



**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

January 12, 2018

## 2018 Vessel Permit Renewal Information

Enclosed is your renewal package for the 2018 permit year.

Application instructions and permit descriptions are posted on our website (address below). 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 must have a valid permit on board your vessel to fish.



To renew your permit, follow steps 1 - 6 (if applicable to your vessel)

1	Sign and date your renewal application.
2	Include a <b>completed</b> yellow owner form, which is enclosed. Make sure to sign and date it.
3	Include a copy of a <b>valid</b> Coast Guard Documentation or State Registration.
4	For party/charter vessels, include a copy of your valid Captain's License or a copy of your Coast Guard Documentation with a Coastwise endorsement.
5	If you fish with gillnets for groundfish or monkfish, you need to have gillnet tags for your gear. Include a Gillnet Tag Form with your application. Call us at 978 282 8438 for more information.
6	If applying for a Letter of Authorization (LOA), complete and include the LOA Request Form.



Choose **only one** of following options to send us your 2018 renewal.

**Fax** completed forms to: (978) 281-9161 (fax) **or** (978) 281-9169 (fax)

or

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

or

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

**Important:** If you email or fax your application, please do not mail the original.



Get in touch with us...

Check your Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) status by calling (978) 281-9246

Call the Permit Office at (978) 282-8438

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>



**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

**Starting March 12, 2018,** vessels issued a Greater Atlantic Region charter/party permit for scup, summer flounder, butterfish, black sea bass, tilefish, bluefish, squid and Atlantic mackerel will be required to submit electronic vessel trip reports within 48 hours for all trips carrying passengers for hire. All other current reporting requirements remain in effect. For more information on this requirement, please contact:

- Daniel Luers at (978) 282- 8457 or at Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov
- a GARFO port agent by searching for “GARFO port agent” in your search engine
- or go to [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/recfishing](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/recfishing)

For more information on Vessel Trip Reports (VTR logbooks), contact the Vessel Trip Reporting office at (978) 281-9246 or visit this webpage. [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/evtr/vtr\\_inst.pdf](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/evtr/vtr_inst.pdf)

**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. 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, call us at 978-282-8437, or online at [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/forms.html](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.

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.