200 lb; monkfish and monkfish parts—up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board or up to 50 lb tail weight/166 lb whole-weight of monkfish per trip, whichever is less; American lobster—up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board or 200 lobsters, whichever is less; skate or skate parts—up to 10 percent, by weight, of all other species on board provided the vessel is issued the appropriate Federal permits.

SQUID, MACKEREL, BUTTERFISH FMP

Authorization to Transfer Longfin Squid, Illex Squid, or Butterfish at Sea

A vessel with a valid longfin squid, *Illex* squid, and/or butterfish permit must apply for an LOA to transfer and receive longfin squid, *Illex* squid, and/or butterfish at sea.

If the vessel has been issued this LOA and has a valid longfin/butterfish or *Illex* moratorium permit, it may both transfer and receive these species at sea.

If the vessel has been issued a valid incidental squid and butterfish permit, it may transfer these species at sea, consistent with the applicable possession limits, but may not receive them. Current possession limits are: 2,500 lb of longfin per trip, 10,000 lb of *Illex* per trip, and 600 lb of butterfish per trip, unless the directed butterfish fishery closes prior to October 1; then the butterfish possession limit is 250 lb per trip.

GOM/GB Midwater Trawl

In order to use midwater trawl gear to fish for Atlantic mackerel or squid in the GOM/GB RMAs, including Closed Area I, Closed Area II, the Nantucket Lightship Closed Area, and other areas closed for NE multispecies conservation under 50 CFR 648.81, with nets of less than the minimum mesh size specified in the NE multispecies regulations at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(ii), a vessel must be issued this LOA in addition to the appropriate Federal fishing permits.

Midwater trawl gear is defined as trawl gear designed to fish for pelagic species, no portion of which is designed to be or is operated in contact with the bottom at any time. The gear may not include discs, bobbins, or rollers on its footrope, or chafing gear as part of the net. No other gear capable of catching multispecies may be on board the vessel.

When fishing north of 42°20' N. Latitude, the vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any other species of fish except for Atlantic herring, blueback herring, or Atlantic mackerel. When fishing south of 42°20' N. Latitude, the vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any other species of fish except for Atlantic herring, blueback herring, Atlantic mackerel, or squid.

GOM/GB Purse Seine

In order to fish for Atlantic mackerel with purse seine gear in the GOM/GB RMA with nets of less than the minimum size specified at 50 CFR 648.80(a)(3)(ii), a vessel must be issued this LOA in addition to the appropriate Federal fishing permits.

A purse seine is defined as an encircling net with floats on the top edge, weights and a purse line on the bottom edge, and associated gear, or any net designed to be, or capable of being used in such fashion.

The vessel may not fish for, possess, or land any other species of fish except for Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic herring, blueback herring, or menhaden. Appropriate Federal permits are required for these

species, with the exception of blueback herring and menhaden.

The Mid-water trawl and Purse Seine LOAs have the following additional requirements:

There is a minimum enrollment period of 7 calendar days for each LOA. The vessel will not be officially withdrawn from the exemption program until it requests and receives a Withdrawal Notice issued by NMFS.

A vessel fishing under these authorizations is not allowed to fish for, possess, or land NE multispecies, unless it has been issued an All Areas Limited Access Herring Permit (Category A) and/or an Areas 2 and 3 Limited Access Herring Permit (Category B) regardless of gear or area fished, or a vessel issued a Limited Access Incidental Catch Herring Permit and/or an Open Access Herring Permit that fished with midwater trawl gear in Herring Management Areas 1A, 1B, or 3 consistent with the vessels possession limits. Those possession limits are unlimited for haddock and 100 lb, combined, of other regulated Northeast multispecies (Atlantic cod, witch flounder, American plaice, yellowtail flounder, pollock, winter flounder, windowpane flounder, redfish, white hake, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish);



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Northeast Permit Office (978) 282-8438

Review checklist for the Renewal Vessel Application



- ✓ Ensure your application is complete
- ✓ Please review the list below
- ✓ Failure to include this information with your application will result in processing delays or a possible return of your application.

Include with your signed and dated application:

- A copy of your **valid** Coast Guard Documentation or a copy of your **valid** State Registration. Expired registrations will not be accepted.
- Include a completed NMFS vessel ownership form listing all persons who have an ownership interest in the vessel.
- To be eligible for a Federal party/charter permit you must include a copy of your Captain's License **or** a copy of your U.S. Coast Guard Documentation with a *Coastwise* endorsement.
- If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F permit or a limited access monkfish permit with the intention of fishing with gillnet gear, you must complete the NMFS Gillnet Form. Call the Permit Office to obtain this application or go to <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms.html>



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

January 23, 2012

Dear Federal Fisheries Vessel Permit Applicant:

Enclosed is your Federal Northeast Region (NER) Fishing Vessel Permit renewal application and instructions for the 2012 permit year. Your pre-printed renewal application is partially completed based on the most recent NER Fishing Vessel Permits issued to your vessel. This package contains answers to some of the frequently asked questions about completing your application.

For sea scallop and red crab permits, the 2012 permit year is March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013. For all other permits, the 2012 permit year is May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013.

Important

Please read and follow the application instructions carefully. Failure to provide all required information and additional documentation on or with the application will result in the application being returned to you for completion and/or correction. This may significantly delay the issuance of your permit. You can not fish without a current permit.

Atlantic Mackerel Permit Holders

All vessels that are currently issued mackerel permits will be issued one of the new permits shortly before March 1, 2012. If we receive your application for a limited access permit by January 31, 2012, there will be time for us to review it and issue you a limited access permit, if the vessel meets all of the eligibility criteria. Unless your vessel is issued a limited access permit by March 1, 2012, you will be limited to a 20,000-lb possession limit while your application is being reviewed.

We will continue to review applications that are received after January 31, 2012, and will issue limited access permits to vessels as we determine they are eligible.

Application requirements

The following documents are enclosed in this package to assist you in completing your application and to help you understand important measures with which you must comply:

- ❖ Pre-printed vessel permit renewal application for 2012;
- ❖ Detailed permit application instructions, which include a list of permit categories;
- ❖ Vessel Trip Report (VTR) guidelines;
- ❖ Gillnet form (if applicable);
- ❖ Vessel ownership form; and
- ❖ Summary of control dates for NER fisheries;

This letter and the enclosures only summarize the legal requirements. For a complete understanding of your obligations, you should consult the Code of Federal Regulations. This information can be found at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/>.

Sale of Your Catch Requirements

All vessels issued a Federal NER Fishing Vessel Permit, except those fishing on a party/charter trip, are required to sell their catch of federally managed species only to seafood dealers with a valid Federal NER dealer permit for that species. Federally permitted vessels with NER permits may not sell their catch of federally managed species to persons or seafood dealers that do not have valid Federal NER dealer permits.



Reporting Requirements

Except as noted below, the owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has been issued a Federal NER Fishing Vessel Permit has VTR reporting requirements for all fishing trips taken, regardless of species targeted or waters fished. The two exceptions to this requirement exist for surfclam and ocean quahog vessels which are required to report on clam log reports and for vessels that have only been issued an American lobster permit, which has no Federal reporting requirements. For more information, please call the Vessel Trip Reporting Office at 978-281-9246.

Federal Vessel Operator Permit

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner to ensure that his/her vessels issued NER permits are operated by an individual with a valid Federal Vessel Operator Permit. Any individual operating a vessel that is issued NER Federal Fishing Vessel Permits and fishing in the EEZ is subject to the vessel operator permit requirements.

The Federal Vessel Operator Permit is a photo ID that is issued by NOAA Fisheries Service. This permit must be carried by the operator of the vessel. Operator permits are issued for a 3-year period and renewal applications are mailed 45 days before the expiration of the permit.

To ensure that your operator has a valid operator permit or to obtain an application, please call the Permit Office at 978-282-8437, or online at www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms.html.

Reminder: Vessel operators are required to report their operator permit number when completing their Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

Lobster Permit Holders

Management action is currently under development and may establish some form of limited access to fish with traps in Lobster Management Areas 1, 2, and the Outer Cape and potentially allow qualified permit holders to transfer traps in Area 2,3, and Outer Cape. For more information, please call Sustainable Fisheries at (978) 281-9315.

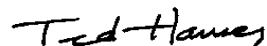
Tuna Permit Holders

Atlantic tuna vessel permits are issued through a separate permitting system, which can be accessed by phone at (888) 872-8862 or via the Internet at www.nmfspermits.com.

Renew or Lose

All limited access permits for which your vessel is qualified must be renewed each fishing year. If you do not renew the vessel's limited access permit(s) in any fishing year, your vessel will no longer be eligible for the permit(s) in subsequent years.

Sincerely,



Ted Hawes, Section Chief
Northeast Permit Office



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Northeast Regional Office / Fisheries Statistics Office



**Northeast Federal Fisheries
2012 Vessel Permit Renewal Instructions**

Enclosed are the instructions for completing your renewal application for Federal Northeast Region (NER) fishing permits. These instructions do not contain all of the regulatory provisions that pertain to each fishery, and are not a substitute for the regulations. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) NERO web site: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Completing the application: Please use this checklist to help ensure that your application is correct and complete. **Incomplete applications will not be processed and will be returned to you.** To complete your application you must:

- Update or correct the information printed on your application, if necessary
- Include a current copy (**not expired**) of the vessel's State Registration or Coast Guard documentation
- Ensure that your Fishing Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) have been submitted and accepted to be eligible for permit renewal (contact the Vessel Reporting Office (978) 281-9246 for information)
- Submit a Vessel Ownership Form. Identify all officers, partners, and shareholders (see page 3 for additional documents required)
- If you are renewing a charter/party permit, submit a copy of valid state charter/party license, USCG Documentation with a Coastwise endorsement, or copy of a Captain's license (see page 3 for additional documents required)
- Sign and date the application
- Submit completed Gillnet Form (if applicable)

Send or return completed applications to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: Permit Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

When to submit: There is a 30-day processing period for all applications. This 30-day processing period begins when a **complete** application package is received in the Northeast Region Permit Office. If you have any questions regarding the application process, or you would like to submit your application in person, you may visit our office at the address above from 8-4:30 Mon-Fri. Please note that we do not provide same-day application processing on applications when you visit our office. Please refer to the NMFS NER Web Page at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/> for applications, instructions, fishery regulations, and other important information, or call 978-282-8438 or e-mail Permits.ne@noaa.gov.

Who to contact with questions: The answers to many questions can be found in these instructions. Please contact us at 978-282-8438 if you have further questions. Northeast Fisheries Regulations, permit data, permit applications, and important announcements are available on our website at: www.nero.noaa.gov

Section 1 - Vessel and Owner Information (all items must be filled in)

Please verify that all owner information is complete and correct. Any new or updated address, owner, or vessel information must be written on the back of the form in Section 4a. The new information will replace the corresponding information on the front of the form. If your vessel is U.S. Coast Guard documented, a change of vessel name must also be reflected on the U.S. Coast Guard document.

Section 2 - Vessel Information

NMFS defines Home Port and Principal Port as:

Home Port: City and State where your vessel is moored.

Principal Port: City and State where the majority of your landings occur.

Please make sure the **phone number** and **area code** are complete and correct. Cross out any incorrect information on the front of the form and include the correct information in the space provided on the back of the form in section 4a.

Section 3 - Fishery Information

Fishery information gives information about the Federal permits that were last issued to your vessel. Please review the fisheries listed in this section because NMFS will consider that you have applied for the fisheries indicated in this section unless you indicate, on the form, that they should be cancelled. See section 4 below on instructions for adding a fishery that your vessel is qualified for but is not listed in section 3. NMFS reserves the right to make a final determination on a vessel's eligibility for any permit.

Cancelling a fishery: To cancel a fishery, put an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" on the front of the form in section 3. Please note that, except in certain specific cases, once you relinquish (cancel) a limited access permit, you will lose your right to renew that limited access permit in subsequent years. When cancelling a limited access permit, the application must be accompanied by verification, in writing, that the applicant has requested cancellation of a specific Federal limited access fishing permit(s) and understands that the vessel or any replacement vessel will no longer be eligible for those limited access permits.

Section 4 - Corrections and Additions

Address Corrections and Fishery Additions/Corrections are to be made in Section 4a and 4b on the back of the form. Space is provided for any changes you want to make to your Federal fisheries permit. Please cross out information you want to remove, or place an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" for the permit you want to cancel on the front of the form in section 3.

Fishery Categories and Gears: You may add or change a fishery category or gear code by entering new information in this section in the spaces provided. Your vessel must be qualified to apply for limited access fisheries. Contact Northeast Permit Office for further information. For each fishery category you want to add, circle the category numbers or letters in this column. Note that limited access permits require that you have met eligibility criteria. Selecting categories for which your vessel is not eligible may delay the processing of your application. For each fishery permit and category, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table on page 3 of these instructions. On your application, write the **gear code numbers** in the column marked *Gear Code(s)*. Please note that some fishery categories have restrictions on the type of gear that can be used as noted on pages 4-10. You may select more than one gear code for a fishery category. **If no gear code is selected, the application cannot be processed and will be returned to you.**

Section 5 – Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

Sign and date the form. Unsigned, or otherwise incomplete applications, will be returned. Your signature is an affirmation that, under penalty of perjury, all the information provided in order to obtain this permit is true and correct. Submitting false information in connection with an application could subject you to criminal/civil penalties or permit sanctions [18 U.S.C. 1001].

Additional Documents Required

USCG Documentation/State Registration

With each application, submit a copy of your current (not expired) United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Documentation. If the vessel is not documented, send a copy of a valid (not expired) state vessel registration for the vessel. Do not send your original. We cannot accept a bill of sale or an application for renewal of the USCG Certificate of Documentation. If your vessel's state registration does not list all owners of the vessel, also provide a copy of the vessel's title, or other documentation from the appropriate state agency that identifies all vessel owners. A permit application will not be accepted if the vessel registration or documentation has expired before we receive it.

Officer/Owner/Shareholder Information

Attach a completed NMFS vessel ownership form listing and identifying all owners and shareholders. Provide the full name and mailing address of all officers and shareholders in the corporation/LLC regardless of their percentage ownership in the company/vessel. Examples of acceptable documentation include minutes from the Corporation Annual Meeting listing the names and addresses of the officers and shareholders, or a signed and dated letter from a Corporate Officer listing the names and addresses of current officers and shareholders.

Charter/Party/Headboat Vessels

If you are applying for a charter/party/headboat permit, submit a valid copy (not expired) of at least one of the following:

- State license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Certificate of Documentation showing vessel is documented for "Coastwise" trade.
- USCG license to operate or navigate passenger-carrying vessels.

Gillnet Vessels applying for Limited Access NE Multispecies and Monkfish

If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F permit with the intention of fishing with gillnet gear, you must complete sections 1 and 3 of the NMFS Gillnet Form. If you wish to order gillnet tags for either the NE multispecies or monkfish gillnet fishery, you must also submit a completed NMFS Gillnet Form.

Gear codes and explanations for section 3 of application

Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code
Purse Seines	120	Other Trawls	330	Rod and Reel	912
Beach Seines	210	Dredge	410	Tub Trawl	913
Boat Seines	220	Gill/Entangling Nets	700	Longlines or Setlines	920
Bottom Trawls	310	Pots and Traps	800	Harpoons	1010
Mid-water Trawls	320	Hand Lines	911	Other Gears	1200
				Diving Gear	1400

Description of Northeast Fisheries Permits – Categories Are Shaded

❖ **Atlantic Sea Scallop**

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of the permit within a permit year to make a change to the limited access Sea Scallop permit category. Further restrictions may apply. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2*	Full-Time: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
3*	Part-Time: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
4	Occasional: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
5*	Full-Time Small Dredge: Category 3 (Part-Time) vessel may elect this category for the entire year if the vessel uses one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and with no more than five people on board. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
6*	Part-Time Small Dredge: Category 4 (Occasional) vessel may elect this category for the entire year if the vessel uses 1 dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and with no more than five people on board. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
7*	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
8*	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.

*** A VMS is required to be installed and in continuous operation onboard the vessel, unless the vessel is issued a VMS 'Letter of Exemption' from NMFS to power down the VMS unit.**

Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Scallop permit categories: These permits may only be issued to qualified vessels or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations. Owners of vessels issued an NGOM or Incidental scallop permit shall have one opportunity each fishing year to request a change in its permit category by submitting an application within 45 days of the effective date of the vessel's permit. After that date, the vessel must remain in that permit category for the duration of the fishing year.

A**	LAGC – Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ permit)
B**	LAGC – Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM permit)
C**	LAGC – Incidental Catch (Incidental permit)

**** A VMS is required to be installed, activated, and a) transmitting a positional signal, or b) declared into a scallop power down activity code, or c) issued a VMS 'Letter of Exemption' from NMFS to power down the vessel's VMS unit.**

VMS purchase information:

Boatracs	Skymate	Thrane & Thrane
Telephone: 858-458-8100	Telephone: 866-759-6283	Telephone: 757-463-9557
Fax: 858-458-8116	Fax: 703-814-8585	Fax: 757-463-9581

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Northeast Multispecies

“Regulated” species (NE multispecies requiring regulated mesh): Cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), winter flounder (blackback), American plaice (dab), witch flounder (grey sole), windowpane flounder (sand dab), white hake, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish.

Other NE multispecies:

Silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, and ocean pout.

.....
Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the NE multispecies permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A*	Day-at-Sea (DAS): This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Small Vessel Exemption (less than or equal to 30 feet): This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D*	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category is limited to handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), tub trawl (gear code 913) and longlines (gear code 920) gear only.
E*	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
F*	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year provided the vessels meet the following requirements. Category A DAS for vessels fishing under this permit category will be increased by 36%. These vessels must fish with either gillnets or trawl nets having a minimum of 8.5-inch square or diamond mesh when fishing in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, or Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas, and 7.5-inch diamond or 8.0-inch square mesh when fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Area. This category is limited to gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.
HA	Handgear A: (Vessels in this category may not change category) The vessel may possess and land one Atlantic halibut and possession limit restrictions for the remaining regulated species and ocean pout. This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.

*** An operational VMS is required to be on board the vessel to fish for groundfish under a NE multispecies DAS, on a sector trip, or a Handgear A vessel in the common pool that intends to fish in more than one broad stock area (BSA) on a single trip.**

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

HB	Handgear B: The vessel may possess and land one Atlantic halibut and other possession restrictions for the remaining regulated species. This category includes rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.
I	Charter/Party: The vessel may possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912) and handline (gear code 911) gear only.
J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. Vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit (Categories 2 – 9) to qualify for this category. This category includes all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: The vessel may fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut when participating in an exempted fishing program. This category includes all gear types.

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Monkfish

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations for further information.

A	Vessels may elect this category if they do not possess a limited access multispecies (with the exception of a Handgear A) permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
B	Vessels may elect this category if they do not possess a limited access multispecies (with the exception of a Handgear A) permit or a limited access scallop permit, and that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category A permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Vessels may elect this category if they possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D	Vessels may elect this category if they possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit, and are less than 51 GRT and do not qualify for a Category C permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
F*	Offshore Fishery Program: Vessels may elect this category if they are eligible for monkfish limited access permit categories A, B, C, or D and have an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) installed on the vessel. Monkfish permit category A, B, C, and D vessels may opt into this program for an entire fishing year, which begins on May 1 and ends on April 30. The request to opt into the offshore fishery must be completed within 45 days of the effective date of the monkfish permit. Vessels in this program are restricted to fishing under a monkfish Days At Sea during the specified season of October 1–April 30 each year and within the Offshore Fishery Program Area. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.

*** Operational VMS required**

Limited Access Permit Categories for Vessels Fishing South of 38°20' N. Lat. – Vessels issued a limited access Category G or H permit are restricted to fishing under a monkfish DAS in the area south of 38°20' N. lat.

G	Vessels may elect this category if they were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
H	Vessels may elect this category if they were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that did not qualify for a category G permit. This category includes all gear types.

Area Declaration: Please note that vessels without an operational VMS unit fishing exclusively in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) for monkfish must request a Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) Exemption Certificate in order to be exempt from the more restrictive management measures of the SFMA. Contact the Permit Office at 978-282-8438. Vessels with an operational VMS unit must declare the appropriate code to indicate they intend to fish exclusively in the NFMA.

Open Access Permit Categories: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a monkfish limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land monkfish. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

E	Incidental Catch: Allows a vessel to possess and land a limited amount of monkfish, depending on fishing year, area fished, and gear fished. For specific limit amounts, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315. This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Surfclam/Ocean Quahog/Maine Mahogany Quahog

Surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, as well as Maine mahogany quahog vessels, are required to have an operational vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board their vessel. For open access surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, VMS installation and operation must be verified prior to issuance of the permit. Maine mahogany quahog permitted vessels are not required to install a VMS unit until they fish for, land, take, possess, or transfer ocean quahogs under a limited access Maine mahogany quahog permit. For more information on VMS requirements, call 978-281-9315.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fishery Regulations.

1*	Surfclam: The vessel may fish for surfclams. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only. VMS required.
6*	Ocean Quahog: The vessel may fish for ocean quahogs. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only. VMS required.

To possess and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required.

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

7*	Maine Mahogany Quahog: The vessel may harvest and land ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of 43° 50' N. latitude. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
-----------	--

* Operational VMS required.

❖ Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess summer flounder in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Scup (Porgy)

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Scup Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess scup in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

❖ Black Sea Bass

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Black Sea Bass Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Black Sea Bass (continued)

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess black sea bass in the EEZ north of 35° 15.3' N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Squid, Atlantic Mackerel, and Butterfish

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations. Longfin squid was previously referred to as *Loligo* squid. Due to a recent change in the scientific name of longfin squid from *Loligo pealeii* to *Doryteuthis (Amerigo) pealeii*, permits will now use the common name “longfin squid” in all official documents to avoid confusion.

1	Longfin squid/Butterfish Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
5	Illex Squid Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
T1	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 1: May fish commercially in the EEZ for unlimited amounts of mackerel. This category includes all gear types. Must submit a fish hold volume certification by December 31, 2012.
T2	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 2: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 135,000 lb of mackerel per trip. This category includes all gear types. Must submit a fish hold volume certification by December 31, 2012.
T3	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 3: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 100,000 lb of mackerel per trip. This category includes all gear types. Vessels issued Tier 3 permits will be limited to no more than 7% of the annual commercial mackerel quota.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Longfin or Illex squid, mackerel or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lb of Longfin squid per trip, 10,000 lb of Illex squid per trip, or 2,500 lb of butterfish per trip. This category includes all gear types.
4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ for up to 20,000 lb of mackerel. This category includes all gear types.

Note: Atlantic mackerel at-sea processing vessels must apply for a permit as a dealer/processor.

❖ Incidental Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Squid Trawl

Limited Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Regulations.

1	Incidental Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Squid Trawl Permit: Allowed only for vessels issued a valid Illex Squid Moratorium permit. Authorizes the limited retention of incidentally-caught swordfish. This category only includes trawl gear.
----------	--

❖ Spiny Dogfish

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Atlantic Bluefish

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial: May possess or harvest Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ in excess of the daily possession limit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.

- See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes

❖ Atlantic Herring

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to qualified vessels or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A*	All Areas: Authorizes the harvest of herring in any management area, without being subject to possession limits during the time when the sub-annual catch limit (ACL) in the defined management area has not been reached. This category includes all gear types.
B*	Areas 2/3: Authorizes the harvest of herring only in Areas 2 or 3, without being subject to possession limits during the time when the sub-ACL in the defined management area has not been reached. This category includes all gear types.
C*	Incidental Catch: Authorizes the harvest of up to 55,000 lb herring in any management area during the time when the sub-ACL in the defined management area has not been reached, with a limit of one landing per calendar day. This category includes all gear types.

*** All vessels applying for and issued a limited access herring permit, with the exception of fixed gear (weirs and stop seines) fishermen, must install and maintain an operable VMS unit, and comply with all VMS notification and reporting requirements. Such vessels may power down the VMS unit when in port, but must re-power the VMS unit and enter an appropriate trip designation prior to leaving port.**

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

D	Open Access: Authorizes the harvest of up to 6,600 lb of herring in any management area during the time when the sub-ACL in these management areas has not been reached, with a limit of one landing per calendar day. This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

❖ Tilefish

Open Access Permit Categories: A vessel must fish under the authorization of an Individual Fishing Quota Allocation permit to possess more than the incidental trip limit. Further restrictions may apply to these categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Open Access Commercial/Incidental: May possess or land tilefish in or from the EEZ, north of the VA/NC border, up to 500 lb whole weight, or 455 lb head-on and gutted, per trip. In order for any vessel to possess more than 500 lb of tilefish per trip, the vessel must also fish under the authorization of an IFQ Allocation permit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Open Access Charter/Party: May fish for or possess tilefish in the EEZ, north of the VA/NC border, while carrying passengers for hire. (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.

❖ Skate

Northeast Skate Complex (Skate) - The following species of skates comprise the NE skate complex and are included under the Federal skate permit: Winter skate; barndoor skate; thorny skate; smooth skate; little skate; clearnose skate; and rosette skate.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land skate caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

- See page 3 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes

❖ Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

B	This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
C	This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Open Access Permit Categories: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a red crab limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land red crab in or from the EEZ.

A	May possess or land red crab in or from the EEZ up to 500 lb per trip. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ American Lobster

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. Note, if you designate more than one category, you will be subject to the most restrictive management measures, including trap allocations, of all of the categories selected. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the American Lobster permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations at 50 CFR 697.

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types except pots and traps. If you plan to fish with non-trap gear only, you are not required to elect trap gear areas.
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types except pots and traps.
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Includes Area 2/3 overlap.
A3	Commercial Trap Gear Area 3: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 3. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area. Includes Area 2/3 overlap.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Outer Cape Federal Lobster Management Area. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information on the initial vessel application is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that potential respondents for a fishing vessel permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for Federal fisheries permits.

One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to carry out its conservation and management objectives is the requirement of a permit for users of the resources. All the fisheries included on this application require a permit to fish for or retain these species in or from the EEZ. Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. The purpose and use of these permits are to: (1) Register industry participants and fishing vessels; (2) list the characteristics of fishing vessels; (3) exercise influence over compliance; (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry; (5) register participants to be considered for limited access; and (6) provide a pool of participants for data collection samples. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject 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. Owner name, vessel characteristics, address, phone, and permit information will be released via NMFS Fisheries website. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics.

OMB# 0648-0202 Expires: 4/30/2013



**National Marine Fisheries Service
 (NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE)
 Vessel Trip Reporting (VTRs)**

This guide provides a list of commonly asked questions regarding VTRs. This document is intended as a guide only and its content is subject to change. For more comprehensive information please refer to the regulations at 50 CFR part 648. Please visit the NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office (NERO) online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/> and click on “Vessel Trip Report Information” for additional details.

Reporting regulations [50 CFR 648.7] require that the owner or operator of any vessel issued a Federal fishing permit for any of the species listed in the table below submit an accurate and timely VTR for each trip, regardless of area fished, targeted species or permit used. In other words, an owner or operator of a federally permitted vessel possessing any of the permits listed below must submit a VTR for each and every trip taken regardless of where they fish or what they catch.

Northeast Region Federal permits requiring mandatory reporting

Northeast multispecies	black sea bass	tilefish	scup
Atlantic sea scallop	Atlantic bluefish	Atlantic deep sea red crab	surfclam
monkfish	Atlantic herring	spiny dogfish	ocean quahog
Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish	Northeast skate	summer flounder	

Report Submission Timelines:

- All vessels, except those possessing a Northeast Multispecies or Atlantic Herring permit, required to send VTR’s must submit their VTRs on a monthly basis. VTRs must be received or postmarked by the 15th day of the month following the month in which the trip occurred.
- Any vessel issued a Federal Northeast Multispecies or an Atlantic Herring permit, regardless of category (limited access, open access or Charter/Party), must submit VTRs on a weekly basis. VTRs must be submitted by midnight of the Tuesday following the reporting week (Sunday through Saturday) in which fish were offloaded for any trip, including trips landing other species.
- Did Not Fish reports are due in accordance with the above submission schedule.
- Submit the white original (NMFS Copy) to:

NMFS
 Vessel Trip Reporting Office
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

If you have any questions regarding VTRs, please call the NMFS Vessel Trip Report Office at (978) 281-9246.

Questions & Answers

If my vessel wasn't fishing, how do I report?

If a vessel does not fish for an entire calendar month, a "Did Not Fish" report is required. A separate report is required for each such month unless you possess a Federal Northeast Multispecies or an Atlantic Herring Permit.

If I fish in state waters, do I have to submit a trip report?

Yes. If you possess a Federal permit for any species listed above in Table 1, or are eligible to renew a limited access permit, you then have VTR requirements regardless of what license, permit, or waters you fish.

I was fishing on my "state license", do I have to submit a trip report?

Yes. If you possess a Federal permit for any species listed above in Table 1, or are eligible to renew a limited access permit, you then have VTR requirements regardless of what license, permit, or waters you were fishing.

I possess only a Federal lobster permit. What are my reporting requirements?

You have no VTR reporting requirements to NMFS. Please check with your state to determine if you have state reporting requirements.

I possess a Federal lobster permit along with another Federal permit that is listed in the table above, however I never use that permit. What are my reporting requirements?

Because you possess another Federal permit in addition to your Federal lobster permit, you must report all of your fishing activity including all your lobster trips.

Do I have to report if I take my boat out for recreational purposes?

No. You only need to report commercial, party, or charter trips. A trip would not be considered recreational if you sold any of your catch or accepted compensation from passengers.

I hold several Federal permits. Do I have to complete more than one VTR per trip?

In most cases a single report can be used to fulfill all of your reporting requirements.

If I change gear type, gear size, or area fished during a trip, how do I report the trip?

Complete a separate report page for any change in gear type, gear size, or chart area.

What do I need to provide to my dealer when I offload my catch?

Vessels must supply the VTR serial number to all federally permitted dealers purchasing the catch. In the instance where you have completed more than one VTR for a trip (see question above), then the serial number from the first VTR completed should be supplied to the dealer(s). The VTR form provides two (2) additional pages intended to be given to the dealers by the vessel representative.

Who can I sell my catch to?

Federally permitted vessels are only allowed to sell their catch of federally managed species to federally permitted dealers or to take a portion of that catch home for their own consumption. Species that are not regulated by NMFS may be sold elsewhere and in that case, no VTR serial number needs to be supplied.

What if I do not land any fish on a trip?

If no species are landed, complete all of the trip information and enter "No Catch" in the species code name column (#17).

My supply of VTRs is getting low, how do I get more?

VTRs can be obtained by mailing the pink renewal form contained in each logbook package to the NMFS address below. You may also obtain VTRs by contacting the NMFS Vessel Trip Reporting Office, either in person, or by telephone at (978) 281-9157 or by contacting your local NMFS Field Office.



Summary of Control Dates for Northeast Fisheries



This fact sheet informs permit applicants that there may be future management action taken by the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to establish eligibility criteria for determining future fishing access to the fisheries identified below. In each of these cases, the Council or Commission with management authority for the fishery requested the National Marine Fisheries Service to publish a date, after which vessels may not be eligible to participate in the fishery. This date is known as a control date. This fact sheet informs you that these control dates may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery.

THIS INFORMATION IS ADVISORY ONLY. It is intended to inform you only that these control dates have been established and may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery. It also provides you with notice that you may wish to locate and preserve records to substantiate and verify fishery participation, for use in the event a limited access program is established in the future.

Establishing a control date does not commit the Councils, Commission, or the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in these fisheries. The Councils or Commission may choose a different control date, or may choose to establish a management program that does not make use of such a date.

For further information, please contact the appropriate fishery management council or commission:

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) On the web: www.nefmc.org Telephone: 978-465-0492	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) On the web: www.mafmc.org Telephone: 302-674-2331
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) On the web: www.asmfc.org Telephone: 703-842-0740	Summary revised January 2012

Species	Control Date	Council	Current status of management action
Ocean pout	9-9-96	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Bluefish	5-29-97	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Spiny Dogfish	5-18-98	MAFMC lead (joint plan with NEFMC)	Amendment 3 is under development and may establish limited access and/or recreational management measures.
Capacity Control Scallop Multispecies, Monkfish DAS	9-10-99	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Black Sea Bass	6-5-01	MAFMC	Would have established different classes of permits for the fishery; considered in Amendment 13 but not adopted by Council.
Atlantic Mackerel	7-5-02	MAFMC	Amendment 11 to the Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish FMP which implemented a limited access program for the mackerel fishery, has been finalized and NOAA Fisheries is accepting applications until February 28, 2013. See the November 18, 2011, permit holder letter for more information http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MackLAPermitPHL.pdf
Hagfish	8-28-02	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Whiting/red hake/offshore hake	3-25-03	NEFMC	Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP is under development and may establish some form of limited access for the whiting (small-mesh multispecies) fishery.
Multispecies Charter/Party	3-30-06	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
American Lobster	9-1-99 1-2-09	ASMFC	Management action is currently under development and may establish some form of limited access to fish with traps in Lobster Management Areas 1, 2, and the Outer Cape and potentially allow qualified permit holders to transfer traps in Area 2,3, and Outer Cape.
Skates	7-30-09	NEFMC	No action currently underway.

Letter of Authorization (LOA) Request Form



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service / Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978) 282-8441, Fax: (978) 281-9161

Owner:	Permit Number:
F/V:	Hull Number:

To request an LOA(s), please enter the owner and vessel information requested above, and a valid start date and end date in the appropriate box(es) below. Please see the reverse side of this form for each LOA's enrollment season and minimum enrollment duration. **Please note:** A vessel must hold a valid permit in the fishery(s) for which an LOA(s) is requested. Remember to sign and date this form in the spaces provided below. For additional information on the LOAs listed, please see the back of this form, call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315, or visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/>. **This form may be photocopied. Mail or fax completed forms to the address above.**

➤ The **2012 Permit Year** runs from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013

I am requesting an LOA(s) for the 2012 permit year.

LOA	Requested Start Date	Requested End Date	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine			Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea			No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **			Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*			Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting			Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting			Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)			Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA		April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA			Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting			Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas			Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet		October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea			Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***			
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh			Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)			Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)		October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea			No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring such trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

**VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Applicant's Signature: I, the owner or authorized agent of the vessel named above, affirm subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this Letter of Authorization(s) is true and correct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revised January 2012

LOA Descriptions

Following is a description of each LOA that must be obtained from the Northeast Region Permit Office. A vessel issued a valid LOA(s) must carry the LOA(s) on board at all times while enrolled in the LOA program. A vessel owner/operator may participate in an LOA program for a period no less than its minimum enrollment duration. The effective date of each LOA can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. Unless the participation period specified on an LOA is longer than its minimum enrollment duration and the owner/operator wishes to withdraw from an LOA program prior to its stated end date, an LOA automatically expires at the end of a vessel's participation period. To withdraw from an LOA program (where applicable) after its minimum enrollment duration but prior to its stated end date, an owner/operator must contact the Northeast Region Permit Office or Port Agent to obtain a withdrawal certificate. The effective date of each withdrawal certificate can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. A vessel is not considered officially withdrawn from an LOA program until the owner/operator receives a withdrawal certificate. LOA enrollments and withdrawals may be requested by mail, by phone, or by fax.

The participation period for each LOA may not exceed the permit year for that fishery. Vessel owners/operators must apply each year to be issued an LOA for a given year.

LOA	Enrollment Season	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting	June 15 - October 31	Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting	September 1 - December 31	Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA	May 1 - April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet	September 1 - October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***		
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh	November 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)	June 1 - October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

** VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Letter of Authorization (LOA) Request Form



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service / Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978) 282-8441, Fax: (978) 281-9161

Owner:	Permit Number:
F/V:	Hull Number:

To request an LOA(s), please enter the owner and vessel information requested above, and a valid start date and end date in the appropriate box(es) below. Please see the reverse side of this form for each LOA's enrollment season and minimum enrollment duration. **Please note:** A vessel must hold a valid permit in the fishery(s) for which an LOA(s) is requested. Remember to sign and date this form in the spaces provided below. For additional information on the LOAs listed, please see the back of this form, call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315, or visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/>. **This form may be photocopied. Mail or fax completed forms to the address above.**

➤ The **2012 Permit Year** runs from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013

I am requesting an LOA(s) for the 2012 permit year.

LOA	Requested Start Date	Requested End Date	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine			Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea			No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **			Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*			Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting			Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting			Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)			Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA		April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA			Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting			Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas			Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet		October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea			Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***			
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh			Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)			Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)		October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea			No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring such trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

**VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Applicant's Signature: I, the owner or authorized agent of the vessel named above, affirm subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this Letter of Authorization(s) is true and correct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revised January 2012

LOA Descriptions

Following is a description of each LOA that must be obtained from the Northeast Region Permit Office. A vessel issued a valid LOA(s) must carry the LOA(s) on board at all times while enrolled in the LOA program. A vessel owner/operator may participate in an LOA program for a period no less than its minimum enrollment duration. The effective date of each LOA can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. Unless the participation period specified on an LOA is longer than its minimum enrollment duration and the owner/operator wishes to withdraw from an LOA program prior to its stated end date, an LOA automatically expires at the end of a vessel's participation period. To withdraw from an LOA program (where applicable) after its minimum enrollment duration but prior to its stated end date, an owner/operator must contact the Northeast Region Permit Office or Port Agent to obtain a withdrawal certificate. The effective date of each withdrawal certificate can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. A vessel is not considered officially withdrawn from an LOA program until the owner/operator receives a withdrawal certificate. LOA enrollments and withdrawals may be requested by mail, by phone, or by fax.

The participation period for each LOA may not exceed the permit year for that fishery. Vessel owners/operators must apply each year to be issued an LOA for a given year.

LOA	Enrollment Season	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting	June 15 - October 31	Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting	September 1 - December 31	Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA	May 1 - April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet	September 1 - October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***		
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh	November 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)	June 1 - October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

** VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Letter of Authorization (LOA) Request Form



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service / Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978) 282-8441, Fax: (978) 281-9161

Owner:	Permit Number:
F/V:	Hull Number:

To request an LOA(s), please enter the owner and vessel information requested above, and a valid start date and end date in the appropriate box(es) below. Please see the reverse side of this form for each LOA's enrollment season and minimum enrollment duration. **Please note:** A vessel must hold a valid permit in the fishery(s) for which an LOA(s) is requested. Remember to sign and date this form in the spaces provided below. For additional information on the LOAs listed, please see the back of this form, call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315, or visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/>. **This form may be photocopied. Mail or fax completed forms to the address above.**

➤ The **2012 Permit Year** runs from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013

I am requesting an LOA(s) for the 2012 permit year.

LOA	Requested Start Date	Requested End Date	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine			Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea			No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **			Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*			Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting			Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting			Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)			Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA		April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA			Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting			Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas			Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet		October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea			Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***			
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh			Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)			Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)		October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea			No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring such trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

**VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Applicant's Signature: I, the owner or authorized agent of the vessel named above, affirm subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this Letter of Authorization(s) is true and correct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revised January 2012

LOA Descriptions

Following is a description of each LOA that must be obtained from the Northeast Region Permit Office. A vessel issued a valid LOA(s) must carry the LOA(s) on board at all times while enrolled in the LOA program. A vessel owner/operator may participate in an LOA program for a period no less than its minimum enrollment duration. The effective date of each LOA can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. Unless the participation period specified on an LOA is longer than its minimum enrollment duration and the owner/operator wishes to withdraw from an LOA program prior to its stated end date, an LOA automatically expires at the end of a vessel's participation period. To withdraw from an LOA program (where applicable) after its minimum enrollment duration but prior to its stated end date, an owner/operator must contact the Northeast Region Permit Office or Port Agent to obtain a withdrawal certificate. The effective date of each withdrawal certificate can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. A vessel is not considered officially withdrawn from an LOA program until the owner/operator receives a withdrawal certificate. LOA enrollments and withdrawals may be requested by mail, by phone, or by fax.

The participation period for each LOA may not exceed the permit year for that fishery. Vessel owners/operators must apply each year to be issued an LOA for a given year.

LOA	Enrollment Season	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting	June 15 - October 31	Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting	September 1 - December 31	Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA	May 1 - April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet	September 1 - October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***		
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh	November 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)	June 1 - October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

** VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Letter of Authorization (LOA) Request Form



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service / Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: (978) 282-8441, Fax: (978) 281-9161

Owner:	Permit Number:
F/V:	Hull Number:

To request an LOA(s), please enter the owner and vessel information requested above, and a valid start date and end date in the appropriate box(es) below. Please see the reverse side of this form for each LOA's enrollment season and minimum enrollment duration. **Please note:** A vessel must hold a valid permit in the fishery(s) for which an LOA(s) is requested. Remember to sign and date this form in the spaces provided below. For additional information on the LOAs listed, please see the back of this form, call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315, or visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/>. **This form may be photocopied. Mail or fax completed forms to the address above.**

➤ The **2012 Permit Year** runs from May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013

I am requesting an LOA(s) for the 2012 permit year.

LOA	Requested Start Date	Requested End Date	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl			Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine			Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea			No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **			Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*			Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting			Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting			Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)			Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA		April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA			Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting			Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas			Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet		October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea			Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***			
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh			Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)			Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)		October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea			No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring such trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

**VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.

Applicant's Signature: I, the owner or authorized agent of the vessel named above, affirm subject to the penalties provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this Letter of Authorization(s) is true and correct.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Revised January 2012

LOA Descriptions

Following is a description of each LOA that must be obtained from the Northeast Region Permit Office. A vessel issued a valid LOA(s) must carry the LOA(s) on board at all times while enrolled in the LOA program. A vessel owner/operator may participate in an LOA program for a period no less than its minimum enrollment duration. The effective date of each LOA can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. Unless the participation period specified on an LOA is longer than its minimum enrollment duration and the owner/operator wishes to withdraw from an LOA program prior to its stated end date, an LOA automatically expires at the end of a vessel's participation period. To withdraw from an LOA program (where applicable) after its minimum enrollment duration but prior to its stated end date, an owner/operator must contact the Northeast Region Permit Office or Port Agent to obtain a withdrawal certificate. The effective date of each withdrawal certificate can be no earlier than one day after the date issued. A vessel is not considered officially withdrawn from an LOA program until the owner/operator receives a withdrawal certificate. LOA enrollments and withdrawals may be requested by mail, by phone, or by fax.

The participation period for each LOA may not exceed the permit year for that fishery. Vessel owners/operators must apply each year to be issued an LOA for a given year.

LOA	Enrollment Season	Enrollment Duration
Herring Carrier	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Midwater Trawl	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring GOM/GB Purse Seine	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Herring Transfer and Receive at Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required
Monkfish (SFMA) **	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
GOM Cod Landing Limit (IVR)*	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Cultivator Shoals Whiting	June 15 - October 31	Minimum 7 days
Raised Foot Rope Trawl Whiting	September 1 - December 31	Minimum 7 days
P/C Nantucket Lightship Closed Area (CA)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
P/C Western GOM Cashes Ledge CA	May 1 - April 30	No withdrawal allowed
P/C GOM Rolling CA	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 90 days
GOM / GB Transiting	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Groundfish Restricted Gear Areas	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
SNE Little Tunny/Gillnet	September 1 - October 31	No withdrawal allowed
Whiting & Red Hake Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
NAFO Regulatory Area***		
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh	November 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Skate (Bait)	May 1 - April 30	Minimum 7 days
Dogfish (Nantucket Shoals)	June 1 - October 15	No withdrawal allowed
SMB Transfer-at-Sea	May 1 - April 30	No minimum days required

* This LOA is issued to vessels declaring trips through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System.

** VMS vessels may declare in and out of the Monkfish Exemption Program via their Vessel Monitoring System instead of requesting a paper LOA.

*** A vessel must hold a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance Permit under 50 CFR part 300 in order to be issued this LOA.



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Northeast Permit Office (978) 282-8438

Review checklist for the Renewal Vessel Application



- ✓ Ensure your application is complete
- ✓ Please review the list below
- ✓ Failure to include this information with your application will result in processing delays or a possible return of your application.

Include with your signed and dated application:

- A copy of your **valid** Coast Guard Documentation or a copy of your **valid** State Registration. Expired registrations will not be accepted.
- Include a completed NMFS vessel ownership form listing all persons who have an ownership interest in the vessel.
- To be eligible for a Federal party/charter permit you must include a copy of your Captain's License **or** a copy of your U.S. Coast Guard Documentation with a *Coastwise* endorsement.
- If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F permit or a limited access monkfish permit with the intention of fishing with gillnet gear, you must complete the NMFS Gillnet Form. Call the Permit Office to obtain this application or go to <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms.html>



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

January 23, 2012

Dear Federal Fisheries Vessel Permit Applicant:

Enclosed is your Federal Northeast Region (NER) Fishing Vessel Permit renewal application and instructions for the 2012 permit year. Your pre-printed renewal application is partially completed based on the most recent NER Fishing Vessel Permits issued to your vessel. This package contains answers to some of the frequently asked questions about completing your application.

For sea scallop and red crab permits, the 2012 permit year is March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013. For all other permits, the 2012 permit year is May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013.

Important

Please read and follow the application instructions carefully. Failure to provide all required information and additional documentation on or with the application will result in the application being returned to you for completion and/or correction. This may significantly delay the issuance of your permit. You can not fish without a current permit.

Atlantic Mackerel Permit Holders

All vessels that are currently issued mackerel permits will be issued one of the new permits shortly before March 1, 2012. If we receive your application for a limited access permit by January 31, 2012, there will be time for us to review it and issue you a limited access permit, if the vessel meets all of the eligibility criteria. Unless your vessel is issued a limited access permit by March 1, 2012, you will be limited to a 20,000-lb possession limit while your application is being reviewed.

We will continue to review applications that are received after January 31, 2012, and will issue limited access permits to vessels as we determine they are eligible.

Application requirements

The following documents are enclosed in this package to assist you in completing your application and to help you understand important measures with which you must comply:

- ❖ Pre-printed vessel permit renewal application for 2012;
- ❖ Detailed permit application instructions, which include a list of permit categories;
- ❖ Vessel Trip Report (VTR) guidelines;
- ❖ Gillnet form (if applicable);
- ❖ Vessel ownership form; and
- ❖ Summary of control dates for NER fisheries;

This letter and the enclosures only summarize the legal requirements. For a complete understanding of your obligations, you should consult the Code of Federal Regulations. This information can be found at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/>.

Sale of Your Catch Requirements

All vessels issued a Federal NER Fishing Vessel Permit, except those fishing on a party/charter trip, are required to sell their catch of federally managed species only to seafood dealers with a valid Federal NER dealer permit for that species. Federally permitted vessels with NER permits may not sell their catch of federally managed species to persons or seafood dealers that do not have valid Federal NER dealer permits.



Reporting Requirements

Except as noted below, the owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has been issued a Federal NER Fishing Vessel Permit has VTR reporting requirements for all fishing trips taken, regardless of species targeted or waters fished. The two exceptions to this requirement exist for surfclam and ocean quahog vessels which are required to report on clam log reports and for vessels that have only been issued an American lobster permit, which has no Federal reporting requirements. For more information, please call the Vessel Trip Reporting Office at 978-281-9246.

Federal Vessel Operator Permit

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner to ensure that his/her vessels issued NER permits are operated by an individual with a valid Federal Vessel Operator Permit. Any individual operating a vessel that is issued NER Federal Fishing Vessel Permits and fishing in the EEZ is subject to the vessel operator permit requirements.

The Federal Vessel Operator Permit is a photo ID that is issued by NOAA Fisheries Service. This permit must be carried by the operator of the vessel. Operator permits are issued for a 3-year period and renewal applications are mailed 45 days before the expiration of the permit.

To ensure that your operator has a valid operator permit or to obtain an application, please call the Permit Office at 978-282-8437, or online at www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms.html.

Reminder: Vessel operators are required to report their operator permit number when completing their Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

Lobster Permit Holders

Management action is currently under development and may establish some form of limited access to fish with traps in Lobster Management Areas 1, 2, and the Outer Cape and potentially allow qualified permit holders to transfer traps in Area 2,3, and Outer Cape. For more information, please call Sustainable Fisheries at (978) 281-9315.

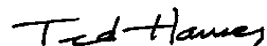
Tuna Permit Holders

Atlantic tuna vessel permits are issued through a separate permitting system, which can be accessed by phone at (888) 872-8862 or via the Internet at www.nmfspermits.com.

Renew or Lose

All limited access permits for which your vessel is qualified must be renewed each fishing year. If you do not renew the vessel's limited access permit(s) in any fishing year, your vessel will no longer be eligible for the permit(s) in subsequent years.

Sincerely,



Ted Hawes, Section Chief
Northeast Permit Office



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Northeast Regional Office / Fisheries Statistics Office



**Northeast Federal Fisheries
2012 Vessel Permit Renewal Instructions**

Enclosed are the instructions for completing your renewal application for Federal Northeast Region (NER) fishing permits. These instructions do not contain all of the regulatory provisions that pertain to each fishery, and are not a substitute for the regulations. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) NERO web site: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Completing the application: Please use this checklist to help ensure that your application is correct and complete. **Incomplete applications will not be processed and will be returned to you.** To complete your application you must:

- Update or correct the information printed on your application, if necessary
- Include a current copy (**not expired**) of the vessel's State Registration or Coast Guard documentation
- Ensure that your Fishing Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) have been submitted and accepted to be eligible for permit renewal (contact the Vessel Reporting Office (978) 281-9246 for information)
- Submit a Vessel Ownership Form. Identify all officers, partners, and shareholders (see page 3 for additional documents required)
- If you are renewing a charter/party permit, submit a copy of valid state charter/party license, USCG Documentation with a Coastwise endorsement, or copy of a Captain's license (see page 3 for additional documents required)
- Sign and date the application
- Submit completed Gillnet Form (if applicable)

Send or return completed applications to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: Permit Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

When to submit: There is a 30-day processing period for all applications. This 30-day processing period begins when a **complete** application package is received in the Northeast Region Permit Office. If you have any questions regarding the application process, or you would like to submit your application in person, you may visit our office at the address above from 8-4:30 Mon-Fri. Please note that we do not provide same-day application processing on applications when you visit our office. Please refer to the NMFS NER Web Page at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/> for applications, instructions, fishery regulations, and other important information, or call 978-282-8438 or e-mail Permits.ne@noaa.gov.

Who to contact with questions: The answers to many questions can be found in these instructions. Please contact us at 978-282-8438 if you have further questions. Northeast Fisheries Regulations, permit data, permit applications, and important announcements are available on our website at: www.nero.noaa.gov

Section 1 - Vessel and Owner Information (all items must be filled in)

Please verify that all owner information is complete and correct. Any new or updated address, owner, or vessel information must be written on the back of the form in Section 4a. The new information will replace the corresponding information on the front of the form. If your vessel is U.S. Coast Guard documented, a change of vessel name must also be reflected on the U.S. Coast Guard document.

Section 2 - Vessel Information

NMFS defines Home Port and Principal Port as:

Home Port: City and State where your vessel is moored.

Principal Port: City and State where the majority of your landings occur.

Please make sure the **phone number** and **area code** are complete and correct. Cross out any incorrect information on the front of the form and include the correct information in the space provided on the back of the form in section 4a.

Section 3 - Fishery Information

Fishery information gives information about the Federal permits that were last issued to your vessel. Please review the fisheries listed in this section because NMFS will consider that you have applied for the fisheries indicated in this section unless you indicate, on the form, that they should be cancelled. See section 4 below on instructions for adding a fishery that your vessel is qualified for but is not listed in section 3. NMFS reserves the right to make a final determination on a vessel's eligibility for any permit.

Cancelling a fishery: To cancel a fishery, put an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" on the front of the form in section 3. Please note that, except in certain specific cases, once you relinquish (cancel) a limited access permit, you will lose your right to renew that limited access permit in subsequent years. When cancelling a limited access permit, the application must be accompanied by verification, in writing, that the applicant has requested cancellation of a specific Federal limited access fishing permit(s) and understands that the vessel or any replacement vessel will no longer be eligible for those limited access permits.

Section 4 - Corrections and Additions

Address Corrections and Fishery Additions/Corrections are to be made in Section 4a and 4b on the back of the form. Space is provided for any changes you want to make to your Federal fisheries permit. Please cross out information you want to remove, or place an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" for the permit you want to cancel on the front of the form in section 3.

Fishery Categories and Gears: You may add or change a fishery category or gear code by entering new information in this section in the spaces provided. Your vessel must be qualified to apply for limited access fisheries. Contact Northeast Permit Office for further information. For each fishery category you want to add, circle the category numbers or letters in this column. Note that limited access permits require that you have met eligibility criteria. Selecting categories for which your vessel is not eligible may delay the processing of your application. For each fishery permit and category, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table on page 3 of these instructions. On your application, write the **gear code numbers** in the column marked *Gear Code(s)*. Please note that some fishery categories have restrictions on the type of gear that can be used as noted on pages 4-10. You may select more than one gear code for a fishery category. **If no gear code is selected, the application cannot be processed and will be returned to you.**

Section 5 – Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

Sign and date the form. Unsigned, or otherwise incomplete applications, will be returned. Your signature is an affirmation that, under penalty of perjury, all the information provided in order to obtain this permit is true and correct. Submitting false information in connection with an application could subject you to criminal/civil penalties or permit sanctions [18 U.S.C. 1001].

Additional Documents Required

USCG Documentation/State Registration

With each application, submit a copy of your current (not expired) United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Documentation. If the vessel is not documented, send a copy of a valid (not expired) state vessel registration for the vessel. Do not send your original. We cannot accept a bill of sale or an application for renewal of the USCG Certificate of Documentation. If your vessel's state registration does not list all owners of the vessel, also provide a copy of the vessel's title, or other documentation from the appropriate state agency that identifies all vessel owners. A permit application will not be accepted if the vessel registration or documentation has expired before we receive it.

Officer/Owner/Shareholder Information

Attach a completed NMFS vessel ownership form listing and identifying all owners and shareholders. Provide the full name and mailing address of all officers and shareholders in the corporation/LLC regardless of their percentage ownership in the company/vessel. Examples of acceptable documentation include minutes from the Corporation Annual Meeting listing the names and addresses of the officers and shareholders, or a signed and dated letter from a Corporate Officer listing the names and addresses of current officers and shareholders.

Charter/Party/Headboat Vessels

If you are applying for a charter/party/headboat permit, submit a valid copy (not expired) of at least one of the following:

- State license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Certificate of Documentation showing vessel is documented for "Coastwise" trade.
- USCG license to operate or navigate passenger-carrying vessels.

Gillnet Vessels applying for Limited Access NE Multispecies and Monkfish

If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F permit with the intention of fishing with gillnet gear, you must complete sections 1 and 3 of the NMFS Gillnet Form. If you wish to order gillnet tags for either the NE multispecies or monkfish gillnet fishery, you must also submit a completed NMFS Gillnet Form.

Gear codes and explanations for section 3 of application

Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code
Purse Seines	120	Other Trawls	330	Rod and Reel	912
Beach Seines	210	Dredge	410	Tub Trawl	913
Boat Seines	220	Gill/Entangling Nets	700	Longlines or Setlines	920
Bottom Trawls	310	Pots and Traps	800	Harpoons	1010
Mid-water Trawls	320	Hand Lines	911	Other Gears	1200
				Diving Gear	1400

Description of Northeast Fisheries Permits – Categories Are Shaded

❖ **Atlantic Sea Scallop**

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of the permit within a permit year to make a change to the limited access Sea Scallop permit category. Further restrictions may apply. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2*	Full-Time: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
3*	Part-Time: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
4	Occasional: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
5*	Full-Time Small Dredge: Category 3 (Part-Time) vessel may elect this category for the entire year if the vessel uses one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and with no more than five people on board. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
6*	Part-Time Small Dredge: Category 4 (Occasional) vessel may elect this category for the entire year if the vessel uses 1 dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and with no more than five people on board. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
7*	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
8*	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.

*** A VMS is required to be installed and in continuous operation onboard the vessel, unless the vessel is issued a VMS 'Letter of Exemption' from NMFS to power down the VMS unit.**

Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Scallop permit categories: These permits may only be issued to qualified vessels or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations. Owners of vessels issued an NGOM or Incidental scallop permit shall have one opportunity each fishing year to request a change in its permit category by submitting an application within 45 days of the effective date of the vessel's permit. After that date, the vessel must remain in that permit category for the duration of the fishing year.

A**	LAGC – Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ permit)
B**	LAGC – Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM permit)
C**	LAGC – Incidental Catch (Incidental permit)

**** A VMS is required to be installed, activated, and a) transmitting a positional signal, or b) declared into a scallop power down activity code, or c) issued a VMS 'Letter of Exemption' from NMFS to power down the vessel's VMS unit.**

VMS purchase information:

Boatracs

Telephone: 858-458-8100
Fax: 858-458-8116

Skymate

Telephone: 866-759-6283
Fax: 703-814-8585

Thrane & Thrane

Telephone: 757-463-9557
Fax: 757-463-9581

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Northeast Multispecies

“Regulated” species (NE multispecies requiring regulated mesh): Cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), winter flounder (blackback), American plaice (dab), witch flounder (grey sole), windowpane flounder (sand dab), white hake, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish.

Other NE multispecies:

Silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, and ocean pout.

.....
Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the NE multispecies permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A*	Day-at-Sea (DAS): This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Small Vessel Exemption (less than or equal to 30 feet): This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D*	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category is limited to handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), tub trawl (gear code 913) and longlines (gear code 920) gear only.
E*	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
F*	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year provided the vessels meet the following requirements. Category A DAS for vessels fishing under this permit category will be increased by 36%. These vessels must fish with either gillnets or trawl nets having a minimum of 8.5-inch square or diamond mesh when fishing in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, or Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas, and 7.5-inch diamond or 8.0-inch square mesh when fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Area. This category is limited to gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.
HA	Handgear A: (Vessels in this category may not change category) The vessel may possess and land one Atlantic halibut and possession limit restrictions for the remaining regulated species and ocean pout. This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.

*** An operational VMS is required to be on board the vessel to fish for groundfish under a NE multispecies DAS, on a sector trip, or a Handgear A vessel in the common pool that intends to fish in more than one broad stock area (BSA) on a single trip.**

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

HB	Handgear B: The vessel may possess and land one Atlantic halibut and other possession restrictions for the remaining regulated species. This category includes rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.
I	Charter/Party: The vessel may possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912) and handline (gear code 911) gear only.
J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. Vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit (Categories 2 – 9) to qualify for this category. This category includes all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: The vessel may fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut when participating in an exempted fishing program. This category includes all gear types.

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Monkfish

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations for further information.

A	Vessels may elect this category if they do not possess a limited access multispecies (with the exception of a Handgear A) permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
B	Vessels may elect this category if they do not possess a limited access multispecies (with the exception of a Handgear A) permit or a limited access scallop permit, and that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category A permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Vessels may elect this category if they possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D	Vessels may elect this category if they possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit, and are less than 51 GRT and do not qualify for a Category C permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
F*	Offshore Fishery Program: Vessels may elect this category if they are eligible for monkfish limited access permit categories A, B, C, or D and have an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) installed on the vessel. Monkfish permit category A, B, C, and D vessels may opt into this program for an entire fishing year, which begins on May 1 and ends on April 30. The request to opt into the offshore fishery must be completed within 45 days of the effective date of the monkfish permit. Vessels in this program are restricted to fishing under a monkfish Days At Sea during the specified season of October 1–April 30 each year and within the Offshore Fishery Program Area. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.

*** Operational VMS required**

Limited Access Permit Categories for Vessels Fishing South of 38°20' N. Lat. – Vessels issued a limited access Category G or H permit are restricted to fishing under a monkfish DAS in the area south of 38°20' N. lat.

G	Vessels may elect this category if they were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
H	Vessels may elect this category if they were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that did not qualify for a category G permit. This category includes all gear types.

Area Declaration: Please note that vessels without an operational VMS unit fishing exclusively in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) for monkfish must request a Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) Exemption Certificate in order to be exempt from the more restrictive management measures of the SFMA. Contact the Permit Office at 978-282-8438. Vessels with an operational VMS unit must declare the appropriate code to indicate they intend to fish exclusively in the NFMA.

Open Access Permit Categories: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a monkfish limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land monkfish. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

E	Incidental Catch: Allows a vessel to possess and land a limited amount of monkfish, depending on fishing year, area fished, and gear fished. For specific limit amounts, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315. This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Surfclam/Ocean Quahog/Maine Mahogany Quahog

Surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, as well as Maine mahogany quahog vessels, are required to have an operational vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board their vessel. For open access surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, VMS installation and operation must be verified prior to issuance of the permit. Maine mahogany quahog permitted vessels are not required to install a VMS unit until they fish for, land, take, possess, or transfer ocean quahogs under a limited access Maine mahogany quahog permit. For more information on VMS requirements, call 978-281-9315.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fishery Regulations.

1*	Surfclam: The vessel may fish for surfclams. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only. VMS required.
6*	Ocean Quahog: The vessel may fish for ocean quahogs. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only. VMS required.

To possess and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required.

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

7*	Maine Mahogany Quahog: The vessel may harvest and land ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of 43° 50' N. latitude. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
-----------	--

* Operational VMS required.

❖ Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess summer flounder in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Scup (Porgy)

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Scup Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess scup in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

❖ Black Sea Bass

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Black Sea Bass Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Black Sea Bass (continued)

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess black sea bass in the EEZ north of 35° 15.3' N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Squid, Atlantic Mackerel, and Butterfish

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations. Longfin squid was previously referred to as *Loligo* squid. Due to a recent change in the scientific name of longfin squid from *Loligo pealeii* to *Doryteuthis (Amerigo) pealeii*, permits will now use the common name “longfin squid” in all official documents to avoid confusion.

1	Longfin squid/Butterfish Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
5	Illex Squid Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
T1	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 1: May fish commercially in the EEZ for unlimited amounts of mackerel. This category includes all gear types. Must submit a fish hold volume certification by December 31, 2012.
T2	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 2: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 135,000 lb of mackerel per trip. This category includes all gear types. Must submit a fish hold volume certification by December 31, 2012.
T3	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 3: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 100,000 lb of mackerel per trip. This category includes all gear types. Vessels issued Tier 3 permits will be limited to no more than 7% of the annual commercial mackerel quota.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Longfin or Illex squid, mackerel or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lb of Longfin squid per trip, 10,000 lb of Illex squid per trip, or 2,500 lb of butterfish per trip. This category includes all gear types.
4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ for up to 20,000 lb of mackerel. This category includes all gear types.

Note: Atlantic mackerel at-sea processing vessels must apply for a permit as a dealer/processor.

❖ Incidental Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Squid Trawl

Limited Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Regulations.

1	Incidental Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Squid Trawl Permit: Allowed only for vessels issued a valid Illex Squid Moratorium permit. Authorizes the limited retention of incidentally-caught swordfish. This category only includes trawl gear.
----------	--

❖ Spiny Dogfish

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Atlantic Bluefish

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial: May possess or harvest Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ in excess of the daily possession limit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Atlantic Herring

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to qualified vessels or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A*	All Areas: Authorizes the harvest of herring in any management area, without being subject to possession limits during the time when the sub-annual catch limit (ACL) in the defined management area has not been reached. This category includes all gear types.
B*	Areas 2/3: Authorizes the harvest of herring only in Areas 2 or 3, without being subject to possession limits during the time when the sub-ACL in the defined management area has not been reached. This category includes all gear types.
C*	Incidental Catch: Authorizes the harvest of up to 55,000 lb herring in any management area during the time when the sub-ACL in the defined management area has not been reached, with a limit of one landing per calendar day. This category includes all gear types.

*** All vessels applying for and issued a limited access herring permit, with the exception of fixed gear (weirs and stop seines) fishermen, must install and maintain an operable VMS unit, and comply with all VMS notification and reporting requirements. Such vessels may power down the VMS unit when in port, but must re-power the VMS unit and enter an appropriate trip designation prior to leaving port.**

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

D	Open Access: Authorizes the harvest of up to 6,600 lb of herring in any management area during the time when the sub-ACL in these management areas has not been reached, with a limit of one landing per calendar day. This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

❖ Tilefish

Open Access Permit Categories: A vessel must fish under the authorization of an Individual Fishing Quota Allocation permit to possess more than the incidental trip limit. Further restrictions may apply to these categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Open Access Commercial/Incidental: May possess or land tilefish in or from the EEZ, north of the VA/NC border, up to 500 lb whole weight, or 455 lb head-on and gutted, per trip. In order for any vessel to possess more than 500 lb of tilefish per trip, the vessel must also fish under the authorization of an IFQ Allocation permit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Open Access Charter/Party: May fish for or possess tilefish in the EEZ, north of the VA/NC border, while carrying passengers for hire. (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.

❖ Skate

Northeast Skate Complex (Skate) - The following species of skates comprise the NE skate complex and are included under the Federal skate permit: Winter skate; barndoor skate; thorny skate; smooth skate; little skate; clearnose skate; and rosette skate.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land skate caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

- See page 3 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes

❖ Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

B	This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
C	This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Open Access Permit Categories: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a red crab limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land red crab in or from the EEZ.

A	May possess or land red crab in or from the EEZ up to 500 lb per trip. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ American Lobster

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. Note, if you designate more than one category, you will be subject to the most restrictive management measures, including trap allocations, of all of the categories selected. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the American Lobster permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations at 50 CFR 697.

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types except pots and traps. If you plan to fish with non-trap gear only, you are not required to elect trap gear areas.
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types except pots and traps.
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Includes Area 2/3 overlap.
A3	Commercial Trap Gear Area 3: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 3. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area. Includes Area 2/3 overlap.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Outer Cape Federal Lobster Management Area. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information on the initial vessel application is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that potential respondents for a fishing vessel permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for Federal fisheries permits.

One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to carry out its conservation and management objectives is the requirement of a permit for users of the resources. All the fisheries included on this application require a permit to fish for or retain these species in or from the EEZ. Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. The purpose and use of these permits are to: (1) Register industry participants and fishing vessels; (2) list the characteristics of fishing vessels; (3) exercise influence over compliance; (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry; (5) register participants to be considered for limited access; and (6) provide a pool of participants for data collection samples. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject 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. Owner name, vessel characteristics, address, phone, and permit information will be released via NMFS Fisheries website. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics.

OMB# 0648-0202 Expires: 4/30/2013



**National Marine Fisheries Service
 (NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE)
 Vessel Trip Reporting (VTRs)**

This guide provides a list of commonly asked questions regarding VTRs. This document is intended as a guide only and its content is subject to change. For more comprehensive information please refer to the regulations at 50 CFR part 648. Please visit the NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office (NERO) online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/> and click on “Vessel Trip Report Information” for additional details.

Reporting regulations [50 CFR 648.7] require that the owner or operator of any vessel issued a Federal fishing permit for any of the species listed in the table below submit an accurate and timely VTR for each trip, regardless of area fished, targeted species or permit used. In other words, an owner or operator of a federally permitted vessel possessing any of the permits listed below must submit a VTR for each and every trip taken regardless of where they fish or what they catch.

Northeast Region Federal permits requiring mandatory reporting

Northeast multispecies	black sea bass	tilefish	scup
Atlantic sea scallop	Atlantic bluefish	Atlantic deep sea red crab	surfclam
monkfish	Atlantic herring	spiny dogfish	ocean quahog
Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish	Northeast skate	summer flounder	

Report Submission Timelines:

- All vessels, except those possessing a Northeast Multispecies or Atlantic Herring permit, required to send VTR’s must submit their VTRs on a monthly basis. VTRs must be received or postmarked by the 15th day of the month following the month in which the trip occurred.
- Any vessel issued a Federal Northeast Multispecies or an Atlantic Herring permit, regardless of category (limited access, open access or Charter/Party), must submit VTRs on a weekly basis. VTRs must be submitted by midnight of the Tuesday following the reporting week (Sunday through Saturday) in which fish were offloaded for any trip, including trips landing other species.
- Did Not Fish reports are due in accordance with the above submission schedule.
- Submit the white original (NMFS Copy) to:

NMFS
 Vessel Trip Reporting Office
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

If you have any questions regarding VTRs, please call the NMFS Vessel Trip Report Office at (978) 281-9246.

Questions & Answers

If my vessel wasn't fishing, how do I report?

If a vessel does not fish for an entire calendar month, a "Did Not Fish" report is required. A separate report is required for each such month unless you possess a Federal Northeast Multispecies or an Atlantic Herring Permit.

If I fish in state waters, do I have to submit a trip report?

Yes. If you possess a Federal permit for any species listed above in Table 1, or are eligible to renew a limited access permit, you then have VTR requirements regardless of what license, permit, or waters you fish.

I was fishing on my "state license", do I have to submit a trip report?

Yes. If you possess a Federal permit for any species listed above in Table 1, or are eligible to renew a limited access permit, you then have VTR requirements regardless of what license, permit, or waters you were fishing.

I possess only a Federal lobster permit. What are my reporting requirements?

You have no VTR reporting requirements to NMFS. Please check with your state to determine if you have state reporting requirements.

I possess a Federal lobster permit along with another Federal permit that is listed in the table above, however I never use that permit. What are my reporting requirements?

Because you possess another Federal permit in addition to your Federal lobster permit, you must report all of your fishing activity including all your lobster trips.

Do I have to report if I take my boat out for recreational purposes?

No. You only need to report commercial, party, or charter trips. A trip would not be considered recreational if you sold any of your catch or accepted compensation from passengers.

I hold several Federal permits. Do I have to complete more than one VTR per trip?

In most cases a single report can be used to fulfill all of your reporting requirements.

If I change gear type, gear size, or area fished during a trip, how do I report the trip?

Complete a separate report page for any change in gear type, gear size, or chart area.

What do I need to provide to my dealer when I offload my catch?

Vessels must supply the VTR serial number to all federally permitted dealers purchasing the catch. In the instance where you have completed more than one VTR for a trip (see question above), then the serial number from the first VTR completed should be supplied to the dealer(s). The VTR form provides two (2) additional pages intended to be given to the dealers by the vessel representative.

Who can I sell my catch to?

Federally permitted vessels are only allowed to sell their catch of federally managed species to federally permitted dealers or to take a portion of that catch home for their own consumption. Species that are not regulated by NMFS may be sold elsewhere and in that case, no VTR serial number needs to be supplied.

What if I do not land any fish on a trip?

If no species are landed, complete all of the trip information and enter "No Catch" in the species code name column (#17).

My supply of VTRs is getting low, how do I get more?

VTRs can be obtained by mailing the pink renewal form contained in each logbook package to the NMFS address below. You may also obtain VTRs by contacting the NMFS Vessel Trip Reporting Office, either in person, or by telephone at (978) 281-9157 or by contacting your local NMFS Field Office.



Summary of Control Dates for Northeast Fisheries



This fact sheet informs permit applicants that there may be future management action taken by the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to establish eligibility criteria for determining future fishing access to the fisheries identified below. In each of these cases, the Council or Commission with management authority for the fishery requested the National Marine Fisheries Service to publish a date, after which vessels may not be eligible to participate in the fishery. This date is known as a control date. This fact sheet informs you that these control dates may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery.

THIS INFORMATION IS ADVISORY ONLY. It is intended to inform you only that these control dates have been established and may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery. It also provides you with notice that you may wish to locate and preserve records to substantiate and verify fishery participation, for use in the event a limited access program is established in the future.

Establishing a control date does not commit the Councils, Commission, or the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in these fisheries. The Councils or Commission may choose a different control date, or may choose to establish a management program that does not make use of such a date.

For further information, please contact the appropriate fishery management council or commission:

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) On the web: www.nefmc.org Telephone: 978-465-0492	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) On the web: www.mafmc.org Telephone: 302-674-2331
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) On the web: www.asmfc.org Telephone: 703-842-0740	Summary revised January 2012

Species	Control Date	Council	Current status of management action
Ocean pout	9-9-96	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Bluefish	5-29-97	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Spiny Dogfish	5-18-98	MAFMC lead (joint plan with NEFMC)	Amendment 3 is under development and may establish limited access and/or recreational management measures.
Capacity Control Scallop Multispecies, Monkfish DAS	9-10-99	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Black Sea Bass	6-5-01	MAFMC	Would have established different classes of permits for the fishery; considered in Amendment 13 but not adopted by Council.
Atlantic Mackerel	7-5-02	MAFMC	Amendment 11 to the Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish FMP which implemented a limited access program for the mackerel fishery, has been finalized and NOAA Fisheries is accepting applications until February 28, 2013. See the November 18, 2011, permit holder letter for more information http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MackLAPermitPHL.pdf
Hagfish	8-28-02	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Whiting/red hake/offshore hake	3-25-03	NEFMC	Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP is under development and may establish some form of limited access for the whiting (small-mesh multispecies) fishery.
Multispecies Charter/Party	3-30-06	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
American Lobster	9-1-99 1-2-09	ASMFC	Management action is currently under development and may establish some form of limited access to fish with traps in Lobster Management Areas 1, 2, and the Outer Cape and potentially allow qualified permit holders to transfer traps in Area 2,3, and Outer Cape.
Skates	7-30-09	NEFMC	No action currently underway.



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Northeast Permit Office (978) 282-8438

Review checklist for the Renewal Vessel Application



- ✓ Ensure your application is complete
- ✓ Please review the list below
- ✓ Failure to include this information with your application will result in processing delays or a possible return of your application.

Include with your signed and dated application:

- A copy of your **valid** Coast Guard Documentation or a copy of your **valid** State Registration. Expired registrations will not be accepted.
- Include a completed NMFS vessel ownership form listing all persons who have an ownership interest in the vessel.
- To be eligible for a Federal party/charter permit you must include a copy of your Captain's License **or** a copy of your U.S. Coast Guard Documentation with a *Coastwise* endorsement.
- If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F permit or a limited access monkfish permit with the intention of fishing with gillnet gear, you must complete the NMFS Gillnet Form. Call the Permit Office to obtain this application or go to <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms.html>



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

January 23, 2012

Dear Federal Fisheries Vessel Permit Applicant:

Enclosed is your Federal Northeast Region (NER) Fishing Vessel Permit renewal application and instructions for the 2012 permit year. Your pre-printed renewal application is partially completed based on the most recent NER Fishing Vessel Permits issued to your vessel. This package contains answers to some of the frequently asked questions about completing your application.

For sea scallop and red crab permits, the 2012 permit year is March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013. For all other permits, the 2012 permit year is May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013.

Important

Please read and follow the application instructions carefully. Failure to provide all required information and additional documentation on or with the application will result in the application being returned to you for completion and/or correction. This may significantly delay the issuance of your permit. You can not fish without a current permit.

Atlantic Mackerel Permit Holders

All vessels that are currently issued mackerel permits will be issued one of the new permits shortly before March 1, 2012. If we receive your application for a limited access permit by January 31, 2012, there will be time for us to review it and issue you a limited access permit, if the vessel meets all of the eligibility criteria. Unless your vessel is issued a limited access permit by March 1, 2012, you will be limited to a 20,000-lb possession limit while your application is being reviewed.

We will continue to review applications that are received after January 31, 2012, and will issue limited access permits to vessels as we determine they are eligible.

Application requirements

The following documents are enclosed in this package to assist you in completing your application and to help you understand important measures with which you must comply:

- ❖ Pre-printed vessel permit renewal application for 2012;
- ❖ Detailed permit application instructions, which include a list of permit categories;
- ❖ Vessel Trip Report (VTR) guidelines;
- ❖ Gillnet form (if applicable);
- ❖ Vessel ownership form; and
- ❖ Summary of control dates for NER fisheries;

This letter and the enclosures only summarize the legal requirements. For a complete understanding of your obligations, you should consult the Code of Federal Regulations. This information can be found at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/>.

Sale of Your Catch Requirements

All vessels issued a Federal NER Fishing Vessel Permit, except those fishing on a party/charter trip, are required to sell their catch of federally managed species only to seafood dealers with a valid Federal NER dealer permit for that species. Federally permitted vessels with NER permits may not sell their catch of federally managed species to persons or seafood dealers that do not have valid Federal NER dealer permits.



Reporting Requirements

Except as noted below, the owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has been issued a Federal NER Fishing Vessel Permit has VTR reporting requirements for all fishing trips taken, regardless of species targeted or waters fished. The two exceptions to this requirement exist for surfclam and ocean quahog vessels which are required to report on clam log reports and for vessels that have only been issued an American lobster permit, which has no Federal reporting requirements. For more information, please call the Vessel Trip Reporting Office at 978-281-9246.

Federal Vessel Operator Permit

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner to ensure that his/her vessels issued NER permits are operated by an individual with a valid Federal Vessel Operator Permit. Any individual operating a vessel that is issued NER Federal Fishing Vessel Permits and fishing in the EEZ is subject to the vessel operator permit requirements.

The Federal Vessel Operator Permit is a photo ID that is issued by NOAA Fisheries Service. This permit must be carried by the operator of the vessel. Operator permits are issued for a 3-year period and renewal applications are mailed 45 days before the expiration of the permit.

To ensure that your operator has a valid operator permit or to obtain an application, please call the Permit Office at 978-282-8437, or online at www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/forms.html.

Reminder: Vessel operators are required to report their operator permit number when completing their Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

Lobster Permit Holders

Management action is currently under development and may establish some form of limited access to fish with traps in Lobster Management Areas 1, 2, and the Outer Cape and potentially allow qualified permit holders to transfer traps in Area 2,3, and Outer Cape. For more information, please call Sustainable Fisheries at (978) 281-9315.

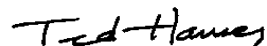
Tuna Permit Holders

Atlantic tuna vessel permits are issued through a separate permitting system, which can be accessed by phone at (888) 872-8862 or via the Internet at www.nmfspermits.com.

Renew or Lose

All limited access permits for which your vessel is qualified must be renewed each fishing year. If you do not renew the vessel's limited access permit(s) in any fishing year, your vessel will no longer be eligible for the permit(s) in subsequent years.

Sincerely,



Ted Hawes, Section Chief
Northeast Permit Office



National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Northeast Regional Office / Fisheries Statistics Office



**Northeast Federal Fisheries
2012 Vessel Permit Renewal Instructions**

Enclosed are the instructions for completing your renewal application for Federal Northeast Region (NER) fishing permits. These instructions do not contain all of the regulatory provisions that pertain to each fishery, and are not a substitute for the regulations. A copy of the regulations can be obtained through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) NERO web site: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. If you have further questions, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Completing the application: Please use this checklist to help ensure that your application is correct and complete. **Incomplete applications will not be processed and will be returned to you.** To complete your application you must:

- Update or correct the information printed on your application, if necessary
- Include a current copy (**not expired**) of the vessel's State Registration or Coast Guard documentation
- Ensure that your Fishing Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) have been submitted and accepted to be eligible for permit renewal (contact the Vessel Reporting Office (978) 281-9246 for information)
- Submit a Vessel Ownership Form. Identify all officers, partners, and shareholders (see page 3 for additional documents required)
- If you are renewing a charter/party permit, submit a copy of valid state charter/party license, USCG Documentation with a Coastwise endorsement, or copy of a Captain's license (see page 3 for additional documents required)
- Sign and date the application
- Submit completed Gillnet Form (if applicable)

Send or return completed applications to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: Permit Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

When to submit: There is a 30-day processing period for all applications. This 30-day processing period begins when a **complete** application package is received in the Northeast Region Permit Office. If you have any questions regarding the application process, or you would like to submit your application in person, you may visit our office at the address above from 8-4:30 Mon-Fri. Please note that we do not provide same-day application processing on applications when you visit our office. Please refer to the NMFS NER Web Page at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/> for applications, instructions, fishery regulations, and other important information, or call 978-282-8438 or e-mail Permits.ne@noaa.gov.

Who to contact with questions: The answers to many questions can be found in these instructions. Please contact us at 978-282-8438 if you have further questions. Northeast Fisheries Regulations, permit data, permit applications, and important announcements are available on our website at: www.nero.noaa.gov

Section 1 - Vessel and Owner Information (all items must be filled in)

Please verify that all owner information is complete and correct. Any new or updated address, owner, or vessel information must be written on the back of the form in Section 4a. The new information will replace the corresponding information on the front of the form. If your vessel is U.S. Coast Guard documented, a change of vessel name must also be reflected on the U.S. Coast Guard document.

Section 2 - Vessel Information

NMFS defines Home Port and Principal Port as:

Home Port: City and State where your vessel is moored.

Principal Port: City and State where the majority of your landings occur.

Please make sure the **phone number** and **area code** are complete and correct. Cross out any incorrect information on the front of the form and include the correct information in the space provided on the back of the form in section 4a.

Section 3 - Fishery Information

Fishery information gives information about the Federal permits that were last issued to your vessel. Please review the fisheries listed in this section because NMFS will consider that you have applied for the fisheries indicated in this section unless you indicate, on the form, that they should be cancelled. See section 4 below on instructions for adding a fishery that your vessel is qualified for but is not listed in section 3. NMFS reserves the right to make a final determination on a vessel's eligibility for any permit.

Cancelling a fishery: To cancel a fishery, put an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" on the front of the form in section 3. Please note that, except in certain specific cases, once you relinquish (cancel) a limited access permit, you will lose your right to renew that limited access permit in subsequent years. When cancelling a limited access permit, the application must be accompanied by verification, in writing, that the applicant has requested cancellation of a specific Federal limited access fishing permit(s) and understands that the vessel or any replacement vessel will no longer be eligible for those limited access permits.

Section 4 - Corrections and Additions

Address Corrections and Fishery Additions/Corrections are to be made in Section 4a and 4b on the back of the form. Space is provided for any changes you want to make to your Federal fisheries permit. Please cross out information you want to remove, or place an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" for the permit you want to cancel on the front of the form in section 3.

Fishery Categories and Gears: You may add or change a fishery category or gear code by entering new information in this section in the spaces provided. Your vessel must be qualified to apply for limited access fisheries. Contact Northeast Permit Office for further information. For each fishery category you want to add, circle the category numbers or letters in this column. Note that limited access permits require that you have met eligibility criteria. Selecting categories for which your vessel is not eligible may delay the processing of your application. For each fishery permit and category, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table on page 3 of these instructions. On your application, write the **gear code numbers** in the column marked *Gear Code(s)*. Please note that some fishery categories have restrictions on the type of gear that can be used as noted on pages 4-10. You may select more than one gear code for a fishery category. **If no gear code is selected, the application cannot be processed and will be returned to you.**

Section 5 – Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent

Sign and date the form. Unsigned, or otherwise incomplete applications, will be returned. Your signature is an affirmation that, under penalty of perjury, all the information provided in order to obtain this permit is true and correct. Submitting false information in connection with an application could subject you to criminal/civil penalties or permit sanctions [18 U.S.C. 1001].

Additional Documents Required

USCG Documentation/State Registration

With each application, submit a copy of your current (not expired) United States Coast Guard (USCG) Certificate of Documentation. If the vessel is not documented, send a copy of a valid (not expired) state vessel registration for the vessel. Do not send your original. We cannot accept a bill of sale or an application for renewal of the USCG Certificate of Documentation. If your vessel's state registration does not list all owners of the vessel, also provide a copy of the vessel's title, or other documentation from the appropriate state agency that identifies all vessel owners. A permit application will not be accepted if the vessel registration or documentation has expired before we receive it.

Officer/Owner/Shareholder Information

Attach a completed NMFS vessel ownership form listing and identifying all owners and shareholders. Provide the full name and mailing address of all officers and shareholders in the corporation/LLC regardless of their percentage ownership in the company/vessel. Examples of acceptable documentation include minutes from the Corporation Annual Meeting listing the names and addresses of the officers and shareholders, or a signed and dated letter from a Corporate Officer listing the names and addresses of current officers and shareholders.

Charter/Party/Headboat Vessels

If you are applying for a charter/party/headboat permit, submit a valid copy (not expired) of at least one of the following:

- State license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Certificate of Documentation showing vessel is documented for "Coastwise" trade.
- USCG license to operate or navigate passenger-carrying vessels.

Gillnet Vessels applying for Limited Access NE Multispecies and Monkfish

If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F permit with the intention of fishing with gillnet gear, you must complete sections 1 and 3 of the NMFS Gillnet Form. If you wish to order gillnet tags for either the NE multispecies or monkfish gillnet fishery, you must also submit a completed NMFS Gillnet Form.

Gear codes and explanations for section 3 of application

Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code	Gear Type	Code
Purse Seines	120	Other Trawls	330	Rod and Reel	912
Beach Seines	210	Dredge	410	Tub Trawl	913
Boat Seines	220	Gill/Entangling Nets	700	Longlines or Setlines	920
Bottom Trawls	310	Pots and Traps	800	Harpoons	1010
Mid-water Trawls	320	Hand Lines	911	Other Gears	1200
				Diving Gear	1400

Description of Northeast Fisheries Permits – Categories Are Shaded

❖ **Atlantic Sea Scallop**

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of the permit within a permit year to make a change to the limited access Sea Scallop permit category. Further restrictions may apply. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2*	Full-Time: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
3*	Part-Time: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
4	Occasional: This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl.
5*	Full-Time Small Dredge: Category 3 (Part-Time) vessel may elect this category for the entire year if the vessel uses one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and with no more than five people on board. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
6*	Part-Time Small Dredge: Category 4 (Occasional) vessel may elect this category for the entire year if the vessel uses 1 dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and with no more than five people on board. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
7*	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
8*	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets: This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) only.

*** A VMS is required to be installed and in continuous operation onboard the vessel, unless the vessel is issued a VMS 'Letter of Exemption' from NMFS to power down the VMS unit.**

Limited Access General Category (LAGC) Scallop permit categories: These permits may only be issued to qualified vessels or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations. Owners of vessels issued an NGOM or Incidental scallop permit shall have one opportunity each fishing year to request a change in its permit category by submitting an application within 45 days of the effective date of the vessel's permit. After that date, the vessel must remain in that permit category for the duration of the fishing year.

A**	LAGC – Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ permit)
B**	LAGC – Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM permit)
C**	LAGC – Incidental Catch (Incidental permit)

**** A VMS is required to be installed, activated, and a) transmitting a positional signal, or b) declared into a scallop power down activity code, or c) issued a VMS 'Letter of Exemption' from NMFS to power down the vessel's VMS unit.**

VMS purchase information:

Boatracs

Telephone: 858-458-8100
Fax: 858-458-8116

Skymate

Telephone: 866-759-6283
Fax: 703-814-8585

Thrane & Thrane

Telephone: 757-463-9557
Fax: 757-463-9581

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Northeast Multispecies

“Regulated” species (NE multispecies requiring regulated mesh): Cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), winter flounder (blackback), American plaice (dab), witch flounder (grey sole), windowpane flounder (sand dab), white hake, Atlantic halibut, and Atlantic wolffish.

Other NE multispecies:

Silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, and ocean pout.

.....
Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. All permits issued will be valid for the entire fishing year. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the NE multispecies permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A*	Day-at-Sea (DAS): This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Small Vessel Exemption (less than or equal to 30 feet): This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D*	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category is limited to handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), tub trawl (gear code 913) and longlines (gear code 920) gear only.
E*	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
F*	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year provided the vessels meet the following requirements. Category A DAS for vessels fishing under this permit category will be increased by 36%. These vessels must fish with either gillnets or trawl nets having a minimum of 8.5-inch square or diamond mesh when fishing in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, or Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas, and 7.5-inch diamond or 8.0-inch square mesh when fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Area. This category is limited to gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.
HA	Handgear A: (Vessels in this category may not change category) The vessel may possess and land one Atlantic halibut and possession limit restrictions for the remaining regulated species and ocean pout. This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.

*** An operational VMS is required to be on board the vessel to fish for groundfish under a NE multispecies DAS, on a sector trip, or a Handgear A vessel in the common pool that intends to fish in more than one broad stock area (BSA) on a single trip.**

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

HB	Handgear B: The vessel may possess and land one Atlantic halibut and other possession restrictions for the remaining regulated species. This category includes rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.
I	Charter/Party: The vessel may possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912) and handline (gear code 911) gear only.
J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. Vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit (Categories 2 – 9) to qualify for this category. This category includes all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: The vessel may fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut when participating in an exempted fishing program. This category includes all gear types.

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Monkfish

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations for further information.

A	Vessels may elect this category if they do not possess a limited access multispecies (with the exception of a Handgear A) permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
B	Vessels may elect this category if they do not possess a limited access multispecies (with the exception of a Handgear A) permit or a limited access scallop permit, and that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category A permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Vessels may elect this category if they possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
D	Vessels may elect this category if they possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit, and are less than 51 GRT and do not qualify for a Category C permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
F*	Offshore Fishery Program: Vessels may elect this category if they are eligible for monkfish limited access permit categories A, B, C, or D and have an operational Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) installed on the vessel. Monkfish permit category A, B, C, and D vessels may opt into this program for an entire fishing year, which begins on May 1 and ends on April 30. The request to opt into the offshore fishery must be completed within 45 days of the effective date of the monkfish permit. Vessels in this program are restricted to fishing under a monkfish Days At Sea during the specified season of October 1–April 30 each year and within the Offshore Fishery Program Area. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.

*** Operational VMS required**

Limited Access Permit Categories for Vessels Fishing South of 38°20' N. Lat. – Vessels issued a limited access Category G or H permit are restricted to fishing under a monkfish DAS in the area south of 38°20' N. lat.

G	Vessels may elect this category if they were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
H	Vessels may elect this category if they were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that did not qualify for a category G permit. This category includes all gear types.

Area Declaration: Please note that vessels without an operational VMS unit fishing exclusively in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) for monkfish must request a Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) Exemption Certificate in order to be exempt from the more restrictive management measures of the SFMA. Contact the Permit Office at 978-282-8438. Vessels with an operational VMS unit must declare the appropriate code to indicate they intend to fish exclusively in the NFMA.

Open Access Permit Categories: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a monkfish limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land monkfish. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

E	Incidental Catch: Allows a vessel to possess and land a limited amount of monkfish, depending on fishing year, area fished, and gear fished. For specific limit amounts, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315. This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

- **See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes**

❖ Surfclam/Ocean Quahog/Maine Mahogany Quahog

Surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, as well as Maine mahogany quahog vessels, are required to have an operational vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board their vessel. For open access surfclam and ocean quahog vessels, VMS installation and operation must be verified prior to issuance of the permit. Maine mahogany quahog permitted vessels are not required to install a VMS unit until they fish for, land, take, possess, or transfer ocean quahogs under a limited access Maine mahogany quahog permit. For more information on VMS requirements, call 978-281-9315.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fishery Regulations.

1*	Surfclam: The vessel may fish for surfclams. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only. VMS required.
6*	Ocean Quahog: The vessel may fish for ocean quahogs. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only. VMS required.

To possess and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required.

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

7*	Maine Mahogany Quahog: The vessel may harvest and land ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of 43° 50' N. latitude. This category is limited to dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
-----------	--

* Operational VMS required.

❖ Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess summer flounder in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Scup (Porgy)

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Scup Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess scup in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

❖ Black Sea Bass

Limited Access Permit Categories: This permit may only be issued to vessels that have previously held it or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Black Sea Bass Commercial Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Black Sea Bass (continued)

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess black sea bass in the EEZ north of 35° 15.3' N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Squid, Atlantic Mackerel, and Butterfish

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations. Longfin squid was previously referred to as *Loligo* squid. Due to a recent change in the scientific name of longfin squid from *Loligo pealeii* to *Doryteuthis (Amerigo) pealeii*, permits will now use the common name “longfin squid” in all official documents to avoid confusion.

1	Longfin squid/Butterfish Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
5	Illex Squid Moratorium: This category includes all gear types.
T1	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 1: May fish commercially in the EEZ for unlimited amounts of mackerel. This category includes all gear types. Must submit a fish hold volume certification by December 31, 2012.
T2	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 2: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 135,000 lb of mackerel per trip. This category includes all gear types. Must submit a fish hold volume certification by December 31, 2012.
T3	Atlantic Mackerel Tier 3: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 100,000 lb of mackerel per trip. This category includes all gear types. Vessels issued Tier 3 permits will be limited to no more than 7% of the annual commercial mackerel quota.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Longfin or Illex squid, mackerel or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.
3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lb of Longfin squid per trip, 10,000 lb of Illex squid per trip, or 2,500 lb of butterfish per trip. This category includes all gear types.
4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ for up to 20,000 lb of mackerel. This category includes all gear types.

Note: Atlantic mackerel at-sea processing vessels must apply for a permit as a dealer/processor.

❖ Incidental Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Squid Trawl

Limited Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries Regulations.

1	Incidental Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Squid Trawl Permit: Allowed only for vessels issued a valid Illex Squid Moratorium permit. Authorizes the limited retention of incidentally-caught swordfish. This category only includes trawl gear.
----------	--

❖ Spiny Dogfish

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ Atlantic Bluefish

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Commercial: May possess or harvest Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ in excess of the daily possession limit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.

- See page 3 for a list of Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes

❖ Atlantic Herring

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to qualified vessels or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

A*	All Areas: Authorizes the harvest of herring in any management area, without being subject to possession limits during the time when the sub-annual catch limit (ACL) in the defined management area has not been reached. This category includes all gear types.
B*	Areas 2/3: Authorizes the harvest of herring only in Areas 2 or 3, without being subject to possession limits during the time when the sub-ACL in the defined management area has not been reached. This category includes all gear types.
C*	Incidental Catch: Authorizes the harvest of up to 55,000 lb herring in any management area during the time when the sub-ACL in the defined management area has not been reached, with a limit of one landing per calendar day. This category includes all gear types.

*** All vessels applying for and issued a limited access herring permit, with the exception of fixed gear (weirs and stop seines) fishermen, must install and maintain an operable VMS unit, and comply with all VMS notification and reporting requirements. Such vessels may power down the VMS unit when in port, but must re-power the VMS unit and enter an appropriate trip designation prior to leaving port.**

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

D	Open Access: Authorizes the harvest of up to 6,600 lb of herring in any management area during the time when the sub-ACL in these management areas has not been reached, with a limit of one landing per calendar day. This category includes all gear types.
----------	--

❖ Tilefish

Open Access Permit Categories: A vessel must fish under the authorization of an Individual Fishing Quota Allocation permit to possess more than the incidental trip limit. Further restrictions may apply to these categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Open Access Commercial/Incidental: May possess or land tilefish in or from the EEZ, north of the VA/NC border, up to 500 lb whole weight, or 455 lb head-on and gutted, per trip. In order for any vessel to possess more than 500 lb of tilefish per trip, the vessel must also fish under the authorization of an IFQ Allocation permit. This category includes all gear types.
2	Open Access Charter/Party: May fish for or possess tilefish in the EEZ, north of the VA/NC border, while carrying passengers for hire. (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types.

❖ Skate

Northeast Skate Complex (Skate) - The following species of skates comprise the NE skate complex and are included under the Federal skate permit: Winter skate; barndoor skate; thorny skate; smooth skate; little skate; clearnose skate; and rosette skate.

Open Access Permit Categories: Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land skate caught in or from the EEZ. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

- See page 3 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes

❖ Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

B	This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
C	This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Open Access Permit Categories: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a red crab limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land red crab in or from the EEZ.

A	May possess or land red crab in or from the EEZ up to 500 lb per trip. This category includes all gear types.
----------	---

❖ American Lobster

Limited Access Permit Categories: These permits may only be issued to vessels that have previously held them or to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. Note, if you designate more than one category, you will be subject to the most restrictive management measures, including trap allocations, of all of the categories selected. A vessel owner has 45 days from the first effective date of his/her permit within a permit year to make a change to the American Lobster permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations at 50 CFR 697.

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ. This category includes all gear types except pots and traps. If you plan to fish with non-trap gear only, you are not required to elect trap gear areas.
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See page 3, additional documents required). This category includes all gear types except pots and traps.
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Includes Area 2/3 overlap.
A3	Commercial Trap Gear Area 3: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 3. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area. Includes Area 2/3 overlap.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. Must have a valid historic allocation to elect this area.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Outer Cape Federal Lobster Management Area. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information on the initial vessel application is estimated to average 45 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing and reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. The Paperwork Reduction Act requires that potential respondents for a fishing vessel permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for Federal fisheries permits.

One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to carry out its conservation and management objectives is the requirement of a permit for users of the resources. All the fisheries included on this application require a permit to fish for or retain these species in or from the EEZ. Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance. The purpose and use of these permits are to: (1) Register industry participants and fishing vessels; (2) list the characteristics of fishing vessels; (3) exercise influence over compliance; (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry; (5) register participants to be considered for limited access; and (6) provide a pool of participants for data collection samples. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject 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. Owner name, vessel characteristics, address, phone, and permit information will be released via NMFS Fisheries website. All other data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics.

OMB# 0648-0202 Expires: 4/30/2013



**National Marine Fisheries Service
 (NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE)
 Vessel Trip Reporting (VTRs)**

This guide provides a list of commonly asked questions regarding VTRs. This document is intended as a guide only and its content is subject to change. For more comprehensive information please refer to the regulations at 50 CFR part 648. Please visit the NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office (NERO) online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/> and click on “Vessel Trip Report Information” for additional details.

Reporting regulations [50 CFR 648.7] require that the owner or operator of any vessel issued a Federal fishing permit for any of the species listed in the table below submit an accurate and timely VTR for each trip, regardless of area fished, targeted species or permit used. In other words, an owner or operator of a federally permitted vessel possessing any of the permits listed below must submit a VTR for each and every trip taken regardless of where they fish or what they catch.

Northeast Region Federal permits requiring mandatory reporting

Northeast multispecies	black sea bass	tilefish	scup
Atlantic sea scallop	Atlantic bluefish	Atlantic deep sea red crab	surfclam
monkfish	Atlantic herring	spiny dogfish	ocean quahog
Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish	Northeast skate	summer flounder	

Report Submission Timelines:

- All vessels, except those possessing a Northeast Multispecies or Atlantic Herring permit, required to send VTR’s must submit their VTRs on a monthly basis. VTRs must be received or postmarked by the 15th day of the month following the month in which the trip occurred.
- Any vessel issued a Federal Northeast Multispecies or an Atlantic Herring permit, regardless of category (limited access, open access or Charter/Party), must submit VTRs on a weekly basis. VTRs must be submitted by midnight of the Tuesday following the reporting week (Sunday through Saturday) in which fish were offloaded for any trip, including trips landing other species.
- Did Not Fish reports are due in accordance with the above submission schedule.
- Submit the white original (NMFS Copy) to:

NMFS
 Vessel Trip Reporting Office
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

If you have any questions regarding VTRs, please call the NMFS Vessel Trip Report Office at (978) 281-9246.

Questions & Answers

If my vessel wasn't fishing, how do I report?

If a vessel does not fish for an entire calendar month, a "Did Not Fish" report is required. A separate report is required for each such month unless you possess a Federal Northeast Multispecies or an Atlantic Herring Permit.

If I fish in state waters, do I have to submit a trip report?

Yes. If you possess a Federal permit for any species listed above in Table 1, or are eligible to renew a limited access permit, you then have VTR requirements regardless of what license, permit, or waters you fish.

I was fishing on my "state license", do I have to submit a trip report?

Yes. If you possess a Federal permit for any species listed above in Table 1, or are eligible to renew a limited access permit, you then have VTR requirements regardless of what license, permit, or waters you were fishing.

I possess only a Federal lobster permit. What are my reporting requirements?

You have no VTR reporting requirements to NMFS. Please check with your state to determine if you have state reporting requirements.

I possess a Federal lobster permit along with another Federal permit that is listed in the table above, however I never use that permit. What are my reporting requirements?

Because you possess another Federal permit in addition to your Federal lobster permit, you must report all of your fishing activity including all your lobster trips.

Do I have to report if I take my boat out for recreational purposes?

No. You only need to report commercial, party, or charter trips. A trip would not be considered recreational if you sold any of your catch or accepted compensation from passengers.

I hold several Federal permits. Do I have to complete more than one VTR per trip?

In most cases a single report can be used to fulfill all of your reporting requirements.

If I change gear type, gear size, or area fished during a trip, how do I report the trip?

Complete a separate report page for any change in gear type, gear size, or chart area.

What do I need to provide to my dealer when I offload my catch?

Vessels must supply the VTR serial number to all federally permitted dealers purchasing the catch. In the instance where you have completed more than one VTR for a trip (see question above), then the serial number from the first VTR completed should be supplied to the dealer(s). The VTR form provides two (2) additional pages intended to be given to the dealers by the vessel representative.

Who can I sell my catch to?

Federally permitted vessels are only allowed to sell their catch of federally managed species to federally permitted dealers or to take a portion of that catch home for their own consumption. Species that are not regulated by NMFS may be sold elsewhere and in that case, no VTR serial number needs to be supplied.

What if I do not land any fish on a trip?

If no species are landed, complete all of the trip information and enter "No Catch" in the species code name column (#17).

My supply of VTRs is getting low, how do I get more?

VTRs can be obtained by mailing the pink renewal form contained in each logbook package to the NMFS address below. You may also obtain VTRs by contacting the NMFS Vessel Trip Reporting Office, either in person, or by telephone at (978) 281-9157 or by contacting your local NMFS Field Office.



Summary of Control Dates for Northeast Fisheries



This fact sheet informs permit applicants that there may be future management action taken by the New England Fishery Management Council, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, or the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to establish eligibility criteria for determining future fishing access to the fisheries identified below. In each of these cases, the Council or Commission with management authority for the fishery requested the National Marine Fisheries Service to publish a date, after which vessels may not be eligible to participate in the fishery. This date is known as a control date. This fact sheet informs you that these control dates may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery.

THIS INFORMATION IS ADVISORY ONLY. It is intended to inform you only that these control dates have been established and may potentially be used to determine future participation in the fishery. It also provides you with notice that you may wish to locate and preserve records to substantiate and verify fishery participation, for use in the event a limited access program is established in the future.

Establishing a control date does not commit the Councils, Commission, or the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop any particular management system or criteria for participation in these fisheries. The Councils or Commission may choose a different control date, or may choose to establish a management program that does not make use of such a date.

For further information, please contact the appropriate fishery management council or commission:

New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) On the web: www.nefmc.org Telephone: 978-465-0492	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) On the web: www.mafmc.org Telephone: 302-674-2331
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) On the web: www.asmfc.org Telephone: 703-842-0740	Summary revised January 2012

Species	Control Date	Council	Current status of management action
Ocean pout	9-9-96	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Bluefish	5-29-97	MAFMC	No action currently underway.
Spiny Dogfish	5-18-98	MAFMC lead (joint plan with NEFMC)	Amendment 3 is under development and may establish limited access and/or recreational management measures.
Capacity Control Scallop Multispecies, Monkfish DAS	9-10-99	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Black Sea Bass	6-5-01	MAFMC	Would have established different classes of permits for the fishery; considered in Amendment 13 but not adopted by Council.
Atlantic Mackerel	7-5-02	MAFMC	Amendment 11 to the Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish FMP which implemented a limited access program for the mackerel fishery, has been finalized and NOAA Fisheries is accepting applications until February 28, 2013. See the November 18, 2011, permit holder letter for more information http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/nr/nrdoc/11/11MackLAPermitPHL.pdf
Hagfish	8-28-02	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
Whiting/red hake/offshore hake	3-25-03	NEFMC	Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP is under development and may establish some form of limited access for the whiting (small-mesh multispecies) fishery.
Multispecies Charter/Party	3-30-06	NEFMC	No action currently underway.
American Lobster	9-1-99 1-2-09	ASMFC	Management action is currently under development and may establish some form of limited access to fish with traps in Lobster Management Areas 1, 2, and the Outer Cape and potentially allow qualified permit holders to transfer traps in Area 2,3, and Outer Cape.
Skates	7-30-09	NEFMC	No action currently underway.