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NERMA06-15
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2006

NOAA Fisheries Service to Survey Northeast Commercial Vessel Owners on Business Costs

Owners of federally permitted Northeast U.S. commercial fishing vessels that landed any fish in 2005 will get something extra when their annual federal permit renewal packages arrive in early 2007. This year's renewal packages will include a voluntary survey on the fixed costs of operating commercial vessels.

"Fixed costs" include insurance, mooring and dockage fees, repairs and maintenance, and other costs that are not directly determined by the number and duration of trips a vessel makes. NOAA economists need information about fixed costs to analyze the potential financial impact of proposed fishery regulations.

Data gathered in the survey will be kept confidential. Vessel owners do not have to participate in the survey in order to renew their permits. Vessel owners with questions about the survey can contact NOAA Fisheries economist Andrew Kitts at 508-495-2231.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

In 2007 NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. Starting with the establishment of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA. The agency is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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On the Web:
NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>
NOAA Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>
For more information: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/read/socialsci/>