

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

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Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

06/25/2004

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for approval of a revision of an information collection received on 03/30/2004.

TITLE: Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE
OMB NO.: 0648-0202
EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2007

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS(\$,000)
Previous	612,175	22,462	1,370
New	6,210,270	27,097	1,456
Difference	5,598,095	4,635	86
Program Change		232	4
Adjustment		4,403	82

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

OMB Authorizing Official	Title
Donald R. Arbuckle	Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
7. Title	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
9. Keywords	10. Abstract
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NORTHEAST REGION PERMIT FAMILY OF FORMS
OMB NUMBER 0648-0202**

Introduction

This submission requests renewal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms (OMB Control No. 0648-0202) as it pertains to all the permitting requirements. This submission includes a minor increase in burden due to measures that have been implemented under Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) under the jurisdiction of the Northeast Regional Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) as of February 2, 2004. It also includes an adjustment to the estimates. This submission constitutes the 3-year renewal of 0648-0202.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) has responsibility for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States. The majority of this responsibility has been delegated to NOAA Fisheries under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Secretary was given certain regulatory authorities to ensure that these resources are utilized in the most beneficial manner. The requirement of a permit for users of these resources is one of the regulatory steps taken to carry out conservation and management objectives. Section 303 (b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act specifically addresses the need for permit issuance. In addition, almost every international, Federal, state, and local fishery management authority recognizes the value and use of permits as part of their respective management systems. Thus, the Secretary has promulgated rules for the issuance of Federal fisheries permits.

The issuance of a permit is an essential part of managing fishery resources. The purpose and use of permits is to: (1) Register vessel owners, vessel operators, fishing vessels, fish dealers, and processors; (2) list the characteristics of fishing vessels and/or dealer/processor operations; (3) exercise influence over compliance (e.g., withhold permit issuance pending collection of unpaid penalties, or unsubmitted, but required data); (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry; (5) register participants to be considered for limited entry; and (6) provide a universe for data collection samples. Identification of the participants, their gear types, vessels, and expected activity levels is an effective and necessary tool in the enforcement of fishery regulations. This information is needed to measure the consequences of management controls, as well. Participants in certain fisheries may also be required to notify NOAA Fisheries before fishing trips for the purpose of observer

placement and to make other reports on fishing activities. Limited access (moratorium) permits are necessary to control fishing effort by managing the number of participants in a fishery. Dealer and vessel permits are necessary to ensure that data collection covers entire fisheries. Finally, vessel operator permits serve as primarily a compliance and information dissemination tool.

The permit system is an integral part of the management of fisheries in the Northeast Region of NOAA Fisheries. Consolidated regulations for the fisheries included in this collection are found at 50 CFR part 648 and 50 CFR part 697. It would not be possible to carry out the mandates of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other laws if approval to continue these previously approved collections were to be denied.

Vessel Permits

There are two major categories of vessel permits--open access and limited access (or moratorium). Since there are no eligibility requirements, open access permits are available to anyone who applies. Conversely, limited access permits are issued to only those applicants who meet the specific qualification requirements for a particular fishery. The permits included in this submission are for the following open and limited access fisheries: Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic sea scallop, black sea bass, bluefish, Illex squid, Loligo squid, butterfish, monkfish, Northeast (NE) multispecies, ocean quahog, scup, spiny dogfish, summer flounder, surf clam, tilefish, deep-sea red crab, NE skates, and American lobster. Some fisheries are entirely limited access (e.g., American lobster), while others are entirely open access (e.g., bluefish and spiny dogfish). However, most of the fisheries included in the Northeast Permit Family of Forms have both limited access and open access categories. Therefore, if an applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements of a limited access fishery, they may apply for an open access permit.

Entry into limited access fisheries typically requires proof of vessel eligibility, usually in the form of documented landings of the managed species or species group to be submitted with the permit application. Eligibility for limited access fisheries is established only once, during the initial year of the program. In subsequent fishing years, the permit is reissued in the same manner as open access permits. The permit applicant will be provided a pre-printed renewal form each year on which they select the open access permits they want, and the limited access permits for which their vessel has qualified.

Vessel Replacements, Upgrades, and Confirmations of Permit History

The vessel replacement, upgrade, and confirmation of permit history (RUPH) application provides a one-step venue for applicants to request one or more of the following limited access permit actions on one form: Replacement of one vessel by another vessel; upgrade a vessel's physical characteristics (specifications); and/or retain a vessel's limited access permit history. This form saves time and effort by guiding applicants through the process, and by including these interrelated permit actions on one

form.

Dealer/Processor Permits

Identification of dealer/processors is needed to obtain first purchase information on landings to evaluate the biological, economic, and social implications of management measures. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act, and Executive Orders 12866 and 13121 require the determination of these facts. This collection of information includes the following dealer permits: Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic sea scallop, black sea bass, bluefish, Illex squid, Loligo squid, butterfish, monkfish, NE multispecies, ocean quahog, scup, spiny dogfish, summer flounder, surf clam, tilefish, deep-sea red crab, NE skates, American lobster, and Atlantic tunas.

Operator Permits

The vessel operator permit enables NOAA Fisheries to send notices of proposed and approved regulatory changes to vessel operators, as well as vessel owners, improving the flow of information to the industry. These permits are required for all operators of vessels issued Federal permits in the following fisheries: Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic sea scallop, black sea bass, bluefish, Illex squid, Loligo squid, butterfish, monkfish, NE multispecies, ocean quahog, scup, spiny dogfish, surf clam, tilefish, deep-sea red crab, NE skates, and American lobster.

The possible revocation of vessel, dealer, and operator permits helps to ensure compliance with reporting and other fishery specific regulatory requirements. Experience has shown that fines for violations of specific fishery regulations are not as effective as the threat of withdrawing or not renewing permits. Fines for fishing without a permit can be more substantial and easier to enforce than fines for other violations. Vessel owners may be willing to pay the lower fines if the violation brings enough economic benefit, but do not want to be excluded from the fishery.

Observer Requirements

Any vessel holding a permit for Atlantic sea scallops, NE multispecies, monkfish, NE skates, Atlantic mackerel, squid, butterfish, scup, black sea bass, bluefish, spiny dogfish, Atlantic herring, tilefish, deep-sea red crab, a moratorium permit for summer flounder, and/or American lobster, may be requested to carry a NOAA Fisheries-approved observer or sea sampler. Observer coverage may also be required for vessels participating in any of the exemption programs established under the above listed FMPs. Such requests are made at the discretion of the Regional Administrator (RA) for the purpose of monitoring fishing activities, collection of data, and compliance as stated under §648.11 and § 697.12 (American lobster). Requests for observer coverage are made from the list of permit holders for those species.

Programs Authorized for Federal Permit Holders

There are several programs authorized to the holders of Federal permits, such as exempted fisheries and vessel monitoring. Several NE Region FMPs allow exemptions from the regulations for fisheries conducted in a manner already consistent with the goals and objectives of the FMP. For example, the minimum mesh requirement of the summer flounder fishery is waived for a fishery that occurs in an area where the gear selectivity measure would have no significant conservation benefit (§648.104(b)(1)). Similarly, under the NE Multispecies FMP, many exemptions have been authorized for small mesh fisheries and fisheries not requiring effort controls as each one is demonstrated to have a negligible effect on the species under protection (§648.80(a)).

The purpose of fishery exemptions is to allow federally permitted vessels to conduct fisheries that might otherwise be restricted. In this way, the social and economic impacts associated with conservation plans are lessened. The NE Multispecies FMP anticipates the need for such exemptions. As a result, an expedited process exists at §648.80(a)(7) of the regulations for adding, deleting, or modifying exempted fisheries. According to this measure, if the RA, after consultation with the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC), determines that the fishery in question would have less than 5 percent bycatch of regulated multispecies and the exemption will not jeopardize fishing mortality objectives, the exemption may be allowed and added to the list of exemptions under §648.80(a).

Because exemptions provide alternatives to the often restrictive fisheries managed under an FMP, special permitting (including certificates) or Letters of Authorization (LOA) are often required to ensure compliance and consistency with the purpose of the exemption. Special permits and LOAs provide a list of participants, their period of participation, and assist the agency in compliance monitoring. Special permits and LOAs also serve to resolve confusion and delay caused when a vessel in an authorized exemption program is boarded by enforcement officers to determine whether or not the vessel is fishing illegally. Some exemptions requiring LOAs include the Summer Flounder Small Mesh Exemption (§648.104(b)(1)) and the Winter Flounder State Waters Exemption (§648.80(i)). Some of the exemptions authorized under §648.80(a) of the NE multispecies regulations that require an LOA include the Cultivator Shoal Whiting Fishery Exemption (§648.80(a)(4)) and the Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Fishery Exemption (§648.80(a)(9)).

The following exemptions contain collection of information requirements under OMB-0648-0202: (1) Cod trip limit exemption; (2) summer flounder small-mesh exemption; (3) winter flounder state waters exemption; (4) midwater trawl exemption; (5) purse seine exemption; (6) Nantucket Shoals dogfish exemption; (7) Southern New England (SNE) little tunny gillnet exemption; (8) Gulf of Maine (GOM) party/charter exemption; (9) Nantucket Lightship party/charter exemption; (10) state waters sea scallop exemption program; (11) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) regulatory area request; (12) scallop trawl net exemption; (12) raised footrope trawl whiting fishery; (13) Cultivator Shoal raised footrope trawl whiting fishery; (14) monkfish southern fishery management area landing limit and minimum fish size exemption; (15) yellowtail flounder possession/landing exemption for GOM/Georges Bank (GB) regulated mesh area (RMA); (16) yellowtail flounder possession north of 40 degrees north latitude in the SNE and mid-Atlantic (MA) RMA; (17) the western GOM and Cashes Ledge closed

areas charter/party exemption; and (18) authorization to transfer fish at sea.

Effort Reduction: Call-in Programs/Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)

The principal means for monitoring fishing effort in the NE multispecies, monkfish, and red crab limited access fisheries are through a “call-in” telephone system. Vessels allocated DAS in those fisheries must call-in to declare the start and end dates and times of directed fishing trips (§648.10(c)). In addition, vessels participating in the NE multispecies fishery, with the exception of vessels issued a valid Small Vessel permit, and vessels issued a Category A or B limited access monkfish permit must notify the RA through the call-in system of the commencement date of their 20-day period out of the NE multispecies fishery. Day gillnet vessels must utilize these same procedures to declare their required time out (as specified in (§648.82(k)(1)(iv)) of the NE multispecies fishery.

Conversely, the limited access sea scallop fishery relies primarily on Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to monitor fishing effort. Vessels issued a full-time or part-time limited access sea scallop permit, or under a specific exemption program, must have on board an operational VMS unit that meets established minimum performance criteria (§648.9). All notification requirements for these vessels are handled through the VMS unit. Owners of vessels issued a limited access NE multispecies, monkfish, occasional scallop, or combination permit may elect to provide notification requirements through a VMS unit rather than the call-in system (§648.10(c)). In all circumstances, vessels owners must provide proof of VMS installation with the vessel’s permit application (§648.10(b)(1)).

Limited access vessels fishing under DAS requirements that have assisted in U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) search and rescue operations or assisted in towing a disabled vessel may apply for Good Samaritan credits (§648.53(e)). This provision enables such vessels to not accrue DAS for the documented time of their assistance efforts.

Sea scallop vessels wishing to fish under the state waters exemption program (described at §648.54) must notify the RA by VMS or call-in notification (§648.10(e)). If using VMS notification, vessels must notify the RA prior to the vessel’s first trip under the state waters exemption program, and prior to the vessels first planned trip back in the EEZ. If using call-in notification, vessels must notify the RA at least 7 days prior to fishing under the exemption and provide the beginning and end dates of the exemption period. Vessels using call-in notification must remain in the exemption for a minimum of 7 days. However, those wishing to withdraw early must notify the RA through the call-in system, but cannot leave port to fish in the EEZ until 48 hours after the RA has received notification of early withdrawal. This system of VMS or call-in notification will ensure that scallop vessels fishing under the state waters exemption program remain within a state’s waters to be exempt from DAS, gear, and possession limit requirements.

Owners or operators of surf clam and ocean quahog vessels are required to call the NOAA Fisheries

Office of Law Enforcement nearest to the point of offloading prior to the departure of their vessel from the dock. If a trip is postponed, canceled, or discontinued early, vessel owners or operators must immediately contact the Office of Law Enforcement to which the original notification was provided. This call in requirement is utilized strictly by NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement to facilitate enforcement of the surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries (§648.15(b)).

Vessels fishing under the GOM cod trip limit may transit from one port to another provided that the operator notifies the RA prior to transiting (§648.86(b)(3)).

Gillnet Tagging Program and Category Designation

Gillnet vessels are required to elect a gillnet category designation by selecting either the “Day gillnet” or “Trip gillnet” category on a form provided by NOAA Fisheries (§648.4(c)(2)(ii)). On this same form, vessel owners who have selected the “Day gillnet” category may request the required net tags and send a check for the cost of the tags. If the maximum number of tags are not requested on the initial form, vessel owners may request additional tags at any time during the fishing year through an additional form. If any tags are lost or destroyed, the RA must be notified as soon as possible via letter or fax. The vessel owner may also request replacement tags via the same letter or fax, including a check for the cost of the replacement tags (§648.82(k)). This tagging program helps enforce limits on the number of nets a vessel is allowed to fish at a given time.

Monkfish Area Declaration and Tagging Program

Vessels participating in the monkfish DAS program that intend to fish solely in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) must declare into the area by notifying NOAA Fisheries (§648.93(b)(2)). Vessels must declare into this area for a period of not less than 30 days.

In addition, monkfish vessels participating in the monkfish DAS program and using gillnet gear must obtain gillnet tags on a form provided by NOAA Fisheries (§648.92(b)(8)). This form is the same form used to declare a gillnet category and order tags for the NE multispecies gillnet fishery.

American Lobster Trap Area Designation and Tagging Program

Each owner of a fishing vessel that fishes with traps capable of catching American lobster must declare to NOAA Fisheries on the annual application for permit renewal which management areas the vessel will fish in for lobster with trap gear during that fishing season. Any lobster trap fished in Federal waters must be affixed with a valid lobster trap tag (unless exempt under § 697.26, Area 5 waiver). Trap tags are issued by the RA or by state agencies by agreement with the RA. The trap tags must be purchased using a NOAA Fisheries trap tag order form or state equivalent. The purpose of the trap tags is to enforce the number of traps a vessel is authorized to fish based on the area(s) designated. Vessel owners are required to report lost, destroyed, or missing tags to the RA within 7 days of the loss incident, and may request replacement of the lost, destroyed, or missing tags (§ 697.4). Vessels that

possess both an American lobster permit for traps in Area 5 and Federal limited access black sea bass permit have the option to participate in the Area 5 waiver category. By opting for this category, they are allowed a limited possession limit for lobster while directing trap fishing on black sea bass. They can opt in and out of this category throughout the permit year by notifying the NE Region Permit Office and completing a permit application (§ 697.26).

State Quota Transfer Requests

The summer flounder and bluefish fisheries are currently managed by a commercial quota allocated on a state-by-state basis. The summer flounder and bluefish quotas are annual allocations. These two fisheries allow states to request that quota be transferred or combined between and among states for a particular fishery (§648.100(e), §648.160(f)). Requests are made in writing to the RA. Quota transfers allow flexibility among the states in managing their allocations, thereby addressing unforeseen variations and contingencies in the fisheries.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

The information requested on the consolidated permit application forms are used by several offices of NOAA Fisheries, the USCG, the NEFMC, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), state fishery management agencies, academic institutions, and other fishery research and management organizations to evaluate current management programs and future management proposals. In most cases, aggregated summaries are made available, but for law enforcement, mailings, or resource allocation problems, individual permit information is often required.

Mailing lists derived from the applications provide NOAA Fisheries with the assurance of reaching all concerned constituents with notices of fishery closures, regulatory changes, and other important information.

Vessel Permit Application Forms

The vessel permit application form is used to collect vessel permit information. Permits are issued annually or more frequently at the request of the applicant if changes are necessary. There are two vessel permit application forms--an initial form for new vessels and a renewal form for previously permitted vessels.

In section 1 of the permit application, information such as name and address of the owner is used to identify the applicant and legal ownership of the vessel. This requirement is essential in the use of permits as a fisheries enforcement tool. For example, violations of catch regulations may result in the

suspension of a vessel's permit. Since a corporation may own several vessels, identification of ownership on the application form allows NOAA Fisheries to sanction the company as well as the individual vessel or vessel operator for repeated violations of regulations. This information is also used to provide a mailing list, as mentioned above.

A USCG documentation number, or state registration number when appropriate, serve to further identify an individual vessel. This number is especially useful in tracking permit histories to past owners, assuring that qualified vessels obtain proper moratorium permits. As more fisheries undergo moratoriums limiting the access of participants, that history becomes more and more important.

Telephone numbers are required to assist NOAA Fisheries in processing the application. Possessing a telephone number for an applicant enables questions to be resolved more efficiently and inexpensively than via correspondence, thus facilitating timely issuance of the permits. Home and principal port information provides managers with information on the distribution of fishing effort and fishing communities--vital components in evaluation of socio-economic impacts of fishing regulations.

The vessel information requested in section 2 of the initial application is required for evaluation of fishing power and capacity and is used by fishery economists and researchers to estimate the impacts of the fishing fleet on a resource and perform other studies as appropriate. Information from this database is used frequently throughout the year as studies are needed.

The fishery information requested in section 3 is used by NOAA Fisheries, the Councils, and other fishery research and management organizations to evaluate the placement, qualifications, and fishing methods of participants in the various fisheries. This information defines the type of permit issued to an applicant and which restrictions apply to that type of permit.

Section 4 of the initial permit application, and section 5 of the renewal application, requires that the permit holder sign and date the application. A signature is required on all application forms for legal accountability and protection of the applicant.

The renewal application differs from the initial application in that each year a pre-printed application, based on the most recent permit, is mailed to each permit holder. Any changes that are necessary can be quickly accomplished simply by noting the changes in the appropriate "Changes" column. The renewal application enables the vessel owner to renew permits by simply signing and returning the form. However, if the vessel owner wants to make changes to the vessel's permits, or if the applicant no longer owns the vessel, this can be noted on the application by checking the appropriate section. The information provided is used by the NOAA Fisheries permit office to insure that data are accurate and up-to-date.

Vessel Replacement, Upgrades, and Confirmation of Permit History

In order to replace a vessel holding limited access permits with another vessel, upgrade a vessel's physical characteristics, or retain a vessel's limited access permit history, a vessel owner or authorized representative must complete an RUPH application. The purpose of this form is to formalize procedures necessary to insure that vessel owners upgrade or replace vessels within the required parameters (10 percent for length overall (LOA), gross registered tonnage (GRT) and net tonnage (NT), and 20 percent for horsepower). This form also formalizes the procedures by which vessel owners may retain their vessel's limited access permit history.

Applicants are asked to indicate the type of action being requested on the first page of the application. The instructions listed on this page then direct the applicant to the appropriate section of the application. All applicants must complete the information listed on page 2 of the application: Name of the old vessel, permit number, USCG or state registration number, current owner of vessel or permit history, address of owner, telephone number of owner, and owner signature. In cases where the owner no longer owns the vessel, but has retained the fishing history, a bill of sale stating the retention of history signed by both the buyer and seller must be submitted.

Section A is to be completed by applicants wishing to replace their old vessel. This section requests information pertaining to the name of the new vessel, permit number (if applicable), USCG or state registration number, and the type of limited access permits being transferred. Applicants must submit proof of size and horsepower for both old and new vessels.

The regulations state that the replacement vessel's LOA, GRT, and NT may not exceed that of the original vessel by more than 10 percent (§648.4(a)(E)). In addition, the replacement vessel's horsepower must not exceed that of the original vessel by more than 20 percent. The original vessel is that which first received the limited access permit for a particular fishery. The baseline is established according to the year when that fishery's limited access permits were first issued.

Section B is completed by applicants wishing to upgrade the specifications for their vessel independent of a vessel replacement. A vessel upgrade is the increase in a vessel's size (LOA, GRT, and NT) and/or horsepower from the specifications of the baseline vessel. The regulations state that a 10 percent increase in LOA, GRT, and NT (size specifications), as well as a 20 percent increase in horsepower, are allowed. Vessel size and horsepower may be upgraded independently of one another. However, increases in LOA, GRT, or NT must be done at the same time (§648.4(a)(F)). This section asks for only the change in vessel specification(s) along with submission of verifying documentation.

Section C is completed by applicants wishing to retain their vessel's limited access permit history. In the event that the vessel was sold, the applicant must submit a bill of sale signed by both the buyer and seller stating that the fishing history was retained by the seller. In the instance the vessel sank or was destroyed, the applicant must submit proof of this in the form of a USCG marine casualty report (or other proof of casualty) or insurance document. Once the application and supporting documents are received by NOAA Fisheries, a Confirmation of Permit History certificate will be processed and sent to the applicant.

Section D lists the acceptable forms and sources of verification for vessel specifications, vessel ownership, vessel history retention, and vessel sinkage or destruction. This information is necessary so that the regulations can be administered as they were written and to further the conservation goals and objectives of these fisheries (§648.4(a)(1)(i)(F)).

The number of vessel owners replacing, upgrading, or retaining their vessel's fishing history varies depending on circumstance. Thus, it is difficult to estimate how many vessel owners will need to complete an RUPH application on an annual basis.

Dealer/Processor Application Forms

Dealer permits are issued annually, or more frequently if changes are requested by the applicant. There are two types of applications, initial and renewal. Section 1 of the Dealer permit application requests information on the dealer including vessel permit number, company name, owner name, company address, and telephone and FAX number where applicable. In section 2, the applicant selects the fisheries for which he/she wants dealer permits. Section 3 is the signature block section where the applicant attests to the truth and accuracy of the information provided. Dealer information can be used by enforcement officers to check for regulatory infractions in all of the fisheries, and by NOAA Fisheries scientists and economists as a basis for sampling. The dealer permit requirement ensures complete reporting from dealers for federally permitted fisheries. Reports furnished by permitted dealers provide important information on the volume, value, and distribution of these high value, overfished stocks at the point of first purchase.

Operator Application Forms

All operators of federally permitted vessels, except summer flounder vessels, are required to have a Federal operator's permit. These permits are renewed every three years. The Operator Permit Application requires that the applicant provide the following information: Name, address, city, state and zip code, telephone number, birth date, hair color, eye color, height, and weight. The applicant must include two passport-sized photographs with their application to ensure positive identification and aid in enforcement actions. The vessel operator permit has enabled NOAA Fisheries to send notices of proposed or approved regulatory changes to vessel operators, as well as vessel owners, improving the flow of information to the industry and their ability to stay informed of regulatory changes. In addition, the issuance of permits to vessel operators serves as a compliance tool.

Observer Requirements

Any vessel holding a permit for Atlantic sea scallops, NE multispecies, monkfish, NE skates, Atlantic mackerel, squid, butterfish, scup, black sea bass, bluefish, spiny dogfish, Atlantic herring, tilefish, deep-sea red crab, a moratorium permit for summer flounder, and/or American lobster may be requested to carry a NOAA Fisheries-approved observer or sea sampler. Coverage is intermittent and occurs on

less than one percent of all fishing trips. Owners of selected vessels are required to call to arrange deployment of observers on their vessels. These requests are made at the discretion of the RA for the purpose of monitoring fishing activities, collection of data, and compliance with regulations.

Exemptions Under §648.80(a) and Other Exemptions

In addition to permits, this family of forms includes several notification requirements for NE multispecies, sea scallop, and summer flounder exemption programs, as well as compliance with the reporting regulations for all vessel permit holders.

Federally permitted vessel operators/owners seeking to participate in the exemption programs for all fisheries where such programs are authorized, may be required to obtain either an LOA or an exemption permit/certificate for their vessel from NOAA Fisheries during the exemption season. For admittance into an exemption program, the entrant may be required to notify NOAA Fisheries of intent to participate, or provide entry and exit notice via a telephone call or VMS. The required information is generally collected verbally through either a telephone call or in person, and no physical application is actually completed. These LOAs or exemption permits are to be kept on board the vessel during the extent of program participation in order to verify enrollment in the exemption program. No notification or special permit is required for certain exemption programs if it has been deemed not necessary for enforcement and compliance monitoring purposes.

The information collected for participation in exemption programs consists of vessel owner name, NOAA Fisheries permit number, vessel name, and participation period. Vessels wishing to withdraw from a program, after the minimum participation period has been met, must provide NOAA Fisheries with similar information via phone call or a withdrawal form.

Call-in Programs/VMS

The data collected through the DAS effort monitoring program of the sea scallop, NE multispecies, monkfish, and red-crab fisheries are used in many analyses by NOAA Fisheries, the Councils, states, Departments of State and Commerce, OMB, Corps of Engineers, Congressional staffs, and the fishing industry and public. Furthermore, the call-in notification for NE multispecies vessels declaring their required 20-day spawning season block of time out of the NE multispecies fishery, and day gillnet vessels declaring their blocks of time out of the non-exempt gillnet fishery, is used by NOAA Fisheries as an enforcement tool.

Vessels required to have an operational VMS unit on board must complete a form supplied by NOAA Fisheries verifying that a VMS unit has been installed on the vessel and is operational. The form requests information regarding vessel name, Federal permit number, vessel documentation or state registration number, information (name, address, and telephone number) on the installing dealer, date of installation, serial number of unit, and e-mail address of vessel. The form also requests responses to

questions regarding whether or not the unit is operational, if operating instructions have been provided to the vessel owner, and if the vessel owner has been trained on use of the VMS unit by the vendor. Once the form has been completed, the vessel owner or authorized representative signs and dates the form, and returns it to the address listed on the form.

Scallop vessels may be exempted from DAS, gear, and possession limit requirements when fishing in state waters under a state management program that has been determined by NOAA Fisheries not to jeopardize the fishing mortality/effort reduction objectives of the Sea Scallop FMP. Scallop vessels wishing to participate in the state waters exemption program are required to notify the RA by VMS prior to the vessel's first trip under this exemption program, and prior to the vessel's first planned trip back in the EEZ. Scallop vessels using call-in notification must notify the RA at least 7 days prior to fishing under the exemption program and provide the following information: Owner and caller name and address, vessel name and permit number, and beginning and end dates of the exemption period. Vessels using the call-in system must also remain under the exemption for a minimum of 7 days. If such vessels remain in the exemption for a minimum of 7 days, but want to withdraw earlier than the designated end of the exemption period, they must call the RA and notify early withdrawal and provide the following information: Vessel name and permit number, name and phone number of the caller, and a statement that the vessel is withdrawing from the exemption.

This system of call-in notification will ensure that scallop boats fishing under the state exemption program in Maine, Massachusetts, or New Hampshire remain within the state's waters to be exempt from the DAS, gear, and possession limit restrictions. The purpose of this exemption is to allow Federal scallop permit holders to compete in the state waters fishery on a more equitable basis where Federal and state laws are inconsistent, and to encourage general category vessels to fish under the exemption program and continue to submit catch and effort data. Not implementing an exemption may provide an incentive for general category vessels that target scallops to cancel their Federal permits, thereby exempting them from all Federal requirements including reporting of landings while fishing in state waters. These vessels would be able to re-apply for a general category permit at any time. It is difficult to anticipate the enrollment in this exemption program since it is dependent directly on the independent vessel owner and frequency of participation.

Gillnet Tagging Program and Day Gillnet Category Designation

Vessel owners must complete a gillnet category designation/net tag order form when applying (either through renewal, replacement, or transfer) for a limited access NE multispecies permit. The information requested on this form enables NOAA Fisheries to monitor and track the level of participation in the NE multispecies gillnet fishery, and its effect on effort reduction and stock rebuilding goals of the NE Multispecies FMP. The first portion of the form requires that gillnet vessels select one of two gillnet category designations: "Day gillnet" or "Trip gillnet." Owners that declare their vessel as a "Day gillnet" vessel are subject to a maximum number of gillnets, currently not to exceed 80 roundfish nets and 160 flatfish nets. Vessel owners who elect to fish in the Day gillnet category must also

purchase the appropriate number of uniquely numbered net tags--currently up to but not exceeding 160 tags. Roundfish nets are required to be tagged with two tags, while flatfish nets require only one tag. If any of the original tags are lost (e.g., weather, gear conflicts), the vessel owner or representative must report the lost tags as soon as possible via letter or fax to the RA. The vessel owner may also make a request for replacement tags in the same letter or fax to the RA, including a check for the cost of the replacement tags. If the maximum number of tags are not requested on the initial form, vessel owners may request additional tags at any time during the fishing year via an additional form. To aid in enforcement and administration of the program, gillnet vessel owners are required to carry a Gillnet Fishing Certificate onboard their vessel. This Certificate identifies the category designation in which the vessel is enrolled and, if enrolled under the day gillnet designation, the amount of tags and tag numbers that were issued.

The use of a restricted number of tags prevents uncontrolled increases in the number of nets used by vessel operators in response to reductions in DAS. Day gillnet vessels typically return to port each night, after trips of 12 to 15 hours. As DAS are calculated in hours away from port, these trips resulted in more DAS than specified in the reduction schedule (e.g., two trips of 12 hours equaled one 24-hour DAS). Under this requirement, if the vessel declares into the Day gillnet category, each trip under a NE multispecies DAS lasting between 3 and 15 hours is counted as a minimum of 15 hours against the annual DAS allocation. Trips lasting more than 15 hours are counted in hours from the time the vessel called into a DAS until it has returned to port and called out of a DAS. Conversely, trip gillnet vessels typically remain at sea for one or more days at a time. As a result, each trip under a NE multispecies DAS is counted in hours from the time the vessel called into a DAS until it has returned to port and called out of a DAS.

Vessel owners that declare their vessel a "Trip gillnet" vessel are required to bring all gear to port at the end of each fishing trip. On the other hand, Day gillnet vessels can leave their gear in the water, but must declare 120 days out of the gillnet fishery, in minimum blocks of 7 days. At least 21 of these days must be taken during the period from June 1 through September 30. The purpose of the 120 day period out of the gillnet fishery is to ensure that operators of Day gillnet vessels remove their gear from the water for a significant period of time.

Monkfish Gillnet Area Declaration and Tagging Program

Prior to making a trip, vessels with limited access monkfish permits will be required to declare, for a 30 days or longer period of time, into the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) to fish under the less restrictive size limit (11-inch tail-length) and trip limits. Vessels do not have to declare into the NFMA if they choose to fish under the more restrictive 14-inch minimum size limit. This declaration will require that the vessel fish only in the NFMA during the 30-day period beginning with the date of declaration. If the vessel has not made a NFMA declaration, it will be presumed that the vessel fished in the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) during the trip and the more conservative restrictions will apply to the entire trip. A vessel that has declared its intent to fish only in the NFMA

may transit the SFMA provided that it complies with the transiting provisions described in section 5.4 of Monkfish FMP and §648.94(e). The area declaration is needed to ensure that vessels do not fish in the SFMA and transit the NFMA to land monkfish under the less restrictive measures that apply in the NMFA. The minimum 30-day declaration period is necessary to improve enforceability. Otherwise, vessels could rapidly switch fishing areas leading to confusion and poor compliance with the more restrictive measures of the SFMA.

Vessels holding limited access monkfish permits while fishing under a monkfish DAS are required to tag all gillnets being fished, up to a maximum of 160 gillnets. As a result, owners of vessels holding a limited access monkfish permit must complete the above mentioned gillnet category designation/net tag order form. If the vessel holds a limited access NE multispecies permit, vessel owners may complete this form to comply with NE multispecies and monkfish gillnet tagging requirements simultaneously. However, vessels issued a limited access NE multispecies permit designated in the Trip gillnet category that also hold a limited access monkfish permit are not required to tag gillnets used solely under a NE multispecies DAS. The purpose of this requirement is to control and monitor gillnet effort in the directed monkfish fishery.

American Lobster Trap Area Designation and Tagging Program

Lobster vessels using trap gear are required to designate trap fishing areas and affix trap tags to their traps. Permit holders designate their trap areas for the year on the annual permit renewal application. The tags must be purchased using the Lobster Trap Tag Order Form. Part A of the form requests the following information: Permit holder name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number, vessel name, Federal permit number, and vessel documentation number or state registration number. In part B, the permit holder or authorized representative specifies the number of tags being ordered, the total cost of the tags, and the method of payment. In part C, the permit holder or authorized representative signs and dates the form. Federal lobster permit holders with lobster licenses in states that have a trap tag agreement with the RA must purchase their tags using the equivalent state form. In all cases, Federal permit holders are provided annually with information from NOAA Fisheries on how to purchase their trap tags. The purpose of the trap tagging program is to enforce the number of traps that a vessel is authorized to fish based on the lobster trap fishing areas designated on the permit.

State Quota Transfers

The summer flounder and bluefish regulations allow one or more states to transfer all or part of their annual commercial quota. In addition, two or more states implementing a state commercial quota for summer flounder or bluefish may request approval from the RA to combine all or part of their quotas into an overall regional quota. The intent of these regulations is to provide a mechanism within the overall coastwide quota to give the states flexibility in quota management, in order to respond to changes in landing patterns or emergency situations. The states wishing to utilize these provisions must apply to the RA by a letter stating their intentions. Requests for transfer or the combination of

commercial quotas for summer flounder or bluefish must be made by individual or joint letter(s) signed by the principal state officials with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise, or his/her previously names designee, for each state involved. The letter(s) must certify that all pertinent state requirements have been met and identify the states involved and the amount of quota transferred or combined (§648.110(e), §648.120(e), §648.160(f)). Such requests must meet the approval of the RA. The frequency of requests are dependent upon supply and demand of a state's summer flounder or bluefish quota.

It is anticipated that the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support publicly disseminated information. As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NOAA Fisheries will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response #10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Prior to dissemination, the information will be subjected to quality control measures and a pre-dissemination review pursuant to Section 515 of Public Law 106-554.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

After the initial permit issuance, permit renewal has been made as simple as possible and currently feasible for both the public and the issuing office. The information obtained from current permits is used to prepare a computer-generated, pre-printed renewal permit, which is sent to the permit holder for updating. If there are no changes in the information required on the permit, renewal requires only the applicant's signature. This feature minimizes the reporting burden on the public as well as the administrative burden on the agency.

Permit information and all initial permit applications are posted on the NE Regional Office's (NERO) web site. Posting such information on the internet makes it widely available to the public, thereby reducing both public and administrative burden. The Initial Vessel Application, Vessel Operator Permit Application, RUPH Application, and Lobster Trap Tag Order Form, along with their respective instructions, can currently be found at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

Automated reporting has been made available via VMS for fishing vessels required to have the system as a condition of the permit and is available as an option for other fishery permits with a DAS notification requirement. The cost of the VMS unit, which continues to decrease, is justified due to the scope of the fishing activity.

No other improved information collection technology has been identified to further reduce the burden

associated with the Permit Family of Forms. Every effort will be made in the future to use computer technology to reduce the public burden.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

The information to be collected through the issuance of permits or through vessel monitoring is not duplicated elsewhere. The Magnuson-Stevens Act's operational guidelines require each FMP to evaluate existing state and Federal laws that govern the fisheries in question, and the findings are made part of each FMP. Council membership includes state and Federal officials responsible for resource management in their area. In addition, each FMP undergoes extensive public comment periods where potential applicants review the proposed permit application requirements. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries is confident that it is aware of similar collections if they exist.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize the burden.

Only the minimum data needed to meet the permit objectives are requested from all respondents. Since most of the respondents are small businesses, separate requirements based on the size of business have not been developed. Detailed instructions are included with the application to help facilitate proper completion of the form.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

The consequences of not conducting the collection of information described in items 1 and 2 would be immense. This collection of information is necessary for a variety of reasons, from monitoring fishing effort to collecting valuable fishery information (e.g., fishing power and gears used). Furthermore, reducing the frequency of collection would also compromise the ability to monitor vessel activities, in turn affecting the enforcement of management measures.

To the extent practicable, frequency of information collection under the Permit Family of Forms has been minimized. To reduce the frequency any further would compromise the intent of each collection of information requirement. For example, less frequent monitoring of vessels fishing under the NE multispecies and monkfish DAS programs would reduce the effectiveness of the system in helping prevent violations of DAS controls. Other examples are discussed below.

An annual request for tags is required of vessel owners participating in the NE multispecies gillnet, monkfish gillnet, lobster trap, and surf clam and ocean quahog fisheries. It is not useful to conduct this collection less frequently since it is expected that tags will routinely be lost as part of doing business. Furthermore, the number of nets and traps being fished by a vessel frequently changes. In addition, annual adjustments allow for further reductions in the number of gillnets and lobster traps to be

implemented if such management measures should prove necessary. Surf clam and ocean quahog tags are not reusable by design because they are associated with the use of a portion of an annual quota allocation.

The design of the cod trip limit exemption program is to afford maximum flexibility within the fishery while still accomplishing the goals of the FMP. As with other exempted fisheries, cod trip limit exemptions are issued at the convenience of the respondent. For this reason, these exemptions are issued on demand, and may likely exceed one during the year.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

Some of the requirements may not be consistent with OMB guidelines with regard to the reporting frequency. While OMB guidelines suggest that respondents not be required to report more often than quarterly, requirements for call-in/call-out for NE multispecies, monkfish, red-crab and scallop DAS, call-in/call-out for blocks of time out of the non-exempt gillnet fishery, and monkfish area declaration requested with this submission will require more frequent reports.

Vessels that intend to target NE multispecies, monkfish, or sea scallops or exceed the bycatch allowances for these species must declare that they will be on a NE multispecies, monkfish, or sea scallop trip prior to leaving port and upon returning port. The call-in requirement is needed to keep an accounting of DAS usage, and therefore necessary to reduce fishing mortality by limiting total fishing activity. Similarly, call-in requirements for the required blocks of time out of the non-exempt gillnet fishery and the required 20-day spawning season block are needed to ensure that vessels are complying with these measures. Monkfish area declaration is needed to ensure that vessels do not fish in the SFMA and transit the NFMA to land monkfish under the less restrictive measures that apply in the northern area.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

The Federal Register notice soliciting comment on the renewal of the NE Region Permit Family of Forms was published on December 4, 2003. The comment period ended on February 2, 2004. No comments were received. As described in the response to item 4, consultation with potential applicants is assured by the FMP regulatory process. Experience with the various programs, some of which have been operating since 1981, provides a continual feedback mechanism to NOAA Fisheries on issues and concerns to the applicants.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift will be made to respondents; however, respondents may use tax-exempt Capital Construction Fund monies to purchase VMS devices because of their safety benefits.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All data collected under the Permit Family of Forms, except VMS position reports, and landings slips submitted in support of a limited access permit application, are not deemed confidential under Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature involved in this collection of information.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

A full summary of the burden estimate involved in this collection of information can be found in Table 1.

An initial vessel permit application requires an estimated 45 minutes to complete, while preprinted vessel permit renewal forms require an estimated 30 minutes per response. Initial dealer permit applications take an estimated 15 minutes to complete, while preprinted dealer permit renewal forms require an estimated 5 minutes to complete. The initial and renewal vessel operator permit applications are estimated to take an average of 1 hour to complete due to the color photograph submission requirement. Limited access vessel upgrade or replacement applications take approximately 3 hours to complete. Applications for retention of limited access permit history require an estimated 30 minutes.

Limited access NE multispecies, combination, occasional scallop, red crab, and monkfish vessels must notify NOAA Fisheries via the call-in system of the start date and end date for each fishing trip. The estimated time per response is 2 minutes. It is estimated to take NE multispecies and monkfish vessels approximately 3 minutes to declare of blocks of time out of the gillnet fishery. The burden of vessel monitoring for full-time and part-time limited access scallop vessels or authorized NE multispecies, combination, and occasional scallop vessels is estimated to be 1 hour for installation of a VMS unit, 5 minutes for verification of installation of the VMS unit, and 30 seconds per poll for automated polling of vessel position. Vessels required to have a fully functional VMS unit at all times may request to turn off the VMS (power-down exemption) at approximately 30 minutes per request. Responses to requests to carry an observer are estimated to require 2 minutes per request.

Limited access vessels fishing under DAS requirements that have assisted in USCG search and rescue operations or assisted in towing a disabled vessel may apply for Good Samaritan DAS credits at a burden of 30 minutes per application.

Owners or operators of vessels seeking an LOA to participate in any of the exemption programs must request an LOA from the RA. The estimated time required to request an LOA is 5 minutes. Vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area that wish to be exempt from NE multispecies regulations while transiting the EEZ with NE multispecies on board, or landing NE multispecies in U.S. ports, must request an LOA (5 minutes) in addition to possessing a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance permit under 50 CFR part 300. An LOA (5 minutes) is also required for permitted vessels intending to transfer selected species from one vessel to another, as follows: Loligo and butterfish moratorium permit, or Illex moratorium permit, and vessels issued a mackerel or squid/butterfish incidental catch permit that intend to transfer Loligo, Illex, or butterfish; vessels issued a NE multispecies or scallop permit that intend to transfer species other than regulated species; and NE multispecies vessels intending to transfer up to 500 lb (227 kg) of combined small-mesh NE multispecies per trip for use as bait.

Owners of charter/party vessels intending to fish in the Nantucket Lightship Closure Area must request an LOA from the Regional Administrator, with an estimated time of 5 minutes per request. Vessels fishing under Charter/Party regulations in GOM closed areas must obtain a Charter/Party Exemption Certificate for GOM Closed Areas, at an estimated 2 minutes per request.

Limited access sea scallop vessels wishing to participate in either the state waters DAS exemption program or the state waters gear exemption program must notify the RA by VMS or call-in notification. Participants in the sea scallop state waters exemption programs using VMS notification must notify the RA prior to the first trip in the exemption program and prior to the first planned trip in the EEZ, at an estimated 2 minutes per response. Participants in these exemption programs using the call-in system must notify the RA at least 7 days prior to fishing under the exemption, at an estimated 2 minutes per call. If participants using the call-in system wish to withdraw from either state waters exemption program prior to the end of the 7-day designated exemption period requirement, they must also call the RA to notify of early withdrawal, at an estimated 2 minutes per call.

Surf clam and ocean quahog vessel owners or operators are required to call the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) nearest to the point of offloading prior to the departure of the vessel from the dock. It requires approximately 2 minutes for a vessel owner or operator to notify OLE of the vessel's departure from the dock to fish for surf clams or ocean quahogs in the EEZ.

In the American lobster fishery, the estimated time to designate lobster management areas and order trap tags is 5 minutes; a request for additional tags is estimated to take 2 minutes; and a notification of lost tags is estimated to take 3 minutes. Approximately 2,700 vessels will designate lobster management areas on the annual permit renewal application and order trap tags. Approximately 1,350 vessels will

not order their total allowable trap allotment initially, and, therefore, will submit a request for additional trap tags (their remaining balance) later in the permit year; approximately 2,700 vessels will report lost tags and request replacement tags. Approximately 69 vessels will choose to participate in the lobster Area 5 waiver program and will therefore, select, cancel, and re-designate this permit category. The initial lobster Area 5 waiver program designations are estimated to take 15 minutes, requests for the cancellation and selection of an alternative permit category are estimated at 15 minutes, and the return of the suspended lobster trap permit is estimated at 2 minutes.

In the NE multispecies fishery, a request for change in permit category designation requires approximately 2 minutes, and a request for transit to another port by a vessel required to remain in the GOM cod trip limit takes 2 minutes.

In the gillnet fisheries for NE multispecies and monkfish, the burden estimate for calling out of the fishery is 3 minutes. Gillnet category designation, including initial requests for gillnet tags, requires approximately 10 minutes. Requests for additional tags require an estimated 2 minutes. Notification of lost tags and requests for replacement tag numbers also require an estimated 2 minutes. It will take approximately 1 minute to attach each gillnet tag.

Requests for state quota transfers in the bluefish and summer flounder fisheries are estimated to require 1 hour.

The total annual burden hours estimated for the NE Region Permit Family of Forms is 27,097 hours.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in #12 above).

A full summary of the cost of these reporting requirements to the public found in Table 1.

The RA must approve any VMS system selected for use. Currently, there is only one vendor that offers VMS equipment approved for use in the NE Region. This vendor is Boatracs, Inc. Boatracs system purchase and installation costs between \$3,600-\$6,000 depending on the model. A second vendor, Thrane, is close to receiving approval from the NE Region. Although an exact cost for this unit is not yet available, it is expected to be under \$3,000. The cost table assumes the maximum cost of \$6,000 per unit. All vessels currently required to have VMS units already have them installed. Only vessels who choose to use the VMS system versus the call-in system would incur the initial cost of VMS purchase and installation. Based on the last three years, it is estimated that approximately 25 vessels will install VMS each year. VMS monitoring in the sea scallop, NE multispecies, and monkfish fisheries is automated. The average monthly cost for a Boatracs VMS unit is approximately \$150.

Gillnet tags are purchased from, and supplied to industry by, an independent contractor. The cost associated with the purchase of gillnet tags is \$1.15 per tag for an annual cost of \$184.00 (160 tags X

\$1.15). This price includes shipping and handling, but there is an additional shipping and handling charge of \$5.00 for orders of less than 20 tags.

Lobster trap tags are purchased by Federal lobster permit holders from a designated vendor using the NOAA Fisheries Lobster Trap Tag Form or state agency equivalent. Permit holders are responsible for the cost of the tags which is currently \$0.14 per tag. The number of tags that may be purchased is based on the areas that the vessel designates on the permit renewal application, and permit holders are authorized to purchase an amount of tags equal to their trap allocation plus an additional 10% to cover routine losses. Of the 2,700 Federal lobster permit holders estimated to purchase tags, it is estimated that 2,500 would be authorized to purchase up to 880 trap tags, at a total cost of about \$123.20 per permit holder (880 tags X \$0.14 per tag) and an overall cost of \$308,000.00 (\$123.20 per permit holder X 2,500 permit holders) for all 2,500 permit holders combined. It is also estimated that 200 of the 2,700 permit holders expected to purchase tags would be eligible to purchase up to 1,980 tags. The estimated cost per permit holder at that level is \$277.20 per permit holder (\$0.14 per tag X 1,980 tags) and an overall cost for the 200 permit holders is estimated at \$55,400 (200 permit holders X \$277.20). The estimated total cost to purchase tags for one year by all 2,700 permit holders is \$363,440.

All 2,700 permit holders that purchase trap tags could encounter losses of traps during the year. Accordingly, if 2,700 permit holders each request an additional 10% of their allocation as replacement tags then the cost breakdown for the public is:

2,500 vessels with allocations of 800 could order 10% for replacements,
80 tags X \$0.14 per tag = \$11.20 per permit holder X 2,500 = \$28,000;
200 vessels with allocations of 1,800 could order 10% replacement tags,
180 tags X \$0.14 = \$25.20 per permit holder X 200 = \$5,040.00.

The total cost of all 2,700 permit holders replacing tags on 10% of their traps due to losses is \$28,000 + \$5,040 = \$33,040.

The costs to applicants wishing to replace an existing vessel with a larger or newer vessel, and subsequently move the limited access permits and fishing history to the replacement vessel, will vary. Verification of vessel specifications are required in the case of undocumented vessels or unseaworthy vessels being replaced. Such verification is also required in the case where an applicant is requesting an upgrade of an undocumented vessel's specification(s). Surveys to verify undocumented vessel specifications range in cost \$150 to \$600 (\$375 average) depending on the surveyor, the specifications needed, the vessel size, and if vessel condition is included in the survey. A survey to verify a vessel's unseaworthy condition costs approximately \$400 per respondent. The estimated average annual cost to the public of verifying vessel specifications is estimated at \$112,500 based on an estimated 300 respondents. This includes only those respondents who are requesting a vessel replacement or upgrade an undocumented vessel. The average annual cost to the public verifying a vessel's unseaworthy condition for purposes of replacement is estimated at \$60,000 based on an estimated 150 respondents.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government.

A full summary of the following information may be found in Table 1.

Estimated annualized costs to the Federal Government assumes that the average cost for issuance of a permit is \$33/permit, including labor, printing, distribution, computer time, and handling. The permits included in this collection of information are: All Federal fishery permits, annual renewals for Federal fishery permits, dealer permits, and operator permits. The annual cost to the Government for initial and renew permit applications for vessels, dealers, and operators, is estimated to be \$710,622. The NE Region of NOAA Fisheries may implement a fee system to allow recovery of a significant portion of these costs as allowed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The cost calculations for observer deployment are based on \$25/wage and overhead value for the Government.

For each admittance into an exemption program (e.g., summer flounder or NE multispecies), the calculation of burden reflects the time associated with filing and entry and exit notice. The costs associated with these programs are estimated at \$25/hour to the Government. In addition, the costs to the Government associated with the state waters sea scallop exemption program call-in system are estimated at \$25/hour.

The costs for the NE multispecies, monkfish, red-crab and sea scallop DAS call-in system are estimated at \$25/hour to the Government. This cost is also associated with call-in notification for the 20-day spawning season block of time out of the NE multispecies and monkfish fisheries, notification of the required 120 days out of the non-exempt NE multispecies gillnet fishery, and notification of transit to another port while under the GOM cod trip limit.

Cost to the government associated with applications for Good Samaritan Credits are estimated at \$25/hour.

The costs of VMS reporting requirements are estimated at \$20,000 and are summarized in Table 2. These costs were estimated by extrapolating the costs for the VMS experimental program to a full year. The ongoing costs amount to \$300,000 a year and include staff costs, Internet connection, training, travel, and the annual costs for equipment and the back-up system. Salary costs are those minimally associated with two GS-13 computer specialists and one GS-11 VMS technician, including benefits. There is no cost to the Government associated with the submission of proof of VMS installation since it is provided along with the vessel permit application. As a result, the cost is included in the vessel permit cost. In addition, there is no cost to the Government associated with automated VMS polling of vessel position. The cost to the Government associated with turning off the VMS unit is estimated at \$25/hour.

The special pre-notification requirements applicable to surf clam and ocean quahog vessels are estimated to cost the Government \$25/hour.

The cost to the Federal Government associated with NE multispecies and monkfish gillnet category designation, and issuance of tags is estimated to be \$25/hour. No cost is associated with the attachment of tags to gillnets. Similarly, the cost associated with lobster area designation and issuance of lobster trap tags is \$25/hour.

The cost burden associated with ability of states to transfer or combine summer flounder or bluefish quota is estimated to be \$25/hour to the Government and \$20/hour to the states.

There is no cost to the Government associated with the submission of proof of vessel specifications for purposes of vessel replacement. However, it is estimated to cost the Government \$25/hour to process vessel replacements, upgrades, and confirmations of permit history.

The total cost to the Government for all items included in the Permit Family of Forms is \$871,681.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-1.

This request is for a renewal of OMB approval for the NE Region Permit Family of Forms collection. In the past years, the collection has been revised as part of the FMP amendment process or as new FMPs are approved and implemented. The revisions have been approved. In some instances new requirements were added, and in others, requirements were dropped.

All burden figures are based on the estimated number of individuals most likely to be affected. The actual number of dealers, vessel operators, and appeals may differ from these estimates.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Results from this collection may be used in scientific, management, technical, or general informational publications such as Fisheries of the United States, which follows prescribed statistical tabulations and summary table formats. Data are available to the general public on request in summary form only. Data are available to NOAA Fisheries employees in detailed form on a need-to-know basis only.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

All forms display the OMB control number and expiration date along with information relevant to the PRA of 1997.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

All instances of this submission comply with 5 CFR 1320.9.

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

No statistical methods are employed in the information collection procedures. The requirements are mandatory for all participants in the indicated fisheries.

Table 1. Cost Table

Permit Requirement ^(a)	# of Entities	Items Per Entity	Total # of Items	Response Time	Total Burden	Cost to: Public	Govt.
Vessel Permit ^(a) Initial	1,200	1	1,200	0.750	900		39,600
Renew	8,000	1	8,000	0.500	4,000		264,000
Dealer Permit ^(a) Initial	134	1	134	0.250	34		4,422
Renew	1,000	1	1,000	0.083	83		33,000
Operator Permit ^(a) Initial (time plus \$10 for photograph)							

	700	1	700	1.000	233	2,333	23,100
Renew (time plus \$10 for photograph)	10,500	1	10,500	1.000	3,500	35,000	346,500
Gillnet Designations/Request for tags	300	1	300	0.170	51		1,275
Request for tags (\$1.15 x total number of items (tags))	300	160	48,000	n/a	n/a	55,200	n/a
Additional Tags ⁹	300	1	300	0.033	10		247.50
Notif. of lost tags/Req. for replacement tag numbers ⁹	300	1	300	0.033	10		247.50
Transiting to another port (GOM Cod)	1	1	1	0.033	0		0.83
Cod Trip Limit Exemption	498	12	5,976	0.083	496		12,400
Summer Flounder Small-Mesh Exemption	91	24	2,184	0.083	181		4,532
Winter Flounder State Waters Exemption	1	1	1	0.033	0		0.83
Midwater Trawl Exemption	30	52	1,560	0.083	129		3,237
Purse Seine Exemption	30	52	1,560	0.083	129		3,237
Cultivator Shoals Whiting Exemption	35	18	630	0.083	52		1,307
Nantucket Shoals Dogfish Exemption (none issued in 2002)	1	1	1	0.083	0		2.08
SNE Little Tunny Gillnet Exemption	40	1	40	0.083	3		83
NAFO Regulatory Area Request	50	1	50	0.083	4		103.75
GOM Party/Charter Exemption/assuming this is Rolling 90day min. cert]	91	4	364	0.083	30		755.30
Nantucket Lightship Party/Charter Exemption	1	1	1	0.083	0		2.08
State waters Sea Scallop Exemption	50	2	100	0.033	3		82.50
Raised Footrope Trawl Whiting Fishery [Sep 1 - Dec 31]	37	16	592	0.083	49		1,228
Monkfish Southern Fishery Management Area Landing Limit & Minimum Fish Size Exemption	301	12	3,612	0.083	300		7,495
Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Exemption for GOM/GB RMA	455	12	5,460	0.083	453		11,330
Yellowtail Flounder Possession North of 40 deg. N. lat. In the SNE and MA RMA	455	12	5,460	0.083	453		11,330
WGOM and Cashes Ledge Closed Areas Charter/Party Exemption Cert.	91	1					

			91	0.083	8		188.83
Transfer at Sea	8	1	1	0.083	0		2.08
Change in Mults Permit Cat.	20	1	20	0.083	2		41.50
Attachment of Gillnet Tags	1,500	160	240,000	0.017	4,080		n/a
RUPH Application							
Replacement/Upgrade	600	1	600	3.000	1,800		45,000
History Retention	100	1	100	0.500	50		1,250
Vessel specification verification	300	1	300	n/a	n/a	112,500	n/a
Unseaworthy vessel (proof of loss)	150	1	300	n/a	n/a	60,000	n/a
Observer Deployment ^o	2,626	1	2,626	0.033	87		2,166.45
Good Samaritan Credits	20	1	20	0.500	10		250
State Quota Transfer (The cost is estimated to be \$20/hour for State government).	3	1	3	1.000	3	60.00	75
VMS Installation (time)	25	1	25	1.000	25		n/a
VMS Installation (\$6,000 (cost of VMS unit))	25	1	25	n/a	n/a	150,000	n/a
Automated VMS polling of vessel position ^o							n/a
Scallop (365*48)	257	17,520	4,502,640	0.001	6,304		n/a
Multispecies & Monkfish (365*24)	52	8,760	455,520	0.001	638		n/a
Combination (365*48)	49	17,520	858480	0.001	858		n/a
Proof of VMS Installation							
Mults & Monk	52	1	52	0.083	4		107.90
Scallop	257	1	257	0.083	21		533.28
Combination	49	1	49	0.083	4		101.68
Requests to turn off VMS unit							
Mults & Monk	52	1	52	0.500	26		650
Scallop	257	1	257	0.500	129		3,212.50
Combination							

	49	1	49	0.500	25		613
VMS Operation⁽⁶⁾							
Mults & Monk	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	93,600	n/a
Scallop	257	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	462,600	n/a
Combination	49	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88,200	n/a
Call-In System⁽⁶⁾							
Mults (includes combination)	1,540	25	38,500	0.033	1,271		31,763
Occasional Scallop	25	20	500	0.033	17		412.50
Monkfish	170	9	1,530	0.033	50		1,262
Blocks of time out of non-exempt gillnet fishery							
Mults	378	5	1,890	0.050	95		2,363
Notification prior to departure of surf clam vessels	1,400	1	1,400	0.033	46		1,155
Lobster Area 5 Waiver	69	3	207	n/a	37		925
Lobster Area Designation and Requests for Trap Tags	2,700	1	2,700	0.083	224	363,400	5,603
Additional tags - assumes entire allocation not ordered initially⁽⁷⁾	1,350	1	1,350	0.033	45		1,114
Notification of lost tags and replacement of lost tags ⁽⁸⁾	2,700	1	2,700	0.050	135	33,040	3,375
Totals⁽⁹⁾	42,133	44,435	6,210,270		27,097	1,455,933	871,681
(1) The cost to the Government is estimated to be \$25 per burden hour unless otherwise noted.							
(2) The cost to the Government is estimated to be \$33 per entity.							
(3) This burden estimate is divided by 3 to produce an annual estimate since the operator permit is renewed every 3 years.							
(4) Cost of additional gillnet tags included in total allowed in initial request.							
(5) Assumes that all participants will replace 10 percent of their total allotment annually.							
(6) The observer deployment includes a \$25 wage and overhead cost to the Government per entity.							
(7) 365 days per year multiplied the number of polls per day (1 per hour for multispecies, and 2 per hour for scallop and combination vessels).							
(8) Assumes an estimated cost of \$150/vessel/month.							

(9) Includes one call-in for 20-day spawning block (multispecies and monkfish). The Government cost is estimated to be \$25 per burden hour.	
(10) Cost of additional lobster tags is included in total allowed in initial request so only time burdens shown here.	
(11) Assumes that all participants will replace 10 percent of their total allotment annually.	
(12) Counts affected entities only once.	

Table 2. VMS Cost Table

VMS Monitoring Annual Costs	Salary and Benefits¹	\$230,000
	Internet Connection²	7,500
	Equipment³	20,000
	Back-up System⁴	38,960
	Software Licensing	3,500
	Supplies⁵	11,000
	Training and travel	8,000
	Total ongoing costs	\$300,000
Start-up Costs	Software adaptations	\$100,000
	Total fixed costs	\$100,000
	Annualized Start-up Costs (at 5 year amortization)	\$20,000
Total Annual Costs⁶		\$320,000
Previously Committed Costs Total Annual Costs⁷		\$300,000
Net Annual Costs to Government from VMS Monitoring		\$20,000

Source: Data supplied by NMFS, Office of Enforcement, Northeast Regional Center, and NMFS Headquarters

- 1. Salary and benefits, three program support personnel.**
- 2. 24-hour maintenance of secure Internet node at Gloucester, MA.**
- 3. Lease and maintenance contract on CPU and monitor.**
- 4. Lease and maintenance contract on CPU and monitor.**
- 5. Optical storage disks, repairs and supplies associated with non-lease equipment (modem, router, printer, thermal paper, WORM drive).**

- 6. Estimated by adding up annualized start-up costs (\$2,383) to total ongoing costs.**
- 7. System operating costs currently funded to support program for the sea scallop fishery.**

Gillnet Tag form must be completed if your vessel will be fishing with Gillnets under a Multispecies Days at Sea (DAS) or Monkfish DAS during the 2004 fishing year (May 1, 2004 - April 30, 2005).

- If you have a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access multispecies permit **and** a limited access monkfish permit, you must fill out Section 1 through Section 3.
- If you have a limited access monkfish permit only (and **no** limited access multispecies permit), you must fill out Section 2 and Section 3.

Section 1 - Limited Access Multispecies permit holders who intend to use gillnet gear under a multispecies day-at-sea must declare into one of the following gillnet category designations by selecting a category: (please read the "Special Instructions to Gillnet Vessel Owners" if you do not know which category you should choose)

Trip Gillnet Category _____ or Day Gillnet Category _____

NOTE: Trip Category vessels are restricted to 150 tags and Day Category vessels are restricted to 160 tags.

Section 2

If you do not already own gillnet tags, you need to purchase them. Please indicate how many tags that you wish to purchase by filling out the following information. (Please read the "Special Instructions to Gillnet Vessel Owners" if you would like to learn more about gillnet tagging requirements.)

Number of tags requested _____ (Multispecies tags are limited to 160, Monkfish tags are limited to 150 @ \$1.15 each. (NOTE: An additional shipping and handling charge of \$5.00 must be included for orders of 20 or less tags). (NOTE: The total cost for 160 tags is \$ 184.00)

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name and Address _____

Phone Number _____

Please make checks payable to **National Band and Tag Company** and complete Section 3 below.
Initial Tags will be shipped to you directly from the tag manufacturer

Section 3

Vessel Name _____

Federal Permit # _____

Documentation # _____
or State Registration # _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Gillnet tags will be used to fish for:

Multispecies (circle) Yes No

Monkfish (circle) Yes No

Please call the NMFS Northeast Regional Office information line at (978) 281-9278 if you have any questions.

Return this form and payment to:
NMFS Permits Office, Gillnet Program
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

11/23/03

OMB Control # 0648-0202 Expires 3/31/2004

National Marine Fisheries Service

2003 Lobster **Historical Participation** Trap Tag Order Form

Your final 2003 trap allocation is listed on the enclosed Federal permit.

- 1. Use this form only if your 2003 lobster trap allocation has increased due to Area 3, 4 and/or 5 eligibility.
- 2. **You may only purchase the difference between your initial allocation and new allocation (see example in part B)**
- 3. **Send this completed form and payment directly to:**
Stoffel Seals Corporation, P.O. Box 825 - Dept. 3, Nyack, NY 10960-0825, tel. (845) 348-7188.
- 4. If you have any questions, please call the NMFS Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9299.

Name _____ PLEASE PRINT Part A

P.O. Box / Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone Number (____) _____

Vessel Name _____ Federal Permit # _____

Vessel Documentation # or State Registration # _____

PLEASE INDICATE BELOW THE NUMBER OF TRAP TAGS YOU WISH TO PURCHASE: Part B

How many tags can I purchase with the enclosed form? You may only purchase the difference between your initial trap allocation and new allocation, plus 10% for routine losses. For example, if your initial trap allocation for this year was 800, you were authorized to purchase up to 880 tags. If your new allocation based on Area 3, 4 or 5 eligibility is now 1,200 traps, add 10% or 120 and your new trap tag total is 1,320. Subtract the initial trap tag total (880) from the new trap tag total of 1,320. The total amount that can be purchased in this example is 440 tags (1,320 - 880 = 440 tags).

Total Number of Federal Trap Tags Requested: _____ X \$0.14 per tag = \$ _____

* State Tax = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

Please indicate method of payment: Visa MasterCard Certified Check/ Money Order

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Please make cashier's checks or money orders payable to: Stoffel Seals Corporation. No cash, or personal or corporate checks will be accepted. *If tax exempt, please complete and return a tax exemption form for your state of residence. Orders received without a tax exemption certificate, or applicable sales tax, will not be processed.

Signature _____ Part C

Date _____

I certify that the information provided on this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge, and made in good faith. Making a false statement on this form is punishable by law (18 U.S.C. 1001). Forms that are not signed and dated will not be processed.

This collection is authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.). The information will be used in the management of the American lobster fishery. One of the regulatory steps taken by NMFS to carry out its conservation and management objectives is limiting fishing vessel effort. The purpose and use of the lobster trap tagging program is to provide identification of trap ownership, and to limit the number of traps for those vessels that fish traps by issuing lobster trap tags, with a maximum number of tags for each vessel. This assures consistency throughout the fleet of affected vessels. In addition, it allows NMFS to determine the number of traps in use in the fishery to better monitor fishing effort in the future.

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated at 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The public burden for using this form to order additional trap tags is estimated at 2 minutes. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Regional Office / Fisheries Statistics Office



Application Instructions
Year 2004 Federal Fisheries Dealer Permit

Mail the completed application packages to: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Permits Operations, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. **Note:** There is a 30-day processing period for all application packages. This 30-day processing period begins when a **correct and complete** application package is received in the NMFS Northeast Permits Operations Office.

- **Section 1 - Dealer Information** The application form is partially completed for you. Review the dealer information placed in Section 1 to ensure it is correct. Make any corrections on the lines provided. It is important to include your Southeast Dealer Permit Number in Section 1 if you have been issued a dealer permit by the Southeast Region of NMFS.
- **Section 1A - Additional Dealer Information** You must provide the address of each place of business where you purchase or receive the regulated species for commercial purposes. Space is available on the back of the dealer permit form for the required listing of those additional addresses.
- **Section 2 - Selected Fisheries** If not already marked, place an 'X' next to each of the fisheries for which you are requesting a Federal Fisheries Dealer Permit.
- **Corporations and Partnerships** All dealer corporations must submit **once** a copy of the certificate of incorporation, showing officers and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares of the corporation. In addition, **each year** the corporation must submit current information listing all current officers, along with their addresses, and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares of the corporation, along with their addresses. If your business is a partnership, you must submit a copy of the partnership agreement **once**. In addition, **each year** the partnership must submit the names and addresses of all current partners. Failure to provide this information will delay processing of your dealer permit.
- **Dealer Reports** An application is complete when all requested forms, information, and documentation have been received, and the applicant has submitted all applicable reports specified in the Federal regulations

including dealer weighout reports, IVR phone reports and processed products reports [CFR § 648.7 and § 635.5]. All dealers must submit detailed purchase reports through the dealer weighout system, with the exception of dealers holding only Northeast Federal dealer permits for the American lobster, surfclam or ocean quahog fisheries. Processors who have processor or dealer permits must complete and submit to NOAA Fisheries an annual fisheries product survey.

These dealer reports must contain all species, including, but not limited to, all Northeast managed species, as well as all tunas, sharks and swordfish. Failure to submit the reports required under either CFR § 648.7 or § 635.5 may bar issuance of any Northeast dealer permit (except for American lobster, Surfclam and/or Ocean Quahog). In addition, failure to report in an accurate and timely fashion may result in enforcement action being taken. If you have any questions concerning your compliance with the reporting regulations for Northeast managed species [CFR § 648.7], please contact your local NMFS Field Office (list enclosed). Questions concerning reporting for tunas, sharks and swordfish [CFR § 635.5], should be directed to the Highly Migratory Species Office at (978) 281-9260.

- **Section 3 – Applicant’s Signature** Before mailing, carefully review the application form for accuracy and completeness. Sign and date the application in Section 3 and return it to the following address.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
PERMIT OFFICE
ONE BLACKBURN DRIVE
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-2298



INITIAL DEALER APPLICATION

Tel: (978) 281-9370

SECTION 1 - DEALER INFORMATION

Southeast Dealer # (if available) _____

Company name: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State : _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax Number: _____

**Vessel Name: _____ **Vessel Hull Number: _____

** (must enter vessel name and hull number above if applying for Atlantic Mackerel at Sea Processor or Atlantic Herring Processor, if herring processing will be done aboard a vessel)

Where there are more than one place of business where the regulated species are purchased or received for commercial purposes, each address must be listed. List those additional addresses on the back of this form in Section 1A.

SECTION 2 - FISHERIES

Select the fisheries desired by placing an (X) in the boxes provided. Select all fisheries that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Bluefin Tuna | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Multispecies | <input type="checkbox"/> Scup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Atlantic Tunas * | <input type="checkbox"/> American Lobster | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Sea Bass |
| * (Yellowfin, Bigeye, Skipjack, Albacore) | <input type="checkbox"/> Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surfclam/Ocean Quahog - Dealer | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Mackerel at Sea Processor** | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Bluefish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surfclam/Ocean Quahog - Processor | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Herring Processor** | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiny Dogfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Flounder | ** (see note in Section 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tilefish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea Scallop | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Herring Dealer | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Crab |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate |

SECTION 3 - OWNER'S SIGNATURE

I affirm, subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

8.26.03

OMB# 0648-0202

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 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, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

SECTION 1A - ADDITIONAL DEALER INFORMATION. If there is more than one place of business where the regulated species are purchased or received for commercial purposes, each address must be listed below.

COMPANY ADDRESS:

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

COMPANY TELEPHONE: _____

COMPANY ADDRESS:

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

COMPANY TELEPHONE: _____

COMPANY ADDRESS:

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

COMPANY TELEPHONE: _____

COMPANY ADDRESS:

STREET: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

COMPANY TELEPHONE: _____

The information requested on this form is not confidential and will be available to the general public.

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires potential respondents for a dealer/processor permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for a Federal dealer/processor permit. One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to carry out 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 purchase, or otherwise receive for transport, species harvested by the owner or operator of a fishing vessel issued a Federal fisheries permit for these species. Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance.

The purpose and use of permits is to: (1) register fish dealers and processor, (2) list the characteristics of dealer/processor operations, (3) exercise influence over compliance (e.g. withhold issuance pending collection of unpaid penalties), (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry, (5) provide a universe for data collection samples, and (6) obtain first purchase information on landings to evaluate the biological, economic and social implications of management measures.

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.



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Regional Office / Fisheries Statistics Office



Application Instructions

Year 2004 Federal Fisheries Dealer Permit

Mail the completed application packages to: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Permits Operations, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. **Note:** There is a 30-day processing period for all application packages. This 30-day processing period begins when a **correct and complete** application package is received in the NMFS Northeast Permits Operations Office.

- **Section 1 - Dealer Information** The application form is partially completed for you. Review the dealer information placed in Section 1 to ensure it is correct. Make any corrections on the lines provided. It is important to include your Southeast Dealer Permit Number in Section 1 if you have been issued a dealer permit by the Southeast Region of NMFS.
- **Section 1A - Additional Dealer Information** You must provide the address of each place of business where you purchase or receive the regulated species for commercial purposes. Space is available on the back of the dealer permit form for the required listing of those additional addresses.
- **Section 2 - Selected Fisheries** If not already marked, place an 'X' next to each of the fisheries for which you are requesting a Federal Fisheries Dealer Permit.
- **Corporations and Partnerships** All dealer corporations must submit **once** a copy of the certificate of incorporation, showing officers and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares of the corporation. In addition, **each year** the corporation must submit current information listing all current officers, along with their addresses, and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares of the corporation, along with their addresses. If your business is a partnership, you must submit a copy of the partnership agreement **once**. In addition, **each year** the partnership must submit the names and addresses of all current partners. Failure to provide this information will delay processing of your dealer permit.
- **Dealer Reports** An application is complete when all requested forms, information, and documentation have been received, and the applicant has submitted all applicable reports specified in the Federal regulations

including dealer weighout reports, IVR phone reports and processed products reports [CFR § 648.7 and § 635.5]. All dealers must submit detailed purchase reports through the dealer weighout system, with the exception of dealers holding only Northeast Federal dealer permits for the American lobster, surfclam or ocean quahog fisheries. Processors who have processor or dealer permits must complete and submit to NOAA Fisheries an annual fisheries product survey.

These dealer reports must contain all species, including, but not limited to, all Northeast managed species, as well as all tunas, sharks and swordfish. Failure to submit the reports required under either CFR § 648.7 or § 635.5 may bar issuance of any Northeast dealer permit (except for American lobster, Surfclam and/or Ocean Quahog). In addition, failure to report in an accurate and timely fashion may result in enforcement action being taken. If you have any questions concerning your compliance with the reporting regulations for Northeast managed species [CFR § 648.7], please contact your local NMFS Field Office (list enclosed). Questions concerning reporting for tunas, sharks and swordfish [CFR § 635.5], should be directed to the Highly Migratory Species Office at (978) 281-9260.

- **Section 3 – Applicant’s Signature** Before mailing, carefully review the application form for accuracy and completeness. Sign and date the application in Section 3 and return it to the following address.



US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 ONE BLACKBURN DRIVE
 GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-2298

2004 NORTHEAST FEDERAL FISHERIES DEALER PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION Tel: (978) 281-9370

SECTION 1 - DEALER INFORMATION

Northeast Dealer Permit Number: [REDACTED] Southeast Dealer Permit Number: _____

Company Name: [REDACTED]

Owner's Name: _____

Company Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] Fax Number: [REDACTED]

** Vessel Name: _____

** Vessel Hull Number: _____

** Must enter vessel name and hull number above if applying for Atlantic Mackerel at sea Processor or Atlantic Herring Processor, if herring processing will be done aboard a vessel.

Where there is more than one place of business where the regulated species are purchased or received for commercial purposes, each address must be listed. List those additional addresses on the back of this form in Section 1A.

SECTION 2 - FISHERIES Select Desired Fisheries by Placing (X) in Spaces Provided:

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna	_____	Scup	_____
Other Atlantic Tunas (Yellowfin, Bigeye, Skipjack, Albacore)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Black Sea Bass	_____
Surf Clam / Ocean Quahog - Dealer	_____	Monkfish	_____
Surf Clam / Ocean Quahog- Processor	_____	Bluefish	_____
Summer Flounder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Atlantic Herring - Dealer	_____
Sea Scallop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Atlantic Herring - Processor	_____
Northeast Multispecies	_____	Spiny Dogfish	_____
American Lobster	_____	Tilefish	_____
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	_____	Red Crab	_____
Atlantic Mackerel At Sea Processor	_____	Skate	_____

RECEIVED
 JAN 30 2004

SECTION 3 - APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

I affirm subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Print Name: [REDACTED]

Date: [REDACTED]

OMB NO. 0648-0202 Expires 03/31/2004

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 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, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

SECTION 1A - ADDITIONAL DEALER INFORMATION. If there is more than one place of business where the regulated species are purchased or received for commercial purposes, each address must be listed below.

Company Address:
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Company Telephone: (Area Code) _____ No. _____

Company Address:
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Company Telephone: (Area Code) _____ No. _____

Company Address:
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Company Telephone: (Area Code) _____ No. _____

Company Address:
Street: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Company Telephone: (Area Code) _____ No. _____

The information requested on this form is not confidential and will be available to the general public.

The Paperwork Reduction Act requires potential respondents for a dealer/processor permit be notified of certain information regarding their rights and the burden associated with applying for a Federal dealer/processor permit. One of the regulatory steps taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to carry out 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 purchase, or otherwise receive for transport, species harvested by the owner or operator of a fishing vessel issued a Federal fisheries permit for these species. Section 303(b)(1) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) specifically recognizes the need for permit issuance.

The purpose and use of permits is to: (1) register fish dealers and processor, (2) list the characteristics of dealer/processor operations, (3) exercise influence over compliance (e.g. withhold issuance pending collection of unpaid penalties), (4) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry, (5) provide a universe for data collection samples, and (6) obtain first purchase information on landings to evaluate the biological, economic and social implications of management measures.

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.



Initial Application for a Northeast Commercial Vessel Operator Permit

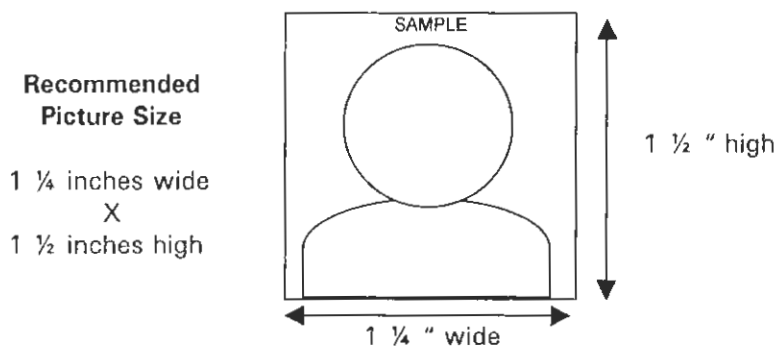
Please complete all sections of this application. Incomplete applications will be returned and will be not be processed. Submission of all application information is required. Application information is not confidential and may be released to the public.

Return completed applications to:

Permits Operations
 One Blackburn Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2298
 Telephone: (978) 281-9320

Section 1	
Full Name _____	
Mailing Address _____	
City / State / Zip Code _____	
Home Telephone Number _____	Date Of Birth _____
Hair Color _____	Eye Color _____
Height (ft/in) _____	Weight (lbs) _____

Please enclose two (2) color ID sized photos of yourself, which are identical and recent (taken no more than 1 year prior to the date of this application).



You must sign and date this application in Section 2 on back.

OMB# 0648-0202

United States Coast Guard Requirements

Any vessel of at least five net tons which engages in the fisheries on the navigable waters of the United States or in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Great Lakes trade, or coastwise trade, unless exempt under 46 CFR § 67.9(c), must have a Certificate of Documentation bearing a valid endorsement appropriate for the activity in which engaged [46 CFR § 67.7]. The EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles (370 km) from the U.S. coastline. Only a citizen of the United States may serve as master, chief engineer, radio officer, or officer in charge of a deck watch or engineering watch on a United States documented fishing vessel [46 USC 8103 (a)].

Section 2	
I affirm that all information I have given on this application is true and correct. Making a false statement on this application is punishable by law [18 USC 1001]. I understand that violations of Federal fisheries laws and regulations may subject me to criminal and civil penalties including fine and/or revocation of license. Further, as a condition of this operator's permit, I agree that if this permit is suspended or revoked pursuant to 15 CFR part 904, I will not be on board a Federally permitted fishing vessel in any capacity while the vessel is at sea or engaged in offloading.	
I also understand, in obtaining this operator's permit, that I must comply with current law, which includes a requirement that I be a U.S. citizen to serve as master or officer in charge of a deck watch on a U.S. documented fishing vessel fishing (see USCG regulations above).	
Signature of Applicant	Date

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour 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: NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. The purpose and use of these permits are to (1) register industry participants and fishing vessels, (2) exercise influence over compliance, (3) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry, (4) register participants to be considered for limited entry, and (5) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al, require the determination of this information. 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 OMBControl Number.

Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is not confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.



U.S. Department of Commerce
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service - Permits Operations
 One Blackburn Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2298



RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL VESSEL OPERATOR PERMIT

08 OCT 2003

Permit Number: _____ Current Expiration Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Hair color: _____ Eye color: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Note: You must enclose 2 current color ID size photos to obtain your new vessel operator permit.

I affirm, subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature _____ Date _____

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour 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: NMFS, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. The purpose and use of these permits are to (1) register industry participants and fishing vessels, (2) exercise influence over compliance, (3) provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important information to the industry, (4) register participants to be considered for limited entry, and (5) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al, require the determination of this information. 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. Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is not confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.

OMB# 0648-0202

1. This permit is for the vessel as named and described on the reverse side and such vessel's owner(s) as named. This permit must be maintained upon such vessel at all times.
2. This permit authorizes fishing operations to be conducted by the registered vessel only as noted on the reverse side.
3. This permit is effective on the effective date. It continues in effect until the expiration date printed on the reverse side, unless otherwise revoked or suspended. Any change in ownership information (including address), vessel name, gross tonnage, hold capacity or fisheries should be reported to the Regional Administrator. Failure to report change(s) in permit application information within fifteen days of such change(s) may cause this permit to be null and void. Application for a new permit must be made if the permit expires, ownership changes, or permit is rendered null and void for any reason including revocation.
4. This permit may be revoked or suspended if the registered vessel is not operated in accordance with appropriate laws and regulations pertaining to the fisheries for which the vessel is permitted.
5. Inquiries regarding pertinent federal regulations for fishing and reporting of loss of permit should be directed to the Sustainable Fisheries Division at the issuing office noted on the reverse side.
6. The term "Permit" as used hereon includes "Certificate" in those cases where the authorizing legislation requires issuance of certificates.

PERMIT CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

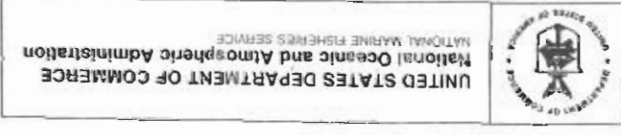
See reverse side for permit conditions & information.

ISSUED TO: VESSEL NAME	FISHERIES PERMITTED	
OFFICIAL NO.		PERMIT NO.
LENGTH		DATE ISSUED
TONS		DATE EFFECTIVE
HOLD CAP		
PORT		
OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS		
OWNER'S SIGNATURE		

FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT

ISSUED PURSUANT TO: 16 U.S.C.		ISSUING NMFS OFFICE
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(03/03)
NUMA 88-1284





NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Regional Office/Fisheries Statistics Office



**Initial Vessel Application Instructions for
Northeast Federal Fishing Vessel Permits**

In Sections 1 and 2, fill in **all** items:

Mail the completed application package to: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Permits Operations, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. Walk-in application processing service is not available. There is a 30-day processing period for all application packages. This 30-day processing period begins when a **correct and complete** application package is received in the Northeast Region Permit Office. **Questions? Please refer to the NMFS Northeast Region Web Page at www.nero.nmfs.gov for applications, instructions, fisheries regulations, and other important information, or call 978-281-9278.**

SECTION 1: VESSEL/OWNER INFORMATION

Enter information in the spaces provided. All items must be completed.

Vessel Name: Current name of vessel, or enter "unnamed" if not applicable.

Owner Name: Include name **exactly** as it appears on the vessel ownership documentation (US Coast Guard Documentation, State Registration, or Title of Vessel Ownership). If the vessel is owned by a corporation submit a **current** copy of documentation from the State of Incorporation verifying corporate status. If the vessel is owned by a partnership, submit a **current** copy of the Partnership agreement. (See Section 5 A for additional documents required.)

Address and Telephone Number: Include 4-digit addition to zip code (if known) and area code for phone number.

Coast Guard Documentation or State Registration Number: You **must include a photocopy** of the vessel's **current** US Coast Guard documentation or State registration in your application package. (See Section 5 C for additional documents required.)

Hailing Port: City and State where vessel is moored.

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

SECTION 2: VESSEL INFORMATION

Enter information in spaces provided. All applicable items must be completed.

Vessel length: Overall length in feet.

Crew Size: Average number of crew, **including** the captain.

Gross Tonnage: As recorded on US Coast Guard Documentation.

Year Built: The year the vessel was built.

Main Engine HP: The vessel engine horsepower.

Fish Hold Capacity: Measured to the nearest 100 pounds.

Dredge Size: Dredge size in feet.

Number of Dredges: Total number of dredges aboard the vessel.

Pump Horsepower: This item applies to surf clam/ocean quahog vessels only.

Construction: 1=Wood, 2=Fiberglass, 3=Steel, 4=Other. (Circle applicable number)

Propulsion: 1=Gasoline, 2=Diesel, 3=Other. (Circle applicable number)

Number of Passengers for Charter or Party: Number of passengers the vessel is licensed to carry. (See Section 5 D for additional documents required.)

SECTION 3: FISHERY INFORMATION

Except as noted for limited access fisheries, you may select a fishery, category, or gear code by entering the information in the spaces provided. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations for further restrictions.

Category: For each fishery you want to add, select the category that best describes your fishing operations, and write the category numbers or letters in the column marked "Category".

Gear Code: For each fishery, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table below. Write the **gear code numbers** in the column marked "Gear Code". You may select more than one gear code for a category. **If no gear code is selected, the application can not be processed and will be returned to you.**

Gear Codes and Explanations

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

DESCRIPTION OF NORTHEAST FISHERIES PERMITS – CATEGORIES ARE SHADED

ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP

Open Access Permit: Further restrictions may apply to this category.

1	General: Possess or land no more than 400 lbs of shucked scallops, or 50 US bushels of in-shell scallops per trip (one trip per calendar day). This category allows the use of all gear types.
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Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: 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 permit category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

2	Full-Time* This category allows the use of all gear types except Bottom Trawl.
3	Part-Time* This category allows the use of all gear types except Bottom Trawl.
4	Occasional This category allows the use of all gear types except Bottom Trawl.
5	Full-Time Small Dredge* Category 3 (Part-Time) vessel may elect this category for the entire year. May fish for scallops using one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and a crew no larger than five. This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code 410) only.
6	Part-Time Small Dredge* Category 4 (Occasional) vessel may elect this category for the entire year. May fish for scallops using one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and a crew no larger than five. This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code 410) only.

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: 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 permit category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

Atlantic sea scallop continued.

7	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge.
8	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge.

*Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) required to be installed and in continuous operation onboard the vessel.

NORTHEAST MULTISPECIES

Regulated species: Cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), winter flounder (blackback), American plaice (dab), witch flounder (grey sole), windowpane flounder (sand dab) and white hake

Other multispecies: Silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, white hake, ocean pout, and Atlantic halibut (vessels may land or possess on board no more than one Atlantic halibut per trip of at least 36 inches)

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: 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 permit category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

A	Individual DAS: This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
B	Fleet DAS: This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
C	Small Vessel Exemption: (less than or equal to 30 feet) This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
D	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category allows the use of handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), and longlines (gear code 920) only.
E	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.

*For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: 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 permit category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

Northeast Multispecies continued.

F	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year. The DAS allocation for vessels fishing under this permit category will be equivalent to their used DAS baseline plus a 36% increase. 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 allows the use of gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.
G	Large Mesh Fleet DAS: Category B (Fleet DAS) vessels may elect this category for the entire year. The DAS allocation for vessels fishing under this permit category will be equivalent to their used DAS baseline plus a 36% increase. 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 allows the use of gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.

For information on Area Declaration/Letters of Authorization, see page 12, appendix A.

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

H	Handgear: Beginning August 1, 2002, this permit will not be issued to any vessel that has not previously held it, or to vessels whose owner(s) did not submit a complete application for this permit by August 1, 2002. This rule will be in effect for the duration of the interim final rule. The vessel may possess and land up to 200 lbs combined weight of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, one Atlantic halibut of at least 36 inches in size, and unlimited amounts of other Northeast multispecies, provided that only rod and reel (gear code 912) or handline (gear code 911) gear is used or possessed on the vessel while in possession of, fishing for, or landing Northeast multispecies, and provided that there is at least one standard tote on board. A standard tote is a box designed to hold 100 lbs of fish plus ice and that has a liquid capacity of 70 L, or a volume of not more than 4,320 cubic inches.
I	Charter/Party: May possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of a rod and reel (gear code 912) and handlines (gear code 911) only.

***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2**

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

Northeast Multispecies continued.

J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: May possess and land up to 300 lbs of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. Vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit to qualify for this category. This category allows the use of all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: May fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut (vessels may land or possess on board no more than one Atlantic halibut per trip, at least 36 inches) when participating in an exempted fishing program. This category allows the use of all gear types.

MONKFISH

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by 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.**

A	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lbs tail-weight or 166,000 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.
B	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category A permit. Vessels under this category must have landed at least 7,500 lbs tail-weight or 24,900 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.
C	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lbs tail-weight or 166,000 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.
D	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that do not qualify for a Category C permit. Limited access scallop vessels must be less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) to be eligible. Vessels under this category must have landed at least 7,500 lbs tail-weight or 24,900 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.

* **Monkfish Qualification Period: February 28, 1991 through February 27, 1995**

* **For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2**

Open Access Permit: 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.**

Monkfish continued.

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 Fisheries Information Line at 978-281-9278. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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Area Declaration: Please note that vessels fishing exclusively in the Northern Fishery Management Area for monkfish may also request a Southern Fishery Management Area Exemption Certificate. Contact the Permit Office at 978-281-9370.

SURF CLAM/OCEAN QUAHOG

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

1	Surfclam: May harvest surfclams.* This category allows the use of a dredge (410) only.
6	Ocean Quahog: May harvest ocean quahogs.* This category allows the use of a dredge (410) only.

* To harvest and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required. For more information call 978-281-9278.

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

7	Maine Mahogany Quahog: May harvest ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes N. This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code 410) only.
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SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)

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

1	Commercial Moratorium This category allows the use of all gear types.
----------	--

Open Access Permit: 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 _____
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passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

*For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2

SCUP (PORGY)

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

1 **Scup Moratorium** This category allows the use of all gear types.

Open Access Permit: 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 Section 5 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

BLACK SEA BASS

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

1 **Black Sea Bass Moratorium:** May fish commercially in the EEZ north of 35 degrees 15.3 minutes N latitude during open season, subject to trip limits. This category allows the use of all gear types.

Open Access Permit: 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 degrees 15.3 minutes N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

SQUID, MACKEREL, AND BUTTERFISH

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

1 **Loligo/Butterfish Moratorium** This category allows the use of all gear types.

5 **Illex Squid Moratorium** This category allows the use of all gear types.

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

2 **Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party:** May fish for or possess Loligo or Illex squid, or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

3 **Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch:** May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lbs of Loligo squid or butterfish and 5,000 lbs of Illex squid per trip. This category allows the

	use of all gear types.
4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ. This category allows the use of all gear types.

*For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2

SPINY DOGFISH

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

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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ATLANTIC BLUEFISH

Open Access Permits: 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 allows the use of all gear types.
2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

ATLANTIC HERRING

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

1	For vessels that caught more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the last calendar year or intend to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during this calendar year. An operational Vessel Monitoring System is required to be onboard the vessel for this category. (See Section 5 E for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.
2	For vessels that did not catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the previous calendar year or will not catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the current calendar year. This category allows the use of all gear types.

TILEFISH

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

A	Full-time tier 1: To fish commercially for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. This category is allocated 66 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. To qualify, the vessel must have landed at least 250,000 lbs of tilefish per year for any 3 years between 1993 and 1998, at least 1 lb of which was landed prior to June 15, 1993. This category allows the use of longlines (920) only.
B	Full-time tier 2: To fish commercially for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. This category is allocated 15 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. To qualify, the vessel must have landed at least

30,000 lbs of tilefish per year for any of 3 years between 1993 and 1998, at least 1 lb of which was landed prior to June 15, 1993. This category allows the use of longline (920) only.

***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2**

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

Tilefish continued.

C	Part-time: To fish commercially for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. This category is allocated 19 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. To qualify, the vessel must have landed 10,000 lbs of tilefish in any 1 year between 1988 and 1993 and 10,000 lbs in any 1 year between 1994 and 1998, or landed 28,000 lbs of tilefish in any 1 year between 1984 and 1993. This category allows the use of longlines (920) only.
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Open Access Permit: This permit may be issued to any vessel not issued a tilefish limited access permit—to fish for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. **Further restrictions may apply to this category. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

D	Incidental Catch: A vessel may possess or land tilefish in or from the EEZ up to 300 lbs per trip. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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AMERICAN LOBSTER

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ using all gear types except pots and traps (gear code 800).
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ using all gear types except pots and traps (gear code 800).
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Federal Lobster Management Outer Cape Area using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations require NMFS to issue a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2**

American Lobster

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ using all gear types except pots and traps.
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ using all gear types except pots and traps.
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Outer Cape Federal Lobster Management Area using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations require NMFS to issue a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

American Lobster Historical Participation

Limited Access Permits: For information on the American Lobster Historical Participation program contact the NMFS Northeast Region at (978) 281-9144.

A3	Commercial Trap Gear Area 3: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 3 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. **See eligibility requirements below.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations make mandatory the issuance of a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

**** You may only select Areas 3, 4 or 5 on your 2004 permit under the following circumstances:**

1. You have received a written Final Determination of Lobster Trap Area Eligibility letter that declares your eligibility and specifies an approved trap allocation.
2. You submitted a Lobster Trap Area Eligibility Application prior to July 31, 2003, and were subsequently issued an interim permit (LOI) to continue fishing in Area 3, 4 or 5 until the end of the 2003 fishing year or until notified by NMFS of your eligibility. If you fall into this category and have not yet been notified of your eligibility, your interim permit can be carried over into the 2004 fishing year.

Note: If you did not submit a Lobster Trap Eligibility Application for Areas 3, 4 or 5 prior to July 31, 2003, but submitted one between August 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003, you may not fish in Areas 3, 4 or 5 until you have received a Final Determination of Lobster Trap Area Eligibility letter that declares your eligibility and specifies an approved trap allocation.

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

Atlantic deep-sea red crab continued.

A	May possess or land red crab in or from the EEZ up to 500 lbs per trip. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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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: 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 allows the use of all gear types.
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SECTION 4: APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & OWNER'S SIGNATURE

Please sign and date the form. Unsigned, or otherwise incomplete applications, will be returned. Your signature is an affirmation, under penalty of perjury, that all the information provided in obtaining this permit is true and correct. Submitting false information in connection with an application could subject you to criminal/civil penalties or permit sanctions.

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

A. CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT OR ANNUAL REPORTS:

If the vessel is owned by a corporation or a partnership, the following information must be submitted with the application form:

- A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation must be submitted once. Each year, documents showing current corporate status and all officers and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares in the corporation must be submitted.
- The list of corporate officers and shareholders must include their addresses (examples of acceptable documentation include Minutes from the Corporation Annual Meeting listing the names and addresses of the officers and stockholders, or a signed and dated letter from a Corporate Officer listing the names and addresses of current officers and stockholders).
- Partnerships must submit a copy of the partnership agreement once. Each year, the names and addresses of all partners must be submitted.

***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 2**

B. SCALLOP VESSELS OWNED:

If you are renewing a limited access sea scallop permit, you must attach a list of the following information for all vessels in which you have an ownership interest and that hold limited access sea scallop permits.

- Owner names—not Business or Corporate names.
- Vessel names and permit numbers.

C. USCG DOCUMENTATION:

A copy of the vessel's current US Coast Guard Documentation, or, if undocumented, a copy of the vessel's current State Registration.

D. CHARTER/PARTY PERMIT:

If you hold, or are applying for, a charter/party permit, you must submit a copy of the vessel's current charter/party license. A copy of one of the following documents is acceptable:

- Current state license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Current US Coast Guard Documentation that shows the vessel is presently documented for "Coastwise".
- Current US Coast Guard license to operate or navigate passenger carrying vessels.

E. ATLANTIC HERRING FISHERY:

If you caught more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the previous fishing year, or if you intend to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the current fishing year, please include a signed statement verifying that you did so, or that you intend to do so, and attach a copy of a vendor installation receipt from a NMFS-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) vendor, as described in Section 648.9 of the regulations for the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing & reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. 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 (MSFCMA) 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 entry, and (6) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al. require the determination of this information. 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. Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is not confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.

APPENDIX A: AREA DECLARATION / LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION

Gulf of Maine Cod Trip Limit Exemption Authorization: Vessels that hold a limited access Multispecies permit (A-G) and fish exclusively south of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) may request this Letter of Authorization by calling Permits Operations at 978-281-9370.

Exemption Authorization From the Monkfish Southern Fishery Management Area Landing Limit and Minimum Fish Size: Vessels fishing exclusively for monkfish within the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) may request this Letter of Authorization by calling Permits Operations at 978-281-9370.

Yellowtail Flounder Possession Authorization: New regulations that became effective August 1, 2002, prohibit the possession or landing of yellowtail flounder in or from the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas south of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. As a result, any vessel that wishes to possess or land yellowtail flounder from the Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. must obtain one of the following Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Letters of Authorization for a minimum of 30 consecutive days.

Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Authorization: Vessels that fish any portion of a trip under a Northeast multispecies DAS in the Gulf of Maine or Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. are not subject to a possession limit. Vessels that participate in this exemption program may not fish outside the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Areas while participating in this authorization program, and fishing under a Northeast multispecies DAS, except for transiting purposes provided all gear is stowed according to the regulations.

Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Authorization: Vessels that fish any portion of a trip under a Northeast multispecies DAS in the Southern New England or Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. are subject to the trip limits specified below. Vessels that participate in this exemption program may not fish outside the Southern New England or Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. while participating in this authorization program, and fishing under an NE multispecies DAS, except for transiting purposes provided all gear is stowed according to the regulations.

- March 1 through May 31: A possession and landing limit of 250 lbs of yellowtail per trip.
- June 1 through February 28: A possession and landing limit of 750 lbs of yellowtail flounder per day and 3,000 lbs per trip.

10/17/03 Initial Instructions

INITIAL FEDERAL FISHING VESSEL PERMIT APPLICATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 NORTHEAST PERMITS OPERATIONS
 ONE BLACKBURN DRIVE
 GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-2298
 Tel: (978) 281-9370

Northeast Region Federal Fisheries Permit Application



Section 1 - Vessel/Owner Information

Is this application for a vessel permit transfer? **Yes** **No**
 If **Yes**, complete the vessel replacement portion of the Vessel Replacement, Upgrade, and Confirmation of Permit History Application.

Enter information in the spaces provided. All items must be completed.

Vessel Name:	Owner Name:	
Street Address:	City:	
State:	Zip:	Owner Telephone: ()
CG Documentation or State Registration Number:		
Home Port:	Principal Port:	
Previously permitted Vessel Permit # _____ (if applicable)		

Section 2 - Vessel Information

Enter information in the spaces provided. All applicable items must be completed.

Vessel Length: _____ Overall length in feet.	Dredge Size: _____ Dredge size in feet.
Crew Size: _____ Average number or crew, including the captain.	Number of Dredges: _____ Total number of dredges aboard the vessel.
Gross Tonnage: _____ As recorded on US Coast Guard Documentation.	Pump Horsepower: _____ This item applies to surf clam/ocean quahog vessels only.
Year Built: _____ The year the vessel was built.	Construction: 1 = wood 2 = fiberglass 3 = Steel 4 = Other (please circle the number that applies to your vessel)
Main Engine HP: _____ The vessel engine horsepower.	Propulsion: 1 = gasoline 2 = diesel 3 = Other (please circle the number that applies to your vessel)
Fish Hold Capacity: _____ Measured to the nearest 100 pounds.	Number of Passengers for Charter or Party: _____ Number of passengers the vessel is licensed to carry. (See Section 5D for additional documents required)

Continued

Section 3 - Fishery Information

Gear Codes

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

Please circle the number or letter of the fishery category for which you are applying. Clearly print the associated gear code(s) from the list above in the gear code section. Refer to instructions for allowable gear code(s) per category.

If you select a fishery category and gear code combination(s) for which your vessel is not eligible, the processing of your permit may be delayed.

See instructions for further details or call Northeast Permit Operations at (978) 281-9370.

Fisheries	Category		Gear Code(s)
	Open Access	Limited Access	
Atlantic Sea Scallop	1	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	
Northeast Multispecies	H I J K	A B C D E F G	
Monkfish	E	A B C D	
Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog	1 6		410 - Dredge only
Maine Mahogany Quahog		7	410 - Dredge only
Summer Flounder	2	1	
Scup	2	1	
Black Sea Bass	2	1	
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	2 3 4	1 5	
Spiny Dogfish	1		
Atlantic Bluefish	1 2		
Atlantic Herring	1 2		
Tilefish	D	A B C	
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	A	B C	
Skate	1		
American Lobster - Non Trap		1 2	
American Lobster - Trap		A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 AOC	800 - Pots and Traps only

Section 4 - Owner's Signature

I, the undersigned, am the owner or legally authorized agent of the owner of the vessel named in Section 1 above. I affirm, subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information that I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 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, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. 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 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 to limited entry, and (6) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al, require the determination of this information. 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. Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is no confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.

OMB# 0648-020



**Northeast Federal Fisheries
2004 Vessel Permit Renewal Instructions**

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
- Enclose a copy of a **valid** State Registration or Coast Guard document for your vessel
- Be in compliance with all reporting requirements found at 50 CFR §648.7 (contact the Fisheries Statistics Office Data Center at 978-281-9246 for further information on your compliance status)
- Submit requested corporate information **if** your vessel is owned by a corporation (See Section 6 A)
- Submit requested partnership information **if** your vessel is owned through a partnership (See Section 6 A)
- Submit a copy of the vessel's **current** charter/party license if you are renewing a party/charter permit and/or USCG Documentation with a Coastwise endorsement (see Section 6 C)
- Sign and date the application

Send or return the completed application to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: Permits Operations
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Application processing service is currently not available to walk-in customers. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with one of our representatives to discuss your permit application, please call us at 978-281-9370.

When to submit: Your renewal application should be returned to us at least 30 days prior to the date the permit is required in order to assure processing of your application.

Who to contact with questions: The answers to many questions can be found in these instructions. Please contact us at 978-281-9370 if you have further questions. Northeast Fisheries Regulations, permit data, permit applications, and important announcements are available on our website at: www.nero.nmfs.gov.

Changes made after this application is accepted: If any of the information you submit with this renewal application changes during any permit year, you are required to notify the National Marine Fisheries Service within 15 days of that change.

Section 1: Owner Information

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 (Section 4). 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. A change of ownership requires an Initial Vessel Permit Application and cannot be processed using the Vessel Renewal Application.

Section 2: Vessel Information

For NMFS purposes, Home Port and Principal Port are defined as follows:

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 listed, especially the **area code**, is 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 4.

Section 3: Year 2003 Fishery Information

Year 2003 Fishery Information gives information about the Federal permits your vessel held in the permit year 2003. Please review the fisheries listed in this section. The fisheries listed in this section will be issued to your vessel unless you indicate, on the form, that they be cancelled. To add a fishery that you are qualified for and not listed in Section 3, see instructions below for Section 4.

Canceling a fishery: To cancel a fishery, put an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" on the front of the form (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. If you have questions, contact the Northeast Permits Operations Team.

Section 4: Corrections and Additions

Renewal Corrections and Additions are to be made in Section 4 on the back of the form. Space is provided for any changes you want to make to your 2004 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 (Section 3). You may add or change a fishery category or gear code by entering new information in this section in the spaces provided. You must be qualified to apply for limited access fisheries. Contact the Northeast Permits Operations Team for further information.

Category: For each fishery you want to add, circle the category numbers or letters in this column. Note that limited access permits require eligibility criteria.

Gear Code: For each fishery, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table on page 4. Write the gear code numbers in the column marked "Gear Code". You may select more than one gear code for a category. **If no gear code is selected, the application can not be processed and will be returned to you.**

Section 5: Application Instructions & Signature

Please 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.

Section 6: Additional Documents Required

A. Certificate Of Incorporation, Partnership Agreement Or Annual Reports:

If the vessel is owned by a corporation or a partnership, the following information must be submitted with the application form:

- A copy of the Certificate of Incorporation must be submitted once. Each year, documents showing current corporate status and all officers and shareholders owning 25% or more of the shares in the corporation must be submitted.
- The list of corporate officers and shareholders must include their addresses (examples of acceptable documentation include Minutes from the Corporation Annual Meeting listing the names and addresses of the officers and stockholders, or a signed and dated letter from a Corporate Officer listing the names and addresses of current officers and stockholders).
- Partnerships must submit a copy of the partnership agreement once. Each year, the names and addresses of all partners must be submitted.

B. USCG Documentation:

A copy of the vessel's current US Coast Guard Documentation, or, if undocumented, a copy of the vessel's current State Registration.

C. Charter/Party Permit:

If you are applying for, a charter/party permit, you must submit a copy of the vessel's current charter/party license. A copy of one of the following documents is acceptable:

- Current state license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Current US Coast Guard Documentation that shows the vessel is presently documented for "Coastwise".
- Current US Coast Guard license to operate or navigate passenger-carrying vessels.

D. Atlantic Herring Fishery:

If you caught more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the previous fishing year, or if you intend to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the current fishing year, submit a signed statement verifying that you did so, or that you intend to do so, and attach a copy of a vendor installation receipt from a NMFS-approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) vendor, as described in Section 648.9 of the regulations for the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States.

Gear Codes and Explanations

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

Description of Northeast Fisheries Permits

Permit Categories for each fishery are shaded:

Atlantic Sea Scallop

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

1 General: Possess or land no more than 400 lbs of shucked scallops, or 50 US bushels of in-shell scallops per trip (one trip per calendar day). This category allows the use of all gear types.

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: 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 permit category. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

2	Full-Time* This category allows the use of all gear types except Bottom Trawl.
3	Part-Time* This category allows the use of all gear types except Bottom Trawl.
4	Occasional This category allows the use of all gear types except Bottom Trawl.
5	Full-Time Small Dredge* Category 3 (Part-Time) vessel may elect this category for the entire year. May fish for scallops using one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and a crew no larger than five. This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code 410) only .
6	Part-Time Small Dredge* Category 4 (Occasional) vessel may elect this category for the entire year. May fish for scallops using one dredge no larger than 10.5 ft. and a crew no larger than five. This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code 410) only .
7	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge.
8	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge.

*Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) required to be installed and in continuous operation onboard the vessel.

Northeast Multispecies

Regulated species: Cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, redfish (ocean perch), winter flounder (blackback), American plaice (dab), witch flounder (grey sole), windowpane flounder (sand dab) and white hake.

Other multispecies: Silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, white hake, ocean pout, and Atlantic halibut (vessels may land or possess on board no more than one Atlantic halibut per trip of at least 36 inches)

.....

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Please note: 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 permit category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

A	Individual DAS: This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
B	Fleet DAS: This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
C	Small Vessel Exemption: (less than or equal to 30 feet) This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
D	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category allows the use of handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), and longlines (gear code 920) only .
E	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category allows the use of all gear types except a dredge and a harpoon.
F	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year. The DAS allocation for vessels fishing under this permit category will be equivalent to their used DAS baseline plus a 36% increase. 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 allows the use of gear types 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only .
G	Large Mesh Fleet DAS: Category B (Fleet DAS) vessels may elect this category for the entire year. The DAS allocation for vessels fishing under this permit category will be equivalent to their used DAS baseline plus a 36% increase. 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 allows the use of gear types 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only .

For information on Area Declaration/Letters of Authorization, see page 12, appendix A.

***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 4.**

Multispecies Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

H	Handgear: Beginning August 1, 2002, this permit will not be issued to any vessel that has not previously held it, or to vessels whose owner(s) did not submit a complete application for this permit by August 1, 2002. This rule will be in effect for the duration of the interim final rule. The vessel may possess and land up to 200 lbs combined weight of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, one Atlantic halibut of at least 36 inches in size, and unlimited amounts of other Northeast multispecies, provided that only rod and reel (gear code 912) or handline (gear code 911) gear is used or possessed on the vessel while in possession of, fishing for, or landing Northeast multispecies, and provided that there is at least one standard tote on board. A standard tote is a box designed to hold 100 lbs of fish plus ice and that has a liquid capacity of 70 L, or a volume of not more than 4,320 cubic inches.
I	Charter/Party: May possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 6 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of a rod and reel (gear code 912) and handlines (gear code 911) only .
J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: May possess and land up to 300 lbs of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. The vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit to qualify for this category. This category allows the use of all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: May fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut (vessels may land or possess on board no more than one Atlantic halibut per trip, at least 36 inches) when participating in an exempted fishing program. This category allows the use of all gear types.

Monkfish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by 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.

A	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lbs tail-weight or 166,000 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.
B	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that are less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) and do not qualify for a Category A permit. Vessels under this category must have landed at least 7,500 lbs tail-weight or 24,900 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.
C	Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lbs tail-weight or 166,000 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.

*For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 4.

Monkfish continued.

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by 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.

D Vessels that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that do not qualify for a Category C permit. Limited access scallop vessels must be less than 51 Gross Registered Tons (GRT) to be eligible. Vessels under this category must have landed at least 7,500 lbs tail-weight or 24,900 lbs whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category allows the use of all gear types.

***Monkfish Qualification Period: February 28, 1991 through February 27, 1995**

Open Access Permit: 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 Fisheries Information Line at 978-281-9278. This category allows the use of all gear types.

Area Declaration: Please note that vessels fishing exclusively in the Northern Fishery Management Area for monkfish may also request a Southern Fishery Management Area Exemption Certificate. Contact Permits Operations at 978-281-9370.

Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog

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

- 1** **Surfclam:** May harvest surfclams.* This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code **410**) **only**.
- 6** **Ocean Quahog:** May harvest ocean quahogs.* This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code **410**) **only**.

*To harvest and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required. For more information call 978-281-9278.

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

7 **Maine Mahogany Quahog:** May harvest ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes N. This category allows the use of a dredge (gear code **410**) **only**.

***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 4.**

Summer Flounder (Fluke)

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

1 Commercial Moratorium This category allows the use of all gear types.

Open Access Permit: 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 Section 6 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

Scup (Porgy)

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

1 Scup Moratorium This category allows the use of all gear types.

Open Access Permit: 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 Section 6 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

Black Sea Bass

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

1 Black Sea Bass Moratorium: May fish commercially in the EEZ north of 35 degrees 15.3 minutes N latitude during open season, subject to trip limits. This category allows the use of all gear types.

Open Access Permit: 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 degrees 15.3 minutes N. latitude while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 6 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

*For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 4.

Squid, Mackerel, And Butterfish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

1	Loligo/Butterfish Moratorium This category allows the use of all gear types.
5	Illex Squid Moratorium This category allows the use of all gear types.

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

2	Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Loligo or Illex squid, or butterfish in the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 6 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.
3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lbs of Loligo squid or butterfish and 5,000 lbs of Illex squid per trip. This category allows the use of all gear types.
4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ. This category allows the use of all gear types.

Spiny Dogfish

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

1	General: May commercially fish for, possess, or land spiny dogfish caught in or from the EEZ. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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Atlantic Bluefish

Open Access Permits: 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 allows the use of all gear types.
2	Charter/Party: May fish for or possess Atlantic bluefish from the EEZ while carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 6 D for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.

*For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 4.

Atlantic Herring

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

1	For vessels that caught more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the last calendar year or intend to catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during this calendar year. An operational Vessel Monitoring System is required to be onboard the vessel for this category. (See Section 6 E for additional information.) This category allows the use of all gear types.
2	For vessels that did not catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring in the previous calendar year or will not catch more than 500 mt of Atlantic herring during the current calendar year. This category allows the use of all gear types.

Tilefish

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

A	Full-time tier 1: To fish commercially for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. This category is allocated 66 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. To qualify, the vessel must have landed at least 250,000 lbs of tilefish per year for any 3 years between 1993 and 1998, at least 1 lb of which was landed prior to June 15, 1993. This category allows the use of longlines (gear code 920) only .
B	Full-time tier 2: To fish commercially for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. This category is allocated 15 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. To qualify, the vessel must have landed at least 30,000 lbs of tilefish per year for any of 3 years between 1993 and 1998, at least 1 lb of which was landed prior to June 15, 1993. This category allows the use of longlines (gear code 920) only .
C	Part-time: To fish commercially for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the EEZ. This category is allocated 19 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch. To qualify, the vessel must have landed 10,000 lbs of tilefish in any 1 year between 1988 and 1993 and 10,000 lbs in any 1 year between 1994 and 1998, or landed 28,000 lbs of tilefish in any 1 year between 1984 and 1993. This category allows the use of longlines (gear code 920) only .

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

D	Incidental Catch: A vessel may possess or land tilefish in or from the EEZ up to 300 lbs per trip. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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***For an explanation of allowable Northeast Fisheries gear types and their codes see page 4.**

American Lobster

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. If eligible, you may select more than one category. **Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.**

1	Commercial Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ using all gear types except pots and traps.
2	Charter/Party Non-Trap: May harvest lobster in the EEZ using all gear types except pots and traps.
A1	Commercial Trap Gear Area 1: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 1 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
A2	Commercial Trap Gear Area 2: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 2 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
A6	Commercial Trap Gear Area 6: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 6 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. Vessel owner must possess a valid CT or NY state lobster license to be eligible for this category.
AOC	Commercial Trap Gear Outer Cape Area: May harvest in Outer Cape Federal Lobster Management Area using pots and traps (gear code 800) only.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations require NMFS to issue a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

American Lobster Historical Participation

Limited Access Permits: For information on the American Lobster Historical Participation program contact the NMFS Northeast Region at (978) 281-9144.

A3	Commercial Trap Gear Area 3: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 3 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5 using pots and traps (gear code 800) only. **See eligibility requirements below.

Note: Northeast Fisheries Regulations make mandatory the issuance of a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2/3 Overlap permit to any vessels that renew a Commercial Trap Gear Area 2 and (or) Area 3 permit.

**** You may only select Areas 3, 4 or 5 on your 2004 permit under the following circumstances:**

1. You have received a written Final Determination of Lobster Trap Area Eligibility letter that declares your eligibility and specifies an approved trap allocation.
2. You submitted a Lobster Trap Area Eligibility Application prior to July 31, 2003, and were subsequently issued an interim permit (LOI) to continue fishing in Area 3, 4 or 5 until the end of the 2003 fishing year or until notified by NMFS of your eligibility. If you fall into this category and have not yet been notified of your eligibility, your interim permit can be carried over into the 2004 fishing year.

Note: If you did not submit a Lobster Trap Eligibility Application for Areas 3, 4 or 5 prior to July 31, 2003, but submitted one between August 1, 2003 and December 31, 2003, you may not fish in Areas 3, 4 or 5 until you have received a Final Determination of Lobster Trap Area Eligibility letter that declares your eligibility and specifies an approved trap allocation.

Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab

Limited Access Permits: These permits may only be renewed by vessels that have previously held them or be issued only to approved replacements of such vessels. Further restrictions may apply to specific categories. Refer to Northeast Fisheries Regulations.

B.	Must demonstrate average Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab landings greater than 250,000 lbs per year during the 3-year period of March 1, 1997 through February 29, 2000. Vessels in this category will be subject to a baseline trip limit of 75,000 lbs. This category allows the use of pots and traps (gear code 800) only.
C.	Must demonstrate average Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab landings greater than 250,000 lbs per year and documented proof of one trip with landings higher than 75,000 lbs during the 3-year period of March 1, 1997 through February 29, 2000. Upon demonstrating proof of a trip with landings higher than 75,000 lbs, the vessel then qualifies for a trip limit equal to the larger trip, rounded to the nearest 5,000 lbs. This category allows the use of pots and traps (gear code 800) only.

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

A	May possess or land red crab in or from the EEZ up to 500 lbs per trip. This category allows the use of all gear types.
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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: 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 allows the use of all gear types.
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Appendix A: Area Declaration / Letters Of Authorization

Gulf of Maine Cod Trip Limit Exemption Authorization: Vessels that hold a limited access Multispecies permit (A-G) and fish exclusively south of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) may request this Letter of Authorization by calling Permits Operations at 978-281-9370.

Exemption Authorization From the Monkfish Southern Fishery Management Area Landing Limit and Minimum Fish Size: Vessels fishing exclusively for monkfish within the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) may request this Letter of Authorization by calling Permits Operations at 978-281-9370.

Yellowtail Flounder Possession Authorization: New regulations that became effective August 1, 2002, prohibit the possession or landing of yellowtail flounder in or from the Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas south of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. As a result, any vessel that wishes to possess or land yellowtail flounder from the Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. must obtain one of the following Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Letters of Authorization.

Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Authorization: Vessels that fish any portion of a trip under a Northeast multispecies DAS in the Gulf of Maine or Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. are not subject to a possession limit. Vessels that participate in this exemption program may not fish outside the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank Regulated Mesh Areas while participating in this authorization program, and fishing under a Northeast multispecies DAS, except for transiting purposes provided all gear is stowed according to the regulations.

Southern New England and Mid-Atlantic Yellowtail Flounder Possession/Landing Authorization: Vessels that fish any portion of a trip under a Northeast multispecies DAS in the Southern New England or Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. are subject to the trip limits specified below. Vessels that participate in this exemption program may not fish outside the Southern New England or Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Areas north of 40 degrees 00 minutes N. lat. while participating in this authorization program, and fishing under an NE multispecies DAS, except for transiting purposes provided all gear is stowed according to the regulations.

- March 1 through May 31: A possession and landing limit of 250 lbs of yellowtail per trip.
- June 1 through February 28: A possession and landing limit of 750 lbs of yellowtail flounder per day and 3,000 lbs per trip.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining data needed, and completing & reviewing the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Permit Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298. 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 (MSFCMA) 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 entry, and (6) provide a universe for data collection samples. Both the MSFCMA and Executive Orders 12866 et al. require the determination of this information. 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. Any information submitted by any person to obtain a permit is not confidential, and may be disclosed upon request.

11/17/03 Renewal Instructions

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 NOAA/NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 ONE BLACKBURN DRIVE
 GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-2298



VESSEL RENEWAL APPLICATION
 2003 NE FEDERAL FISHERIES PERMIT

22-OCT-03

Tel: (978) 281-9370

TH

YOU MUST SIGN AND MAKE ANY CHANGES ON THE BACK OF APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

Section 1 - OWNER INFORMATION		Section 2 - VESSEL INFORMATION	
Vessel Name:		Northeast Federal	
Owner Name:		Vessel Permit Number:	
Address:		CG Documentation Number or State Registration Number:	
		Home Port:	
		Principal Port:	
		Telephone:	
Section 3 - 2003 FISHERY INFORMATION			
Fishery:	Category	Gear (s):	Cancel:
NORTHEAST MULTI-SPECIES			—
MONKFISH	E	330	—
SCALLOP GENERAL	1	310	—
SURF CLAM	1	410	—
OCEAN QUAHOG	6	410	—
SUMMER FLOUNDER	1	310	—
SCUP	1	310	—
BLACK SEA BASS	1	310	—
SQUID/MACKEREL/BUTTERFISH	1	310	—
	4	310	—
SPINY DOGFISH	1	330	—
SKATE	1	330	—
BLUEFISH	1	120 , 310	—
HERRING	2	330 , 310	—
TILEFISH	D	310 , 330	—
AMERICAN LOBSTER	1	310	—

YOU MUST SIGN AND MAKE ANY CHANGES ON THE BACK OF APPLICATION OR IT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.

OMB# 0648-0202

If you select a fishery category and gear code combination(s) for which your vessel is not eligible, the processing of your permit may be delayed.

See instructions for further details or call Northeast Permit Operations at (978) 281-9370.

Section 4 - CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Please verify that all owner information on the front of this application is complete and correct. Any new or updated address, owner, or vessel information must be written below. This information will be assumed to replace the corresponding information on the front of the form. To cancel a fishery permit, clearly mark the cancel box on the front of this form. Fishery information listed below will be added to your record provided your vessel qualifies for the fisheries, categories and gear codes selected.

Vessel Name: _____ **Owner Name:** _____

Owner Address: _____

Owner Address: _____ **Owner Telephone:** () _____

Home Port: _____ **Principal Port:** _____

Gear Codes

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

Please circle the number or letter of the fishery category for which you are applying. Clearly print the associated gear code(s) from the list above in the gear code section. Refer to instructions for allowable gear code(s) per category.

Fisheries	Category				Category									Gear Code(s)
	Open Access				Limited Access									
Sea Scallop	1				2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Northeast Multispecies	H	I	J	K	A	B	C	D	E	F	G			
Monkfish	E				A	B	C	D						
Surf Clam/Ocean Quahog	1	6											410 - Dredge only	
Maine Mahogany Quahog					7								410 - Dredge only	
Summer Flounder	2				1									
Scup	2				1									
Black Sea Bass	2				1									
Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish	2	3	4		1	5								
Spiny Dogfish	1													
Atlantic Bluefish	1	2												
Atlantic Herring	1	2												
Tilefish	D				A	B	C							
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	A				B	C								
Skate	1													
American Lobster - Non Trap					1	2								
American Lobster - Trap					A1	A2	A3						800 - Pots and Traps only	
					A4	A5	A6	AOC						

Section 5 - APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & SIGNATURE

Issue with requested changes above and on front

No Longer Own vessel

Vessel Sold

Vessel destroyed

I, the undersigned, am the owner or legally authorized agent of the owner of the vessel named in Section 1 above. I affirm, subject to the penalties provided in 18 USC 1001, that all information that I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____



US Department of Commerce
NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Application for Vessel Replacement, Upgrade, and Confirmation of Permit History

Instructions

You can use this application to request a vessel replacement, a vessel upgrade, or a confirmation of permit history. Each of these actions is defined below. Please read this carefully and check the action(s) for which you are applying. You may apply for more than one action on this application.

Which of the following actions are being requested?

- Vessel replacement. **(Section A)** This is a replacement of one vessel by another vessel and the transfer of fishing histories and limited access permit eligibility from the old vessel to the new vessel. **Please read the vessel replacement information on page two of the instructions prior to completing Section A.**
- Vessel Upgrade. **(Section B)** This is an increase in the vessel's length, tonnage, or horsepower as the result of alterations made to the vessel. **Note:** There are no upgrade restrictions for vessels that hold **only** limited access lobster permits.
- Confirmation of Permit History. **(Section C)** A confirmation of permit history is required when a vessel that has been issued a limited access permit has sunk, been destroyed, or been sold to another person without its permit history and a new vessel has not been purchased. **Possession of a confirmation of permit history will allow the applicant to maintain permit eligibility without owning a vessel. An application for a confirmation of permit history must be received by the Regional Administrator no later than 30 days prior to the end of the first full fishing year in which a vessel's permit cannot be issued.**

Unless otherwise stated, the word "permit" means a limited access or moratorium permit.

You must complete and sign page 3, "General Information" or your application will be returned. After completing page 3, also complete the appropriate section applicable to your request. You must send all of the required verifying documents or your application will not be processed.

Supplemental Information for Vessel Replacements and Upgrades

Vessel Baseline Specifications and Allowed Upgrades

For all vessels with limited access permits (except lobster), the vessel size and engine horsepower may only be increased once, either through upgrade or replacement. A **10%** increase in length overall, gross registered tonnage, and net tonnage, and a **20%** increase in engine horsepower are allowed. Vessel size and engine horsepower upgrades may be done separately. Any increase in vessel size, including length overall, gross registered tonnage and net tonnage must be done at the same time. Note: If your vessel has **only** a lobster limited access permit, there are no size restrictions on the replacement vessel; however, if you have a lobster permit and another limited access permit, the replacement vessel is subject to the above restrictions.

A limited access permit cannot be "split" from another limited access permit. This means if two or more limited access permits are on one boat they may not be divided and put on two boats. Please call 978-281-9300 for additional explanation if you have any questions about this restriction.

To determine whether your new vessel (or upgraded vessel) may be issued a limited access permit, the size of the new vessel is compared to the "vessel baseline." A vessel baseline is the vessel's length overall, gross registered tonnage, net tonnage, and engine horsepower as of:

- A. The date the vessel which was initially issued a multispecies or scallop permit applied for that permit; or
- B. March 22, 1999, for the following limited access permits: Black sea bass, *Loligo* squid/butterfish, *Illex* squid, scup, summer flounder, and Maine mahogany quahog.
- C. The effective date of the permit for subsequent limited access fisheries (e.g., monkfish, tilefish, etc.).

If you have both a multispecies or scallop permit **and** any one of the following permits: Black sea bass, *Loligo* squid, *Illex* squid, scup, summer flounder, monkfish, tilefish, or Maine mahogany quahog, you may have multiple baselines. The statement of accuracy, on pages 3 and 4 of this package, is needed to verify the vessels' specifications.

Please be aware that fishing histories are directly related to the permits. If you wish to retain the fishing history of a species for which there is NOT a specific permit then the bill of sale must indicate this desire.

Scallop Trawl Net Authorization (Replacements Only)

Scallop vessels holding a permit authorization to fish for scallops with trawl nets can be replaced, and the scallop trawl net authorization passed to the replacement vessel. However, the replacement vessel must meet the same limitations on fishing for scallops with scallop dredges that the vessel it is replacing met. If the limitations are not met then the replacement vessel may have to relinquish the scallop trawl net authorization. These limitations include NOT having fished for scallops with a scallop dredge after December 31, 1987; NOT having fished for scallops with a scallop dredge on no more than 10 trips from January 1, 1988, through December 31, 1994; and having an engine with no greater than 450 horsepower.

General Information
This page must be completed by all applicants

Provide all verifying documentation, as requested (see Section D for acceptable forms).

Vessel Name: _____
(for Replacements: **old vessel**; for Confirmation of Permit History: **sold or sunken vessel**;
for Upgrades: vessel information **before the upgrade**)

Federal Northeast Fisheries Permit Number: _____

Coast Guard (CG) Documentation or State Registration Number: _____

Current owner of vessel or permit history: _____
Supporting document required: You must supply proof that you own the vessel (See Section D, Item 2) **or** that you own the fishing history and limited access permit eligibility of that vessel (See Section D, Item 3).

Owner's Address: _____

Owner's Phone Number: _____

All vessels: **You must submit documentation verifying the following (See Section D, Item 1):**

- Length Overall
- Gross Registered Tonnage
- Net tonnage
- Engine Horsepower

Statement of Accuracy

Please mark the appropriate box for the baseline (old) vessel:

- The information I am submitting in order to establish my vessel's baseline accurately represents the vessel specifications as of March 22, 1999 (and/or as of the date of my first application for a limited access permit).
- The information I *previously* submitted in order to establish the 1994 (or 1996 hook gear) baseline for my vessel's multispecies or scallop moratorium permit also represents the vessel specifications as of March 22, 1999 (and/or as the date of my first application for a limited access permit).

Signature of vessel owner or authorized agent: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Section A--Replacement

Applicants requesting a vessel replacement must complete this section.

Replacement Vessel (new vessel to be permitted)

Vessel Name: _____

Federal Northeast Permit Number (if issued): _____

Coast Guard (CG) Documentation or State Registration Number: _____
(Submit copy of CG documentation or State registration).

CG documented vessels: **You must submit a copy of the CG documentation papers and proof of engine horsepower (See Section D, Item 1).**

Other vessels: **You must submit documentation verifying the following (See Section D, Item 1):**

- Length Overall
- Gross Registered Tonnage
- Net tonnage
- Engine Horsepower

Statement of Accuracy

Please mark the appropriate box for the **replacement** vessel:

- The information I am submitting in order to establish my vessel's size and horsepower specifications accurately represents the vessel specifications as of today's date.
- Information *previously* submitted to NOAA Fisheries for the replacement vessel accurately represents the vessel's specifications as of today's date.

Please mark the **limited access permit histories** that you are transferring. You may only select the limited access permits for which the vessel being replaced is currently qualified. Please keep in mind that all limited access permits must be transferred together and cannot be separated (See the definition of splitting above).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multispecies | <input type="checkbox"/> Scup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scallop | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Sea Bass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lobster | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Loligo</i> squid/Butterfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Flounder | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Illex</i> Squid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Mahogany Quahog | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Crab | <input type="checkbox"/> Tilefish |
- Scallop Type 7, 8, or 9 (authorized to use trawl nets). By checking this box you are also indicating that you have read the supplemental vessel replacement information regarding scallop trawl net authorizations on page 2 of the application.

Section B--Upgrade

All applicants requesting a vessel upgrade must complete the following section.

The engine horsepower or size of a vessel with a limited access permit may be increased only once. A **10%** upgrade for length overall, gross registered tonnage, and net tonnage, and a **20%** upgrade for engine horsepower are allowed. Vessel size and engine horsepower upgrades may be done separately. Any increase in vessel size, including length overall, gross registered tonnage, and net tonnage must be done at the same time. Increases are compared to the information required under the General Information section of this package (page 3).

All changes in vessel specifications indicated below require verifying documentation. (See Section D, Item 1).

New Length Overall (LOA) _____ New Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) _____

New Net Tonnage (NT) _____ New Horsepower (HP) _____

Note: Instead of gross registered tonnage and net tonnage information, you may submit verification of vessel breadth and depth, and length overall. This information will then be used to calculate GRT and NT using the simplified calculation method.

Section C--Confirmation of Permit History

All applicants requesting a Confirmation of Permit History (CPH) must complete the following section.

Indicate the permits requiring issuance of a Confirmation of Permit History. The following are the only fisheries for which CPH certificates are required or available. You may only apply for those permits for which the vessel is currently qualified:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multispecies | <input type="checkbox"/> Scup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scallop | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Sea Bass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lobster | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Loligo</i> squid/Butterfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Flounder | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Illex</i> Squid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Mahogany Quahog | <input type="checkbox"/> Monkfish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red Crab | <input type="checkbox"/> Tilefish |

Please check all that apply:

- Vessel sold, but I have retained the permit history in the Bill of Sale (*Supporting documentation required. See Section D, Item 3*)
- Vessel destroyed (*Supporting documentation required. See Section D, Item 4*)

Section D--Supporting Documentation Required

The following are acceptable forms of verification. You are only required to submit one of the acceptable forms of documentation for any category.

1. ***Vessel specification documentation*** (Please Note: All documentation must include the name and documentation number of the vessel)
 - ▶ For all vessels, you must verify total engine horsepower by providing one of the following:
 - Marine survey documentation showing the name and location of the marine surveyor;
 - Mechanic certification on the mechanic's letterhead; or
 - Engine manufacturer specification and proof that the engine is installed on your vessel.
 - ▶ For Coast Guard documented vessels, you must provide a copy of the documentation papers.*
 - ▶ For State registered vessels, you must verify length overall, gross registered tonnage, and net tonnage by providing one of the following:
 - Marine survey documentation showing the name and location of the marine surveyor (survey may indicate either gross and net tons or provide information on the vessel's breadth and depth (not draft), and length overall); or
 - US Bureau of Shipping document.
2. ***Vessel ownership documentation***
 - ▶ To verify the ownership of a vessel, please provide a copy of one of the following:
 - Current Coast Guard documentation; or
 - Current State registration.
 - Scallop vessel owners must include a list of all vessel names and permit numbers in which you have an ownership interest.
3. ***Vessel permit history ownership***
 - ▶ To verify that you have retained the permit history of a vessel you no longer own, please provide one of the following:
 - A bill of sale or document stating that the permit history has been retained by you (the seller) and signed by you and the buyer; or
 - A copy of the confirmation of permit history.
4. ***Vessel destruction***
 - ▶ To verify that the vessel has been destroyed or is no longer seaworthy, please provide one of the following:
 - Coast Guard accident report;
 - Insurance adjustor's report; or
 - Verification from certified marine surveyor that vessel is no longer seaworthy.

* By submitting this documentation, you confirm that the vessel length overall is correct as indicated on the CG documentation. If it is not, please submit additional documentation to confirm the length overall of the vessel.

NOTE: Submission of fraudulent or inaccurate information could result in enforcement action, up to and including fines, permit sanctions, or the revocation of limited access permits.

YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

APPLICATION FOR VESSEL REPLACEMENT

1. You should complete and submit:
 - ▶ Page 3 - General Information
 - ▶ Page 4 - Section A--Replacement
2. You should submit the following supporting documentation for BOTH* the vessel being replaced (old vessel) and the replacement vessel:
 - ▶ Vessel specification documentation (See Section D-Item 1)(not necessary for vessels holding only limited access lobster permits)
 - ▶ Vessel/History ownership verification (See Section D-Items 2 or 3 as applicable) or proof of vessel destruction (See Section D-Item 4)
3. You will need to submit an Initial Vessel Application for the replacement vessel.

* Note: If you have already established a baseline for the old vessel by submitting information verifying your vessel's baseline specifications, you will not need to submit additional verification. You should submit information about the replacement vessel.

APPLICATION FOR A VESSEL UPGRADE

1. You should complete and submit:
 - ▶ Page 3 - General Information
 - ▶ Page 5 - Section B--Upgrade
2. You should submit the following supporting documentation:
 - ▶ Vessel specification documentation (See Section D-Item 1)

APPLICATION FOR A CONFIRMATION OF PERMIT HISTORY

1. You should complete and submit:
 - ▶ Page 3 - General Information
 - ▶ Page 5 - Section C--Confirmation of Permit History
2. You should submit the following supporting documentation:
 - ▶ History ownership verification (See Section D-Item 3) or proof of vessel destruction (See Section D-Item 4)

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OMB # 0648-0202 Expires 3/31/2004

Request for a replacement, upgrade notification, or history retention:

The application to allow the respondent to request a replacement of one vessel by another, change vessel specifications due to an upgrade, or retain a vessel's history, and is meant to aid in the administration and enforcement of the regulations that relate to these programs. This form will save the respondent time and effort in that all the requirements relating to the interrelated actions are included on one form. These requirements have been adopted as part of the effort reduction programs under the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) that govern the fisheries involved, and are consistent with the conservation goals of the FMPs. The information provided on this application will allow industry members to replace older vessels with new vessels or retain histories, in a manner consistent with the effort reduction requirements of the FMPs. The information provided through any requests to upgrade a vessel specification will be used for the purposes of monitoring compliance with effort reduction programs.

The information requested on this form is not confidential and will be available to the general public.

BURDEN STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average three hours per response for vessel replacements and upgrades, and 30 minutes for vessel history retention. These estimated response times include the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to National Marine Fisheries Service, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to 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 current valid OMB Control Number.

sections 751(a)(2)(B) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: November 25, 2003.

James J. Jochum,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112103A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 2, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Brian Hooker, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, (978) 281-9220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Any individual or organization participating in federally-controlled fisheries is required to obtain permits. The purpose and use of permits is to: (1) Register fishermen, fishing vessels, fish dealers, and processors; (2) List the characteristics of fishing vessels and/or dealer/processor operations; (3) Exercise influence over compliance (e.g., withhold issuance pending collection of unpaid penalties); (4) Provide a mailing list for the dissemination of important

information to the industry; (5) Register participants to be considered for limited entry; and (6) Provide a universe for data collection samples. Identification of the participants, their gear types, vessels, and expected activity levels is an effective tool in the enforcement of fishery regulations. This information is needed to measure the consequences of management controls as well. The participants in certain fisheries may also be required to notify NMFS before fishing trips for the purpose of observer placement and to make other reports on fishing activities.

II. Method of Collection

Initial permit applications are made by a signed paper form. After initial permit issuance, a pre-printed permit renewal form is generated via computer, using current permit information. This form is then sent to the permit holder for updating. If no changes to the pre-printed form are required, the applicant simply needs to sign the form and return it with any other information (e.g., current state registration or U.S. Coast Guard document) required for permit renewal.

Automated reporting by means of a vessel monitoring system (VMS) is required for all vessels issued a full-time or part-time limited access sea scallop permit, or scallop vessels fishing under the small dredge program. All remaining limited access Northeast (NE) multispecies, monkfish, red crab, and scallop vessels are required to report via a days-at-sea (DAS) call-in system. Vessel owners issued a limited access NE multispecies, monkfish, occasional scallop, or combination permit may voluntarily elect to use the VMS in place of the DAS call-in system. This reporting is required in order to monitor: (1) Usage of DAS allocations; (2) Compliance with vessel layover requirements; (3) Compliance with days out of the fishery requirements; (4) Compliance with closed area regulations; and (5) Compliance with exempted fishery regulations.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0202.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business and other for-profit organizations; individuals or households; and State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 42,334.

Estimated Time Per Response: An initial vessel permit application requires an estimated 45 minutes to complete and preprinted vessel permit renewal forms require an estimated 30 minutes

per response. Initial dealer permit applications take an estimated 15 minutes to complete and preprinted dealer permit renewal forms require an estimated 5 minutes to complete. The initial and renewal vessel operator permit applications are estimated to take an average of 1 hour to complete due to the color photograph submission requirement. Limited access vessel upgrade or replacement applications take approximately 3 hours to complete. Applications for retention of limited access permit history require an estimated 30 minutes.

Limited access NE multispecies, combination, occasional scallop, and monkfish vessels must notify NMFS via the call-in system of the start date and end date for each fishing trip. The estimated time per response is 2 minutes. It is estimated to take NE multispecies and monkfish vessels approximately 3 minutes to declare of blocks of time out of the gillnet fishery. The burden of vessel monitoring for full-time and part-time limited access scallop vessels or authorized NE multispecies, combination, and occasional scallop vessels is estimated to be 1 hour for installation of a VMS unit, 5 minutes for verification of installation of the VMS unit, and 30 seconds per poll for automated polling of vessel position. Vessels required to have a fully functional VMS unit at all times may request to turn off the VMS (power-down exemption) at approximately 30 minutes per request. Requests for observer coverage are estimated to require 2 minutes per request.

Limited access vessels fishing under DAS requirements that have assisted in U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue operations or assisted in towing a disabled vessel may apply for Good Samaritan DAS credits at a burden of 30 minutes per application. Owners or operators of vessels seeking a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to participate in any of the exemption programs must request an LOA from the Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator). The estimated time required to request an LOA is 5 minutes. Vessels fishing in the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Regulatory Area that wish to be exempt from NE multispecies regulations while transiting the EEZ with NE multispecies on board, or landing NE multispecies in U.S. ports, must request an LOA (5 minutes) in addition to possessing a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance permit under 50 CFR part 300. An LOA (5 minutes) is also required for permitted vessels intending to transfer selected species from one vessel to

another, as follows: *Loligo* and butterfish moratorium permit, or *Illex* moratorium permit, and vessels issued a mackerel or squid/butterfish incidental catch permit that intend to transfer *Loligo*, *Illex*, or butterfish; vessels issued a NE multispecies or scallop permit that intend to transfer species other than regulated species; and NE multispecies vessels intending to transfer up to 500 lb (227 kg) of combined small-mesh NE multispecies per trip for use as bait.

Owners of charter/party vessels intending to fish in the Nantucket Lightship Closure Area must request an LOA from the Regional Administrator, with an estimated time of 5 minutes per request. Vessels fishing under Charter/Party regulations in Gulf of Maine (GOM) closed areas must obtain a Charter/Party Exemption Certificate for GOM Closed Areas, at an estimated 2 minutes per request.

Limited access sea scallop vessels wishing to participate in either the state waters DAS exemption program or the state waters gear exemption program must notify the Regional Administrator by VMS or call-in notification. Participants in the sea scallop state waters exemption programs using VMS notification must notify the Regional Administrator prior to the first trip in the exemption program and prior to the first planned trip in the EEZ, at an estimated 2 minutes per response. Participants in these exemption programs using the call-in system must notify the Regional Administrator at least 7 days prior to fishing under the exemption, at an estimated 2 minutes per call. If participants using the call-in system wish to withdraw from either state waters exemption program prior to the end of the 7-day designated exemption period requirement, they must also call the Regional Administrator to notify of early withdrawal, at an estimated 2 minutes per call.

Surfclam and ocean quahog vessel owners or operators are required to call the NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) nearest to the point of offloading prior to the departure of the vessel from the dock. It requires approximately 2 minutes for a vessel owner or operator to notify OLE of the vessel's departure from the dock to fish for surf clams or ocean quahogs in the EEZ.

In the American lobster fishery, initial lobster area designations are estimated to take 5 minutes, requests for additional tags is estimated to take 2 minutes, and notification of lost tags is estimated to take 3 minutes.

In the NE multispecies fishery, a request for change in permit category designation requires approximately 2

minutes, and a request for transit to another port by a vessel required to remain in the GOM cod trip limit takes 2 minutes.

In the gillnet fisheries for NE multispecies and monkfish, the burden estimate for calling out of the fishery is 3 minutes. Gillnet category designation, including initial requests for gillnet tags, requires approximately 10 minutes. Requests for additional tags require an estimated 2 minutes. Notification of lost tags and requests for replacement tag numbers also require an estimated 2 minutes. It will take approximately 1 minute to attach each gillnet tag.

Requests for state quota transfers in the bluefish and summer flounder fisheries are estimated to require 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 20,212.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$1,348,473.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: November 19, 2003.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-30176 Filed 12-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 112603B]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notification of a proposal for EFPs to conduct experimental fishing; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Northeast Region, NMFS (Assistant Regional Administrator) has made a preliminary determination that the subject EFP application contains all the required information and warrants further consideration. The Assistant Regional Administrator has also made a preliminary determination that the activities authorized under the EFP would be consistent with the goals and objectives of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, further review and consultation may be necessary before a final determination is made to issue the EFP. Therefore, NMFS announces that the Assistant Regional Administrator proposes to recommend that an EFP be issued that would allow up to 60 commercial fishing vessels to conduct fishing operations that are otherwise restricted by the regulations governing the fisheries of the Northeastern United States. The EFP would allow for exemptions from the FMP as follows: The Georges Bank (GB) seasonal closure area; the Days-at-Sea (DAS) notification requirements; the effort-control program (DAS); and minimum fish size restrictions for the temporary retention of undersized fish for data collection purposes.

Regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require publication of this notification to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment on applications for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments on this document must be received on or before December 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Cod Tagging Study." Comments may also be sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Hooker, Fishery Management Specialist, phone (978) 281-9220.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association submitted an application for an EFP to NMFS on November 13, 2003. The application was complete as received. The experimental fishing application requests authorization to