



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

November 28, 2007

Dear Federal Limited Access Permit Holder:

This letter is to remind you of vessel replacement regulations that were published in August 2007 and that will come into effect beginning January 1, 2008. This regulation **does not** impact vessels whose only Federal limited access permit is for American lobster.

Beginning January 1, 2008, vessel owners will only be allowed one transfer, via a vessel replacement, of Federal limited access permits per permit year, unless the vessel being replaced has been rendered inoperable and not repairable. Thus, between January 1, 2008, and the first day of the 2008 permit year (March 1, or May 1, depending on your permits) you will be allowed only one replacement. After the start of the 2008 permit year, you will be allowed one more replacement.

The one-time per year vessel replacement provision applies to the suite, or group, of limited access permits that authorize the vessel to participate in the fishery. Thus, a valid suite of limited access permits can only be transferred to a replacement vessel one time per permit year.

The permit year for all Northeast limited access permits, except for Atlantic sea scallop and deep-sea red crab, is May 1 – April 30. The permit year for Atlantic sea scallop and deep-sea red crab is March 1 – February 28. The previous vessel replacement measures were implemented in order to give flexibility to vessel owners to purchase and replace a vessel in a timely manner. This action maintains this flexibility while ensuring that the vessel replacement program is not utilized to circumvent the intent of Federal regulations.

In order to show that your vessel has been rendered inoperable and not repairable, you must provide documentation from an objective third party (e.g., a vessel surveyor, insurance company, United States Coast Guard, or law enforcement agency) that the vessel is no longer operable and is non-repairable.

If you have any questions regarding this regulation please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

