



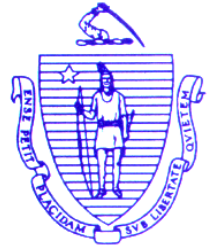
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Marine Fisheries Advisory

New Vessel Replacement Guidelines for Coastal Access Permit Holders

Effective today, new regulations governing vessel replacement guidelines for Coastal Access Permit holders have been implemented. Coastal Access Permit holders may replace the current vessel listed on their permit provided the overall length of the replacement vessel does not increase by more than 10%. An exemption has been added that allows smaller vessels (vessels under 45') to exceed the maximum length upgrade of 10% as long as the replacement vessel does not exceed 50 feet. Prior restrictions on horsepower and tonnage have been rescinded. Vessel upgrades may occur only once during any five year period. The permit holder must be the owner of the new vessel. Coastal Access Permit holders who also hold federal moratorium permits may be subject to more conservative vessel baseline restrictions and are advised to consult NOAA Fisheries prior to moving forward with a vessel upgrade.

For more information about management of shellfish, please visit our website:

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries