

NOTICE OF CHANGE

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6625
Washington, DC 20230

04/30/2006

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has made the following change(s).

OMB NO.: 0648-0202

TITLE: Northeast Region Permit Family of Forms

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

The following items have been changed:

ITEM	PREVIOUS VALUE	NEW VALUE
Total Responses	6,429,325	6,430,765
Total Hours	27,340	27,388
Hours Difference	-52	48
Program Change	-52	48
Adjustment	0	0
Annual Costs	1,094	1,598
Total Costs	1,272	1,776
Costs Difference	-255	504
Costs Pgm Change	-255	504

OMB Authorizing Official	Title
Donald R. Arbuckle	Deputy Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT CHANGE WORKSHEET

Agency/Subagency	OMB Control Number _____ - _____	
<i>Enter only items that change</i>		
	Current record	New record
Agency form number (s)		
Annual reporting and recordkeeping hour burden		
Number of respondents		
Total annual responses		
Percent of these responses collected electronically	%	%
Total annual hours		
Difference		
Explanation of difference		
Program change		
Adjustment		
Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (in thousands of dollars)		
Total annualized Capital/Startup costs		
Total annual costs (O&M)		
Total annualized cost requested		
Difference		
Explanation of difference		
Program change		
Adjustment		
Other changes**		
Signature of Senior Official or designee:	Date:	For OIRA Use _____ _____

** This form cannot be used to extend an expiration date.



**SKATE POSSESSION LIMIT EXEMPTION AUTHORIZATION:
LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION (LOA) FOR THE SKATE BAIT FISHERY**

F/V

Vessel Owner/Operator:

Date Issued:

Permit Number:

Hull Number:

Participation Period:

The above-named vessel, pursuant to the Northeast skate fishery regulations at 50 CFR 648.322(b), is exempt from the skate possession limits during the participation period identified above, provided the vessel complies with the following conditions and requirements and all other applicable Federal fishing regulations:

1. This Letter of Authorization must be carried on board the vessel during the period of participation identified above.
2. The vessel owner/operator is in possession only of whole skates less than 23 inches total length.
3. The vessel owner/operator fishes for, possesses, transfers at-sea (see page two), or lands skates only for use as bait.
4. Violation of any condition or provision contained herein or of 50 CFR part 648 automatically voids this Letter of Authorization.
5. There is a minimum enrollment period of 7 days. Vessels issued this Letter of Authorization for a period longer than 7 days may withdraw from the exemption program 7 days after the first day of the participation period identified above. Vessel owners may request a withdrawal by calling the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9370. The vessel will not officially be withdrawn until the owner/operator receives a Withdrawal Notice issued by NMFS.

In addition, the following provisions apply to all vessel owners/operators in possession of this Letter of Authorization during the participation period identified above:

1. Vessels that fish for, possess, and/or land any combination of whole skates less than 23 inches total length and skate wings are no longer exempt from the skate possession limit or the requirement to fish under an Atlantic sea scallop, Northeast multispecies, or Monkfish day-at-sea (DAS).



2. The vessel owner/operator may transfer at sea skates taken in or from the Exclusive Economic Zone portion of the Skate Management Unit (50 CFR 648.13(h)), provided:
 - a. The transferring vessel owner/operator possesses on board this Letter of Authorization; and
 - b. All trip activity is reported on the Fishing Vessel Trip Report. Skates must be reported by species, with the estimated weight, in pounds, of the transferred skates. For skates that are sold or transferred directly to another vessel, the dealer code "00002" (Retained or Sold as Bait) must be entered in the Dealer Permit Number field, and the date of the sale or transfer must be entered in the Date Sold field; and
 - c. The transferring vessel owner/operator provides the receiving vessel documentation indicating the date and the amount of skates transferred, whether or not a monetary exchange is involved in the transfer, and the transferring vessel maintains onboard, for a minimum of 1 year from the date of the transfer, a copy of said documentation.

BURDEN STATEMENT: The Skate Bait Letter of Authorization is approved under OMB Control #0648-0480, and is approved for use through 7/31/06. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, and to enroll or withdraw from the exemption. The Skate Bait Transfer-at-Sea Documentation requirements are approved under OMB Control #0648-0481, and are approved for use through 7/31/06. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, and to prepare and maintain the information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or suggestions for reducing this burden to NMFS, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 1 Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930-2298.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to nor shall a person be subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number.

Issued by:



Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298



United States Department Of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BAIT-ONLY SKATE EXEMPTION PROGRAM
SKATE BAIT FISHERY LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION**

2006

This notice certifies the withdrawal, at your request, of the vessel named below from the Bait-only Skate Exemption Program for which you received a Letter of Authorization.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

VESSEL NAME:

VESSEL PERMIT NUMBER:

VESSEL OWNER/OPERATOR:

(To be completed by NMFS Official)

Date vessel entered the program:
(Must be at least 7 days before the effective date above)

Name of Government Official:

Phone Number of Official:

