



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Amendment 60

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
March 2026

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NMFS | Southeast Regional Office





# Update on Permits

- New system went live in February
  - FOIA pages are now accessible with real-time data
  - FOIA pages do not show past data
- Enhanced validations added to all new applications
- Ongoing work
  - Reviewing past application data for accuracy
  - After launch time will be needed to review data for management and amendment analyses
- Next up
  - Enhancements for the permit system and modifications related to management changes

An underwater scene looking up towards the surface. Sunlight rays penetrate the water, creating a bright, shimmering effect at the top. The water is a deep blue color, and there are small white specks scattered throughout, possibly representing bubbles or particles. The overall atmosphere is serene and refreshing.

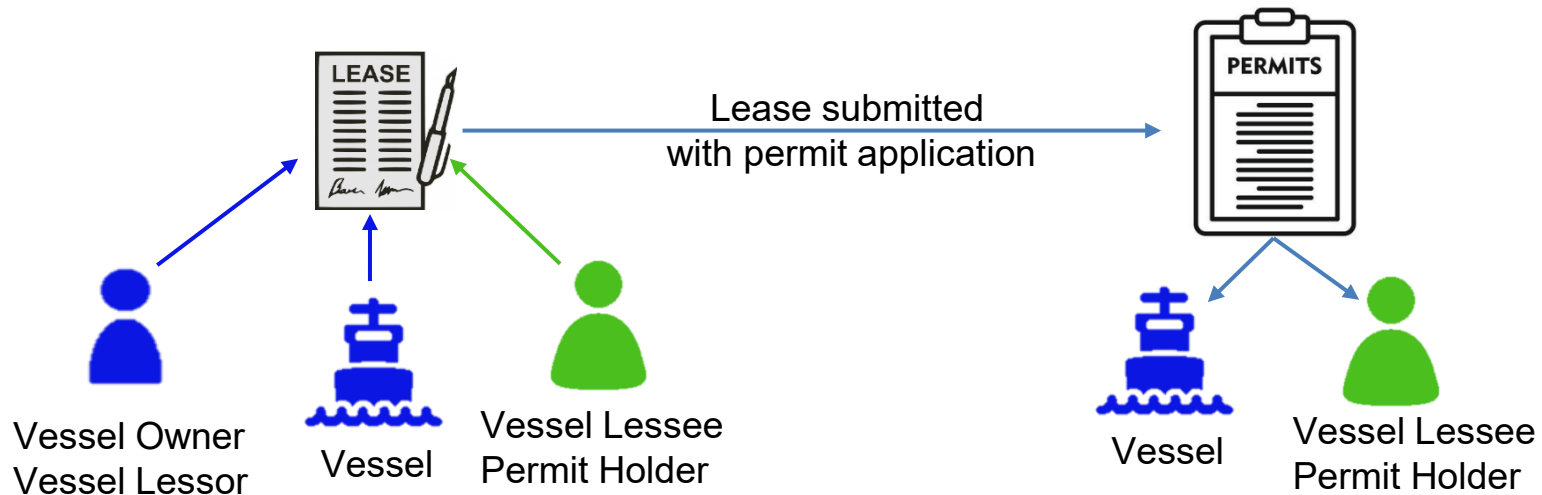
# *Permit Refresher*

# Permit Refresher

- Permits are issued to a permit holder on a specific vessel
  - Key permit dates: effective, expiration, end and terminated
  - All permits on a vessel have the same permit holder
  - Permits are held by individual(s), business(es), or combination of both
- Permits are either Open Access or Limited Access
  - Generally, permits start as open access permits with specific MSA requirements to become limited access
  - Only Limited Access permits may be transferred
  - Limited Access permits not renewed by expiration date can not be used to harvest fish.
    - Expired permits are considered in a 'renewable status'
    - Permits remain expired for 1 year before termination (removal from fishery)










# Permit Refresher

- Permits can not be leased
- Vessels may be leased
  - Requires a lease agreement with lease start and end dates at time of permit application
  - Landing records are associated with the permit holder (lessee)





# Permit Refresher

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- Permit transfers occur for any change in the vessel, permit holder, or permit number
  - Permits transfers occur when:
    - Permit is transferred to another vessel
    - Permit is transferred to another entity (permit holder)
    - Permit is transferred to another vessel AND another entity
  - Changes in ownership of a business is NOT considered a transfer of the permit
  - Permits are ended when:
    - Not renewed before the expiration date
    - The vessel associated with the permit was sold to another entity
    - The vessel lease agreement associated with the permit is ended

# Snapper Grouper 2 Permits Refresher

- A vessel may have either an SG1 OR an SG2 permit
- SG2 permit sets a trip limit of 225 lb of snapper grouper
- SG2 transfer limitations
  - SG2 permit can be transferred to another vessel for the same permit holder
  - SG2 can NOT be transferred to another permit holder
- SG2 business ownership change:
  - Ownership of the permit may change but is not considered a permit transfer

# Snapper Grouper 1 Permit Refresher

- Unlimited pounds per trip of snapper-grouper
- SG1 permit transfer limitations
  - May transfer to another vessel held by the same permit holder
  - May transfer to immediate family members
  - May transfer to a corporation **if** all shares are held by the original permit holder **or** immediate family members. If the annual report shows a new shareholder that is **not** an immediate family member, the permit will not renew.
  - Obtain two SG1 permits to merged to a single SG1 permit
    - Generally merged using the lower permit number
    - Removing the 2-for-1 permit requirement would **not** allow previously merged permits to be split.



# *Permit Questions*

An underwater scene looking up towards the surface. Sunlight rays penetrate the water, creating a bright, shimmering effect at the top. The water is a deep blue color, and there are small, dark particles or bubbles scattered throughout. The overall atmosphere is serene and deep.

*Where we are now*

# Preliminary Analyses - Caveats

- Data is preliminary
- Preliminary match of logbook data to permits
  - Did not account for logbook typos, permit errors, matching errors
- Permit community and entity information is preliminary
  - Permit system is still being adjusted to correctly export community and entity information
  - Information generated is inline with previous values, therefore changes are expected to be modest

# Permits by Vessel Homeport State

Year	FL	GA	SC	NC	Non-SA	Total
2020	365	7	43	113	8	536
2021	372	7	43	109	6	537
2022	358	9	44	102	5	518
2023	353	8	42	106	4	513
2024	348	8	39	107	6	508
2025	337	9	38	113	7	504

**SG1 Permits  
(unlimited)**

Year	FL	GA	SC	NC	Non-SA	Total
2020	89	0	0	13	2	104
2021	84	0	0	12	2	98
2022	81	0	0	11	2	94
2023	76	0	0	11	2	89
2024	74	0	0	11	1	86
2025	71	0	0	11	1	83

**SG2 Permits  
(225 lb trip limit)**

# Permits Ownership

Year	Individuals	Business	Ind. %	Bus. %
2020	267	269	50%	50%
2021	262	275	49%	51%
2022	244	274	47%	53%
2023	237	276	46%	54%
2024	227	281	45%	55%
2025	219	285	43%	57%

**SG1 Permits  
(unlimited)**

**SG2 Permits  
(225 lb trip limit)**

Year	Individuals	Business	Ind. %	Bus. %
2020	81	23	78%	22%
2021	75	23	77%	23%
2022	72	22	77%	23%
2023	66	23	74%	26%
2024	63	23	73%	27%
2025	60	23	72%	28%

# Latent Permits

Year	Permits	Landings	Latent	% Active	% Latent
2020	536	380	156	71%	29%
2021	537	362	175	67%	33%
2022	518	340	178	66%	34%
2023	513	351	162	68%	32%
2024	508	331	177	65%	35%

**SG1 Permits  
(unlimited)**

Year	Permits	Landings	Latent	% Active	% Latent
2020	104	44	60	42%	58%
2021	98	36	62	37%	63%
2022	94	37	57	39%	61%
2023	89	31	58	35%	65%
2024	86	36	50	42%	58%

**SG2 Permits  
(225 lb trip limit)**

# SG1 2-for-1 permit removal considerations

- Prior 2-for-1 SG1 permits will *not* be split back into two SG1 permits
- Do we anticipate that SG2 permit holders would seek to obtain SG1 permits once the 2-for-1 regulations is removed?
  - If so, we may see an effort shifts or changes to trip limit analyses
- Transfer Limits?
  - Do you want to remove the current restrictions on 1-for-1 SG1 permits between family members?
  - Most limited access permits have no transfer restrictions. Restrictions have been typically applied by fishery for fishery specific reasons.



# *Data Questions*

An underwater photograph showing sunlight filtering through the water surface, creating a bright, shimmering effect. The water is a deep blue color, and the light rays create a sense of depth and tranquility. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

*Limited Access Permit Pool Concept*

# Permit phase continuum

Open Access

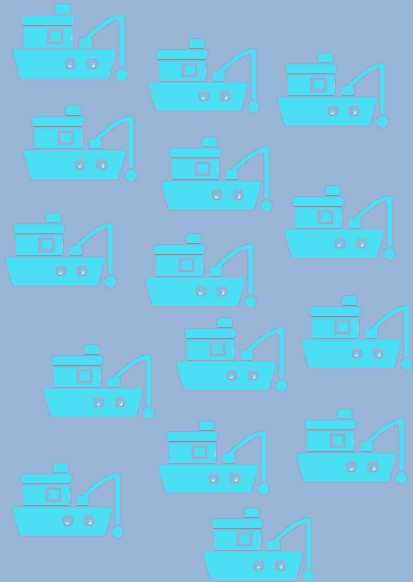


Limited access



Limited Pool

- No limits on new permits



- No new permits
- Obtain permit from existing permit holder
- Permits terminated so expected gradual decrease over time
- No mechanism to stop decrease



- No new permits
- Obtain permit from pool or transfer
- Permits go to pool instead of terminating
- Permit number remains the same



Time






# Permit Pool Concept

- Sets a sustainable number of permits
  - Stops the gradual decrease seen in limited access permits
  - Does NOT eliminate permit latency
- Benefits
  - May reduce barriers (cost) to entry
  - Maintains permits for future use
- Elements
  - Evaluation trigger
  - Criteria for pool placement – when do permits revert to the pool
  - Distribution of pooled permits
    - Timing
    - Eligibility (purpose and need)
    - Methodology












# Permit Pool Examples

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- Existing Southeast Permit Limited Access Pool
    - Gulf Shrimp created a trigger to consider a limited access pool in Amendment 17B based on optimum yield
    - Council only set a trigger and not process to create the pool
  - NE Groundfish State Permit Pool
    - State owns the permits and leases them to qualified fishermen at subsidized rates.
  - Hawaii Longline Entry Level Pool
    - Longline permits are limited access,. When a permit is revoked or surrendered, the permit can be re-issued to a new entrant or indigenous resident
  - Maine Lobster Pool
    - Limited entry but for every 5 trap tags that are retired 1 becomes available



# Permit Pool Concept

- Trigger to begin a permit pool
    - Sets criteria to begin the evaluation of a permit pool
    - Trigger should have rationale based in expected 'carrying capacity' for the fishery
    - Metrics to consider: Catch per unit effort, maximum sustainable yield, latent permits, catchability coefficients, optimum yield, historical participation, expected new entrants, FMP goals, over-capitalization of the fishery, etc.
  - Potential mechanism to put permits in a pool
    - Terminated permits
    - Use or Lose provisions
    - Death of permit holder
    - Government buy back programs
    - Business bankruptcy
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# Permit Pool Implementation

- Pool Purpose
  - Who is intended to benefit from the permit pool?
  - Examples: prevent permit consolidation, ease entry to the fishery (green horn or apprentice program), retain fishing communities, etc.
- Pool Qualification
  - Who can receive a permit?
    - Experience qualifications “boots on the water” – for example, time spent on a fishing vessel, no major fishing violations, etc.
    - Community qualifications: community income reliance, local residency
  - Should there be restrictions on pool permits to ensure it is fished?
    - Transfer restrictions – time limit before can be transferred, return to pool instead of transfer
    - Use or lose provision
    - Permit holder on board provision



# Permit Pool Distribution

- When to distribute?
  - Set time each year
  - After pool reaches x permits
- How to distribute?
  - Lottery or weighted lottery
  - Auction
  - First come – first serve (waiting list)
- Will the distribution subject to appeals?
  - SERO reaching out to appeals division for more information

*Permit Pool Questions?*

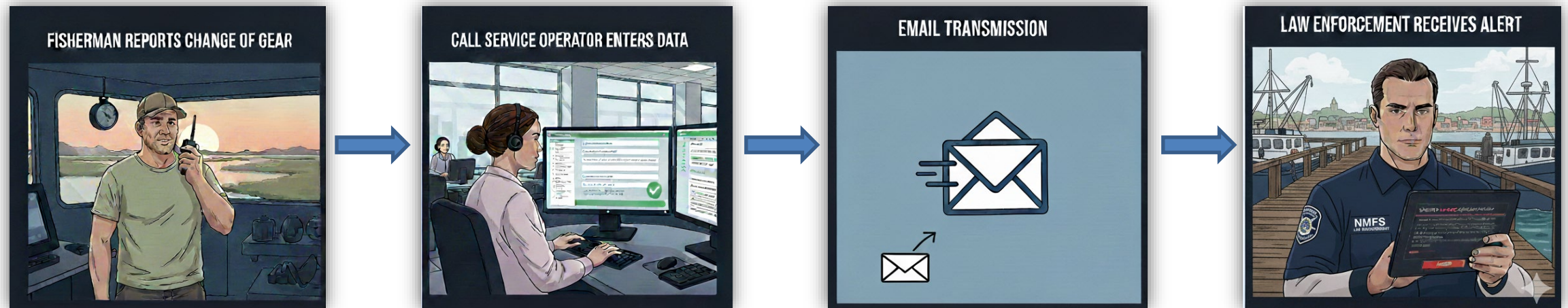


An underwater scene looking up towards the surface of the water. Sunlight rays are visible, creating a bright, shimmering effect at the top of the frame. The water is a deep blue color, and there are small, dark specks scattered throughout, possibly representing particles or bubbles. The overall atmosphere is serene and deep.

# *Notification System*

# Call Notification System

- Purpose: An advanced notification to alert OLE that the fisherman will be using multiple gears or switching between gears at sea
- Best option is a call service system
  - Similar to Wreckfish (proposed) and Gulf Reef Fish (active)



# Call Notification System

- When should the notification be submitted?
  - IF prior to leaving, how do we guarantee that both gears were used vs submission every trip because both gear *might* be used?
    - Can notify using cell or land-line
    - Difficult to measure effectiveness of notification if notifying for every trip but not using both gears on every trip
  - At-sea notification guarantees only notification when actually switching gears
    - Requires satellite phone and creates better metric to evaluate how often this happens

# Call Notification System

- When does OLE need to see the notification?
  - May be dependent on when notification is submitted – prior or at-sea
  - How far in advance could the notification be made?
    - Prior to trip: When leaving the dock (for prior to switching)
    - At-sea: Within x hours of switching gear?
- Scientific & management needs
  - Will require separate effort in electronic logbook
  - Allows catch to be correctly classified by gear for stock assessments and management. Not an issue before, because they could not switch gears



# Administrative Burden

- Call service center
  - Likely an incremental cost to existing contracts
- Database system
  - Build out web-based entry to a database
  - Build out database system and roles
  - Build out mechanism to send to selected OLE officers/agents
- Challenges
  - Requires IT contractors
  - Challenge to find qualified candidates that will accept government salary rates for short-term projects
  - Security clearance has been extremely slow for contractors
  - Challenges could result in delay on effective date

*Notification Questions?*

# *Additional Reference Slides*






# Federal Permits Refresher



The Magnuson-Stevens Act establishes requirements for limited access systems & permits


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- The term 'limited access system' means a system that limits participation in a fishery to those satisfying certain eligibility criteria or requirements contained in a fishery management plan or associated regulation.



Limited access system may be established to achieve ***optimum yield***

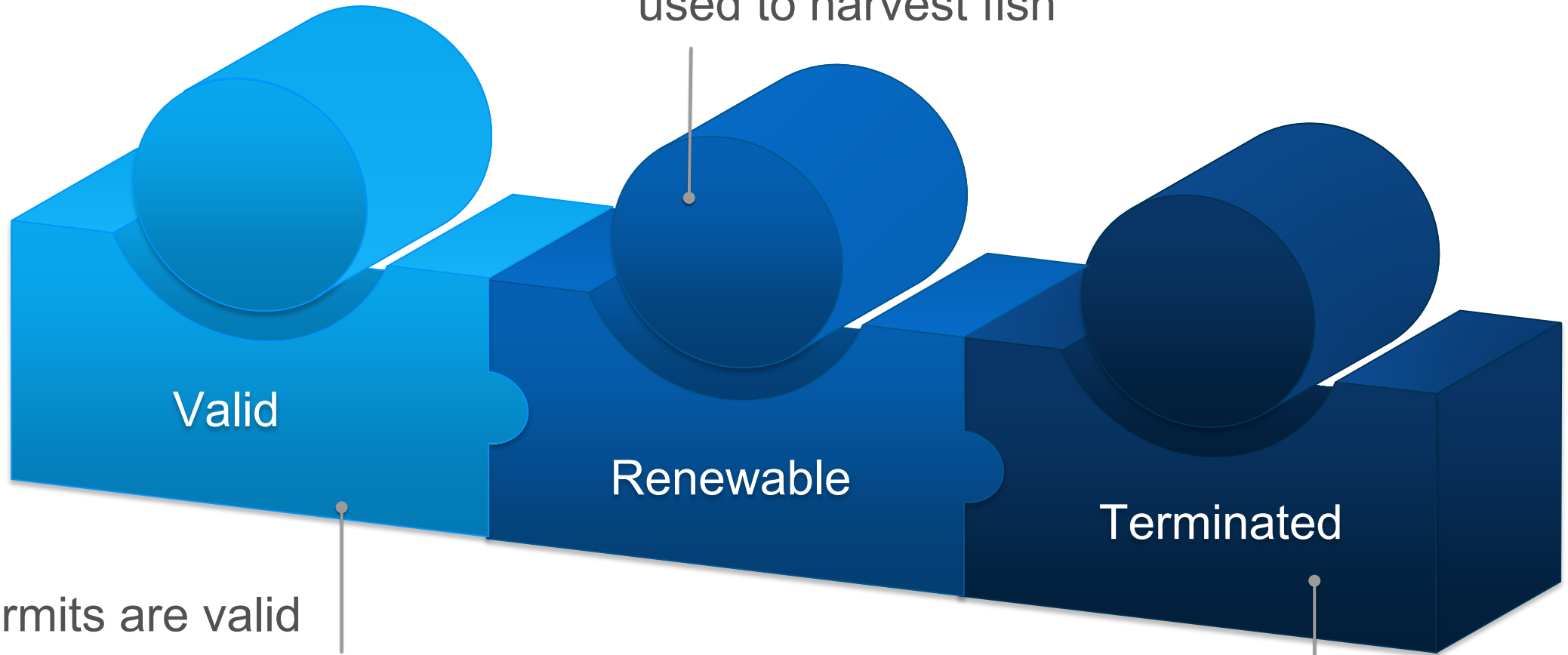


When developing a system, the Council and NOAA Fisheries must take into account:

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- Present participation in the fishery
  - Historical fishing practices in and dependence on, the fishery
  - Economics of the fishery
  - Capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries
  - Cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and affected fishing communities
  - Fair and equitable distribution of access privileges
  - Any other relevant considerations

# Permit Cycle

If not renewed, permit expires. One year to renew or transfer. Can not be used to harvest fish



Permits are valid for one year to harvest fish

After 1 year expired, permit terminates. Removed forever.



# Relevant Permit Dates

- Effective date: The date the permit can be used to harvest
- Expiration date: The future date when the permit will expires
  - Always expires on last day of a month
  - Most permits are effective for 1 year (can be as short as 7 months or as long as 17 months)
- End date: The date the permit is no longer valid to harvest. Only populated when the permit ends
  - Typically, populated when the expiration date passes.
  - May be ended early if a vessel is sold, the vessel lease ends, or the permit is transferred.
- Termination date: The date the permit is removed from the fishery.
  - Typically, 1 year after the expiration date (2 years after the effective date)

# Limited Access Permits Date Examples

Action	Effective Date	Expiration Date	End Date	Termination Date	Notes
Mailed Permit	1/26/24	1/31/25		1/31/26	End date is only populated when a permit ends. Expiration and termination dates are in the future from the effective date.
Expired Permit	12/23/22	12/31/23	12/31/23	12/31/24	When the permit expired it received an end date, but can still be renewed until the termination date
Terminated Permit	12/23/21	12/31/22	12/31/22	12/31/23	Permit has terminated, and can not be renewed or transferred.
Vessel Sold	05/1/23	04/30/24	11/15/23	04/30/25	The end date was populated when the Permit Office was notified the was vessel sold (11/15/23).
Vessel with Lease	12/11/23	07/31/24		07/31/25	The uploaded lease agreement ends 7/31/24 (prior to expected expiration date of 12/31/24). Therefore the expiration becomes the lease end date.
Vessel with Lease (ended early)	12/11/23	12/31/24	01/10/24	12/31/25	Original application had a lease end date after 12/31/24, therefore the expiration date was set to 1 year. The end date was populated when the Permit Office was notified that the lease ended early (1/10/24).