



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

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## 2016 Vessel Permit Renewal Bulletin

We made some changes to this year's renewal package. To reduce the amount of paper we usually mail, we're sending only the forms you need to renew your permit. You can find the detailed instructions and permit descriptions on our website (address below). As always, we've enclosed a pre-printed renewal application that is partially completed based on the most recent permits issued to your vessel. Please complete the required forms and return them to us. If your application is not complete, it will not be processed and we'll return it to you for completion. Remember, you can't fish without a valid permit.



### What to include with your application

1. Signed and dated **renewal application**;
2. Signed and dated **owner form** with the names of each owner and/or shareholder of the vessel and;
3. A copy of the vessel's valid **Coast Guard Documentation or State Registration**. Expired USCG Documentation or State registrations will not be accepted.
4. **For party/charter permits**: include a copy of your **valid** Captain's License **or** a copy of your Coast Guard Documentation with a *Coastwise* endorsement.
5. **If applying for a NE multispecies category A, E, or F or a limited access monkfish** permit and you intend to **fish with gillnets** or you need to order more tags, complete the enclosed Gillnet Tag Form.
6. If applying for a **letter of authorization (LOA)**, complete and include the LOA Request Form.
7. Call (978) 281-9246 or visit FishOnLine to make sure your **VTRs are up to date**.



### Where to get more information

Please go to our webpage for a more a detailed list of fishery permits and their requirements <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits> or call the

Permit Office at (978) 282-8438



### Where to send your completed application (email, fax or mail)

**Fax** completed forms to: (978) 281-9161

**Mail** completed forms to: NMFS Permit Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

**Email** scanned forms to: NMFS.GAR.Permits@noaa.gov



**Address corrections and permit changes** can be made on the front of your permit application or in Section 4a and 4b on the back of the form. **If there are no changes to your permits or contact information, please leave sections 4a and 4b blank.** Please cross out any contact information you want us to remove and replace it with the updated information. To cancel a fishery, place an "X" in the column marked "Cancel" next to the permit you want to cancel on the front of the form.



### **Reporting Requirements**

The owner or operator of a fishing vessel that has been issued a Greater Atlantic Region Fishing Vessel Permit has VTR reporting requirements for all fishing trips taken, regardless of species targeted or waters fished. Federal surf clam and ocean quahog permit holders must complete clam/quahog log reports when fishing for those species. Vessels that only possess an American lobster permit are not required to submit VTRs. For more information, please call the Vessel Reporting Office at (978) 281-9246 or visit our website at: [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/evtr/doc/vtr\\_inst.pdf](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/evtr/doc/vtr_inst.pdf)

**To prevent a delay in the processing of your permit, please make sure your VTRs are up to date by calling (978) 281-9246 or by visiting FishOnLine at <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps/login/login>**

### **Federal Vessel Operator Permit**

It is the responsibility of the vessel owner to ensure that his/her vessels issued Greater Atlantic Region permits are operated by an individual with a valid Federal Vessel Operator Permit. Any individual operating a vessel issued Greater Atlantic Federal Fishing Vessel Permit is subject to the vessel operator permit requirements. Vessel operators are required to report their operator permit number when completing their VTRs.

The Federal Vessel Operator Permit is a photo ID that must be carried by the operator of the vessel. Operator permits are issued for a 3-year period and renewal applications are mailed 35 to 45 days before the expiration of the permit. If you already have an operator permit issued by the Southeast Region (SERO), you do not need to get one from us, the Greater Atlantic Region. Either permit is valid for all of the Southeast and Greater Atlantic fisheries that require an operator permit.

**Be sure to keep your address up to date. This will ensure you receive your renewal at the correct address and in a timely manner. Address changes can be made by sending us a written request, signed and dated by the owner.**

To ensure that your operator has a valid operator permit or to obtain an application, please call the Permit Office at 978-282-8437, or online at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/forms.html>.

### **Tuna Permit Holders**

Atlantic tuna vessel permits are issued through a separate permitting system, which can be accessed by phone at (888) 872-8862 (888-USA-TUNA) or via the Internet at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>. Atlantic tunas regulations can also be found on this same website, or can be answered at 978-281-9260.

### **Sale of Your Catch Requirements**

All vessels issued a Federal Greater Atlantic Region Fishing Vessel Permit are required to sell their catch of federally managed species only to seafood dealers with a valid Federal Greater Atlantic Region dealer permit for that species. Federally permitted vessels with Greater Atlantic Region permits may not sell their catch of federally managed species to persons or seafood dealers that do not have valid Federal Greater Atlantic Region dealer permits.

This letter and the enclosures only summarize your legal requirements. For a complete understanding of your obligations, please consult the **regulations** at our website:

[www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/fr.html](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/fr.html) or call **978-281-9315**.