



MONTH : _____ YEAR : _____

Section 1 - VESSEL/OWNER INFORMATION

Vessel Name: _____
 Owner Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Owner Telephone: _____
 CG Documentation or State Registration Number: _____
 Hailing Port: _____
 Principal Port: _____

Section 2 - VESSEL INFORMATION

Vessel Length: _____	Dredge Size: _____
Crew Size: _____	Number of Dredges: _____
Gross Tonnage: _____	Pump Horsepower _____
Year Built: _____	Construction: _____
Main Engine HP: _____	Propulsion: _____
Fish Hold Capacity: _____	No. Passengers for Charter or Party: _____

Section 3 - FISHERY INFORMATION

Fishery	Category	Gear(s)
Sea Scallops	_____	
Skate	_____	
NE Multispecies	_____	
Monkfish	_____	
Surfclam	_____	
Ocean Quahog	_____	
Summer Flounder	_____	
Scup	_____	
Black Sea Bass	_____	
Squid/Mack/Butterfish	_____	
Spiny Dogfish	_____	
Atlantic Bluefish	_____	
Atlantic Herring	_____	
American Lobster	_____	
Tilefish	_____	
Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab	_____	_____

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 I have given in obtaining this permit is true and correct.

Vessel permit # _____ Signature: _____
 _____ Print Name: _____
 08.30.03 Date: _____



**National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office/Fisheries Statistics Office**



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

Mail the completed application package to: National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), 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 NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Web Page at www.nero.nmfs.gov for applications, instructions, fisheries regulations, and other important information, or call 978-281-9278. Northeast Permits Operations can be reached at 978-281-9370.**

In Sections 1 and 2 of the initial vessel application, fill in **all** items:

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 5A 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 **valid** US Coast Guard documentation or State registration in your application package. (See Section 5C 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's main 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 5D 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 - <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/doc/the648.htm>

Category: For each fishery you wish to add, select the category that best describes your fishing operations, and write the category numbers or letters in the column marked **"Category"**. **A description of Northeast fisheries permits and categories is contained in this document on pages 3 – 10.**

Gear Code: For each fishery permit and category, you must select the applicable gear codes from the Gear Code table below. Write the **gear code numbers** in the column marked "Gear Code". For certain permit categories, you are restricted on the gear type you can use and select as noted below. 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	Tub Trawl	913
Boat Seines	220	Gill/Entangling Nets	700	Longlines or Setlines	920
Bottom Trawls	310	Pots and Traps	800	Harpoons	1010
Mid-water Trawls	320	Hand Lines	911	Other Gears	1200
				Diving Gear	1400

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.

B. Scallop Vessels Owned:

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

C. USCG Documentation:

A copy of the vessel’s current and valid US Coast Guard Documentation, or, if undocumented, a copy of the vessel’s current and valid 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:

- Valid state license showing the vessel is authorized to carry charter/party passengers.
- Valid US Coast Guard Documentation that shows the vessel is documented for “Coastwise”.
- Valid 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.

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 lb of shucked scallops, or 50 US bushels of in-shell scallops per trip (one trip per calendar day). This category includes 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, with the exception in fishing year 2004 of the Handgear A permit. 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 the 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 includes all gear types except bottom trawl gear.
3	Part-Time* This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl gear.
4	Occasional This category includes all gear types except bottom trawl gear.
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 is limited to a dredge (gear code 410) gear 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 is limited to a dredge (gear code 410) gear only.
7	Full-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) gear only.

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

Atlantic Sea Scallop – Limited Access Permits continued.

8	Part-Time: Authorized to use trawl nets* This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) gear only.
9	Occasional: Authorized to use trawl nets This category is limited to bottom trawl nets (gear code 310) gear only.

*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 Northeast 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 includes all gear types except a dredge.
C	Small Vessel Exemption: (less than or equal to 30 feet) This category includes all gear types except a dredge gear.
D	Hook Gear: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category is limited to handlines (gear code 911), rod and reel (gear code 912), tub trawl (gear code 913) and longlines (gear code 920) gear only.
E	Combination Vessels: (Vessels in this category may not change category) This category includes all gear types except a dredge.
F	Large Mesh Individual DAS: Category A (Individual DAS) or E (Combination) vessels may elect this category for the entire year. Category A DAS for vessels fishing under this permit category will be increased by 36%. These vessels must fish with either gillnets or trawl nets having a minimum of 8.5-inch square or diamond mesh when fishing in the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, or Southern New England Regulated Mesh Areas, and 7.5-inch diamond or 8.0-inch square mesh when fishing in the Mid-Atlantic Regulated Mesh Area. This category is limited to gear types/codes 120, 210, 220, 310, 320, 330 and 700 only.
HA	Handgear A: (Vessels in this category may not change category) The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb cod, one Atlantic halibut, and daily possession limit restrictions allowed for the remaining regulated species. This category is limited to rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.

***See page 2 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes.**

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

HB	Handgear B: The vessel may possess and land up to 75 lb cod, one Atlantic halibut, and daily possession limit restrictions allowed for the remaining regulated species. This category includes rod and reel (gear code 912), handline (gear code 911) or tub trawl (gear code 913) gear only.
I	Charter/Party: The vessel may possess and land multispecies in the EEZ when carrying passengers for hire. (See Section 5D for additional information.) This category includes rod and reel (gear code 912) and handline (gear code 911) gear only.
J	Scallop Multispecies Possession Limit: The vessel may possess and land up to 300 lb of regulated species while fishing under a scallop DAS. Vessel must have a Limited Access Scallop Permit to qualify for this category. This category includes all gear types.
K	Open Access Multispecies: The vessel may fish for silver hake (whiting), red hake (ling), offshore hake, ocean pout, or Atlantic halibut (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 includes 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 may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that do not possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
B	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that 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. This category includes all gear types except dredge gear.
C	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that also possess a limited access multispecies permit or a limited access scallop permit that landed at least 50,000 lb tail-weight or 166,000 lb whole weight of monkfish during the monkfish qualification period.* This category includes all gear types.
D	Vessels may elect this category that were issued permits in this category in the previous fishing year and that also 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 C permit. This category includes all gear types.

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 Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315. This category includes 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.

❖ Surfclam/Ocean Quahog

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

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

* To possess and land surfclams or ocean quahogs from the EEZ, an allocation of quota is required. For more information call 978-281-9315.

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: The vessel may harvest and land ocean quahogs without an allocation from the EEZ in the area north of latitude 43 degrees 50 minutes N. This category is limited to dredge (410) gear 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 includes all gear types.
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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 5 D for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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❖ 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 includes all gear types.
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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 includes all gear types.
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❖ 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 includes all gear types.
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Black Sea Bass continued. 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 includes all gear types.
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❖ 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 includes all gear types.
5	Illex Squid Moratorium This category includes all gear types.

Open Access Permits: Further restrictions may apply to specific categories.

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 includes all gear types.
3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental Catch: May fish commercially in the EEZ for up to 2,500 lb of Loligo squid or butterfish and 10,000 lb of Illex squid per trip. This category includes all gear types.
4	Atlantic Mackerel: May commercially fish for Atlantic mackerel in the EEZ. This category includes 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 includes 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 includes 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 includes 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 5E for additional information.) This category includes all gear types.
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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 includes all gear types.
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❖ 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: This category is allocated 66 percent of the TAL, after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch to qualified vessels. This category includes all gear types.
B	Full-time tier 2: This category is allocated 15 percent of the TAL, after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch to qualified vessels. This category includes all gear types.
C	Part-time: This category is allocated 19 percent of the TAL, after being reduced 5 percent to adjust for the incidental catch to qualified vessels. This category includes all gear types.

***See page 2 for an list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes.**

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 lb per trip. This category includes 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 includes all gear types.
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***See page 2 for an list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes.**

❖ 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 lb 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 lb. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only.
C	Must demonstrate average Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab landings greater than 250,000 lb per year and documented proof of one trip with landings higher than 75,000 lb 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 lb, the vessel then qualifies for a trip limit equal to the larger trip, rounded to the nearest 5,000 lb. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear 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 lb per trip. This category includes all gear types.
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***See page 2 for a list of NE Fisheries gear types and their codes.**

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

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. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A4	Commercial Trap Gear Area 4: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 4. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. **See eligibility requirements below.
A5	Commercial Trap Gear Area 5: May harvest lobster in Federal Lobster Management Area 5. This category is limited to pots and traps (gear code 800) gear only. **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.

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.

Revised 5/15/04 OMB# 0648-0489 Expires April 30, 2007