



Northeast Permits Update



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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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(978) 281-9370
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/permits/>

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New Format for Northeast Federal Vessel Operator Permits

The National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region will soon be issuing Vessel Operator Permits in a new format. This is being done in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region and will provide operator permit holders with a single, standardized Operator Permit Identification Card that will be valid for all applicable Northeast and Southeast fisheries.

Currently, operator permit holders in the Northeast Region receive a laminated card. The updated standardized Operator card will be a plastic color identification card (2"x3"). Requests for lost or replacement permit cards must be made in writing to Northeast Permit Operations at the address above.

Any previously issued operator permit cards will remain valid until the expiration of those cards, unless revoked or suspended. If you have an unexpired operator permit card in the old format, it is still valid. We will not be printing a new operator card for you. The next time you renew your operator card you will receive your card in the new format.

What information will be printed on the Vessel Operator Permit Card?

The operator permit card indicates:

- Card holder's name and address
- Picture of the card holder
- Date of birth
- Hair and eye color
- Height and weight
- Expiration date of the permit
- Permit card conditions and information

For which region is a Vessel Operator Permit Card valid?

The Vessel Operator Permit Card is valid for both the Northeast and the Southeast Regions. Both regions agreed to accept fishing vessel operator permits from either region. This allows an operator holding an operator permit card in the Southeast Region to operate a vessel permitted and engaged in fisheries in the Northeast Region, and vice versa.

How long are Vessel Operator Permits valid?

Northeast Region vessel operator permits cards are valid for three years, and expire on the date of expiration printed on the card, unless suspended or revoked. Notices for renewal will be mailed at least 30 days prior to the expiration date displayed on the Vessel Operator Permit Card.

Check our website for further information or call Northeast Permit Operations at (978) 281-9370.

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