

## DON'T LOSE YOUR VALUABLE FISHING TIME!

**Beginning 1 May 2006**, there are new vessel safety examination requirements for vessels holding a Northeast Federal Fishing Permit or which participate in a Category I or Category II fishery under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

All vessels required to carry an observer must meet U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements and display a current Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal that was issued within the last two years. Vessels that do not have a current Safety Examination Decal are deemed unsafe for purposes of carrying an observer. Vessels that are required to carry an observer, but are inadequate or unsafe for purposes of carrying an observer are prohibited from fishing without an observer. [50 CFR 600.746(f)]. Enforcement action may result when a vessel which is required to carry an observer does not meet the safety requirement and begins a fishing trip without an observer.

The vessel owner or operator must allow the observer to visually inspect for any safety or accommodation requirement [50 CFR 600.746(c)(2)]. Observers must complete a pre-trip safety check of the emergency equipment and are encouraged to review emergency instructions and drills with the captain prior to the vessel leaving port. The vessel must correct noted safety deficiencies before departing to fish with the observer [50 CFR 600.746(d)(2)].

Vessels may obtain a waiver of the Safety Examination Decal requirement from NOAA Fisheries Service. Vessels that meet and maintain all the safety examination requirements to obtain a Safety Examination Decal except for the requirement for Marine Sanitation Devices [33 CFR 159.7] will qualify for the waiver. They will be eligible to take observers without a current Safety Examination Decal. The waiver will be valid for the same two year period as the Safety Examination Decal.



Call today to schedule your free, dockside safety examination.

Portland, ME	207-780-3256
Boston, MA	617-223-3045
Providence RI / Cape Cod	508-999-0072
New York / Connecticut	203-468-4437
Baltimore, MD	410-576-2526
Hampton Roads, VA	757-668-5535
Philadelphia, PA	215-271-4852
Wilmington, NC	910-772-2231
Atlantic Beach, NC	252-247-4562

**ENFORCEMENT OF THE REGULATION BEGINS MAY 1ST**

**AVOID LOSS OF YOUR VALUABLE FISHING TIME**

**SAVE TIME DURING A CG BOARDING**

**REDUCE THE RISK OF YOUR TRIP BEING TERMINATED**

If you have any questions, please call David Potter, Chief of the Fisheries Sampling Branch, at 508-495-2262.