

*Upon returning to port*, for purposes of the call-in notification system for the NE multispecies fishery, means the first point when a vessel ties up at a dock or mooring in a port at the end of a fishing trip.

*Vessel length* means the length specified on the USCG documentation for a vessel or on the state registration for a vessel not required to be documented under title 46 U.S.C., if the state length is verified by an authorized officer or NMFS official.

*Vessel Tracking System (VTS)* means a vessel tracking system as set forth in §648.9 and approved by NMFS for use by scallop and NE multispecies vessels, as required by this part.

*VTS unit* means a device installed on board a vessel used for vessel tracking and transmitting the vessel's position as required by this part.

*Weakfish* means *Cynoscion regalis*.

*Whiting* means *Merluccius bilinearis*.

[61 FR 34968, July 3, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 39910, July 31, 1996; 61 FR 43424, Aug. 23, 1996; 61 FR 49277, Sept. 19, 1996; 61 FR 56126, Oct. 31, 1996; 61 FR 58464, Nov. 15, 1996; 62 FR 2620, Jan. 17, 1997; 62 FR 9379, Mar. 3, 1997; 62 FR 10748, Mar. 10, 1997; 62 FR 13299, Mar. 20, 1997; 62 FR 14646, Mar. 27, 1997; 62 FR 15385, Apr. 1, 1997; 62 FR 49148, Sept. 19, 1997; 62 FR 51381, Oct. 1, 1997; 63 FR 11593, Mar. 10, 1998; 63 FR 27484, May 19, 1998; 63 FR 40377, July 29, 1998; 63 FR 52640, Oct. 1, 1998]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 63 FR 52640, Oct. 1, 1998, §648.2 was amended by adding the definitions *Dealer code*, *IVR system*, and *Quota-managed species*, effective Nov. 1, 1998.

### §648.3 Relation to other laws.

(a) The relation of this part to other laws is set forth in §600.705.

(b) Nothing in these regulations supersedes more restrictive state management measures for any of the species referenced in §648.1 and, for Atlantic salmon, more restrictive local management measures.

### §648.4 Vessel and individual commercial permits.

(a) *Fishery specific permit information*.  
(1) *NE multispecies vessels*. Except for vessels that have been issued a valid High Seas Fishing Compliance permit, have declared their intent to fish, and fish exclusively in the NAFO Regulatory Area as provided in §648.17, any vessel of the United States, including a

charter or party boat, must have been issued and have on board a valid multispecies permit to fish for, possess, or land multispecies finfish in or from the EEZ. Multispecies frames used as, or to be used as, bait on a vessel fishing exclusively with pot gear are deemed not to be multispecies finfish for purposes of this part provided that there is a receipt for the purchase of those frames on board the vessel.

(i) *Limited access multispecies permits—(A) Eligibility*. To be eligible to apply for a limited access multispecies permit, as specified in §648.82, in 1996 and thereafter, a vessel must have been issued a limited access multispecies permit for the preceding year, must be replacing a vessel that was issued a limited access multispecies permit for the preceding year, or must qualify for a 1996 limited access multispecies hook-gear permit under this paragraph (a)(1)(i). Vessels qualifying for 1996 limited access multispecies hook-gear permits are qualified only for that limited access permit category. A vessel is eligible for a 1996 limited access multispecies hook-gear permit, provided:

(1) The vessel was issued a 1995 open access multispecies hook-gear permit and the owner or operator of the vessel submitted to the Regional Administrator, no later than January 26, 1996, fishing log reports dated between June 1, 1994, and June 1, 1995, when fishing with hook gear under the open access hook-gear permit, documenting landings of at least 500 lb (226.8 kg) of NE multispecies finfish, or its equivalent in numbers of fish; or

(2) The vessel is replacing such a vessel.

(B) *Application/renewal restrictions*. Owners of vessels must apply for a limited access multispecies hook-gear permit before September 1, 1996, to receive an automatic mailing of an application to renew their permit in 1997 and to be assured that their permit application will be processed within 30 days. Vessel owners applying after December 31, 1996, will be ineligible to apply for an initial limited access multispecies hook-gear permit. To renew or apply for a limited access multispecies permit, a completed application must be received by the Regional Administrator by the first day of the fishing