

SMALL VESSEL CATEGORY PERMIT INFORMATION SHEET



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

This summary provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements; the regulations summarized here may be found at 50 CFR part 648. Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 for more information.



The Sustainable Fisheries Division provides stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy marine ecosystems.

What is a Small Vessel Category permit?

A vessel with a category A Northeast multispecies limited access days-at-sea (DAS) permit may elect to fish under the Small Vessel Category provided the vessel meets specific requirements.

What are the vessel size requirements of the Small Vessel Category?

- The vessel must be **30 ft or less in length overall**, as determined by measuring along a horizontal line drawn from a perpendicular raised from the outside of the most forward portion of the stem of the vessel to a perpendicular raised from the aftermost portion of the stern.
- If construction of the vessel was begun after May 1, 1994, the vessel must be constructed such that the quotient of the length overall divided by the beam is not less than 2.5. For example, a 30 ft vessel can not have a beam of greater than 12 ft. (30 ft divided by 12 ft = 2.5).

What area closures apply to this permit?

- Small Vessels Category permitted vessels are required to take a mandatory spawning block out of the fishery and may not fish for, possess, or land regulated multispecies from **March 1 through March 20** of each year.
- Please refer to the Closed Area Information Sheet on our website at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/reg/infodocs/multsclosedareas.pdf>

What are the reporting requirements?

- Vessels fishing in a single broad stock area (e.g., Gulf of Maine, Inshore Georges Bank) on a trip must declare the trip through the interactive voice response (IVR) system or through a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) unit.
 - For online access to IVR, log in to Fish Online and click the 'IVR Reporting' link on the left side menu. Fish Online can be found at www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/apps.
 - The phone number for the IVR system is **1-888-284-4904**.
 - If you cannot access the IVR after normal business hours to declare your trip, call the back-up IVR message line at **1-888-487-9994** and leave your name, call-back phone number, vessel name and Federal fisheries permit number, and sailing or landing date and time. A technician will enter your information in the IVR database and return your call during normal business hours.
 - For IVR PINs or questions about the IVR system during business hours, call the Analysis and Program Support Division at **978-281-9133**.

- Vessels fishing in more than one broad stock area on a trip or fishing in a sector need to declare their trip through a VMS unit. Vessels that declare their intent to fish inside and outside of the Gulf of Maine on the same trip must submit daily VMS catch reports.
- You must submit a vessel trip report (VTR) for all trips, even if it is not a groundfish trip (e.g., lobster).
- In addition, by holding a groundfish permit, you are required to report weekly. As of August 26, 2015, you are **not** required to submit a “Did Not Fish” VTR for weeks that you do not fish.

How do I start and end trips in IVR?

- The IVR system will ask you a series of questions. After each answer, it will ask you to confirm your response.

Trip start

1. Report start of a trip
2. Permit number
3. PIN number
4. Say your name and operator number
5. Report sailing
6. Report Fishery
7. Gear
8. Sector (yes or no)
9. Broad Stock Area (BSA)
10. Another BSA (yes or no)
11. VTR number
12. Port Code – call **(978)281-9149** if you need your port code
13. Phone number – including area code
14. Record confirmation number

Trip End

1. Report stop of trip
2. Permit number
3. PIN number
4. Phone number - including area code
5. Open trip? Press 2 to land
6. Port code
7. Trip start and end date/time
8. Record confirmation number

What are the possession limits?

- You may retain up to **300 lb** of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder, **combined**, and one Atlantic halibut per trip, without being subject to DAS restrictions, provided the vessel does not exceed the possession restrictions. However, we may adjust trip limits for these species annually or inseason; we will notify you of any adjustments.
- You are subject to the common pool possession limits for all other regulated species.

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