



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Analysis and Program Support Division
(978) 282 – 8438

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Atlantic Mackerel Fishery

Limited access program application deadline reminder
Applications for limited access permits due February 28, 2013

You have until February 28, 2013, to apply for a limited access mackerel permit!

We will not consider applications that are postmarked after that date, so be sure that we receive your application or that it is postmarked by or on February 28, 2013. Applications and a full application guide are available online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/AtlMackLAP/>.

If...	Then...
You are an open access permit holder and wish to maintain your open access mackerel permit	Do nothing now, simply continue to renew your open access mackerel permit during permit renewal each April
You have already submitted an application but have not heard back from us	Your application is under review and you will hear back from us shortly about your qualification status
You are in appeal status	You do not need to reapply, simply continue to work with us to ensure your appeal is complete
If you are thinking of applying but are not sure you will qualify	Submit an application. Be sure to get your application in by February 28, 2013. Please review the application guide noted above for qualification requirements.

Fish Hold Capacity Measurement

Vessels with Tier 1 and 2 mackerel permits must submit vessel hold capacity measurements by December 31, 2013, or during a vessel replacement transaction, whichever comes first.

You will need to submit a letter along with the vessel hold capacity measurement verifying that the measurement was completed by one of the approved individuals or entities:

- An individual credentialed as a Certified Marine Surveyor with a fishing specialty by the National Association of Marine Surveyors (NAMS)
- An individual credentialed as an Accredited Marine Surveyor with a fishing specialty by the Society of Accredited Marine Surveyors (SAMS)
- Employees or agents of a classification society approved by the U.S. Coast Guard
- Maine State Sealer of Weights and Measures
- A professionally licensed and/or registered Marine Engineer

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

- A Naval Architect with a professional engineer license

The hold capacity measurement must be in a unit of volume, such as hogsheads or cubic feet. This measurement will be used as a baseline for all future vessel replacements, with replacement vessels limited to a fish hold capacity increase no more than 10 percent above the baseline. If the units of measure differ between the baseline and the replacement vessel, accepted methods of unit conversion will be used.

Where to send applications or fish hold capacity measurements

You can mail your completed application or your fish hold capacity measurements (along with a letter verifying that the measurement was done by a qualified individual) to the following address:

National Marine Fisheries Service
NERO Permits Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Where to get more information

- Contact the NERO Permits Office at (978) 282-8438 about the permit application or limited access program requirements.
- Contact Sustainable Fisheries at (978) 281-9315 about possession limits and other mackerel fishery restrictions.