permits that are not renewed or that are revoked will not be reissued. A permit is considered to be not renewed when an application for renewal is not received by the RA within 1 year of the expiration date of the permit.

(11) Display of a commercial vessel permit. A commercial vessel permit issued under this section must be carried on board the vessel. The operator of a vessel must present the permit for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer.

(12) Sanctions and denials of a commercial vessel permit. A commercial vessel permit issued pursuant to this section may be revoked, suspended, or modified, and a permit application may be denied, in accordance with the procedures governing enforcement-related permit sanctions and denials found at subpart D of 15 CFR part 904.

(13) Alteration of a commercial vessel permit. A commercial vessel permit that is altered, erased, or mutilated is invalid.

(14) Replacement of a commercial vessel permit. A replacement permit may be issued. An application for a replacement permit is not considered a new application.

(15) Fees. A fee is charged for each application for initial issuance or renewal of a permit, for each request for replacement of such permit, and for each trap tag as required under this section. The amount of each fee is calculated in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook, available from the RA, for determining the administrative costs of each special product or service. The fee may not exceed such costs and is specified with each application form. The appropriate fee must accompany each application, request for replacement, or request for trap tags.

(b) Issuance of a trap certificate and annual trap tags. The RA will issue a trap certificate and annual trap tags to each person who has been issued a Federal commercial vessel permit for stone crab. The number of trap tags issued will be determined, based upon the documentation of landings submitted consistent with §654.4(a)(1), (2) and (3), by dividing that person’s highest landings of stone crab claws during any one of the fishing seasons for 1995/1996, 1996/1997, or 1997/1998 by 5 lb (2.27 kg).

§ 654.5 Recordkeeping and reporting. [Reserved]

§ 654.6 Vessel and gear identification.

An owner or operator of a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial vessel permit for stone crab has been issued must comply with the vessel and gear identification requirements of this section. An owner or operator of a vessel in the management area who is in compliance with the stone crab trap limitation program and vessel marking requirements implemented by the FFWCC is exempt from the requirements of this section.

(a) Vessel identification. An owner or operator of a vessel for which a valid Federal commercial vessel permit for stone crab has been issued must—

(1) Display the vessel’s official number—(i) On the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and, for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long, on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be clearly visible from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(ii) In block arabic numerals permanently affixed to or painted on the vessel in contrasting color to the background.

(iii) At least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in height for vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) long; at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in height for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long; and at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) in height for vessels 25 ft (7.6 m) long or less.

(2) Display the color code assigned by the RA—(i) On the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull and, for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long, on an appropriate weather deck, so as to be clearly visible from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(ii) In the form of a circle permanently affixed to or painted on the vessel.

(iii) At least 18 inches (45.7 cm) in diameter for vessels over 65 ft (19.8 m) long; at least 10 inches (25.4 cm) in diameter for vessels over 25 ft (7.6 m) long; and at least 3 inches (7.6 cm) in diameter for vessels 25 ft (7.6 m) long or less.
(3) Keep the official number and the color code clearly legible and in good repair and ensure that no part of the fishing vessel, its rigging, fishing gear, or any other material on board obstructs the view of the official number or the color code from an enforcement vessel or aircraft.

(b) Gear identification—(1) Traps. A stone crab trap used by or possessed on board a vessel with a Federal commercial vessel permit for stone crab must have a valid annual trap tag issued by the RA attached.

(2) Trap buoys. A buoy must be attached to each stone crab trap or at each end of a string of traps. Each buoy must display the official number and the color code assigned by the RA so as to be easily distinguished, located, and identified.  

(3) Presumption of trap ownership. A stone crab trap will be presumed to be the property of the most recently documented owner. This presumption will not apply to traps that are lost if the owner reports the loss within 15 days to the RA.

(4) Unmarked traps or buoys. An unmarked stone crab trap or a buoy deployed in the EEZ where such trap or buoy is required to be marked is illegal and may be disposed of in any appropriate manner by the Assistant Administrator or an authorized officer.


§ 654.7 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in §620.7 of this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to do any of the following:

(a) Falsify or fail to display and maintain vessel and gear identification, as required by §654.6.

(b) Possess a stone crab in the management area during the period specified in §654.20(a).

(c) Possess a stone crab trap in the management area during the period specified in §654.20(c).

(d) Remove from a stone crab in or from the management area, or possess in the management area, a claw that is less than the minimum size limit specified in §654.21(a).

(e) Fail to return immediately to the water unharmed an egg-bearing stone crab, or strip eggs from or otherwise molest an egg-bearing stone crab; as specified in §654.21(b).

(f) Hold a stone crab in or from the management area aboard a vessel other than as specified in §654.21(c).

(g) Use or possess in the management area a stone crab trap that does not comply with the trap construction requirements as specified in §654.22(a).

(h) Pull or tend a stone crab trap in the management area other than during daylight hours, as specified in §654.22(b).

(i) Willfully tend, open, pull, or otherwise molest another fisherman’s trap, buoy, or line in the management area, as specified in §654.22(c).

(j) Trawl in a closed area or during a closed season, as specified in §§654.23 or 654.24, or as may be implemented under §654.25(b).

(k) Place a stone crab trap in a closed area or during a closed season, as specified in §§654.23 or 654.24, or as may be implemented under §654.25(b).

(l) Interfere with fishing or obstruct or damage fishing gear or the fishing vessel of another, as specified in §654.25(a).

(m) Make any false statement, oral or written, to an authorized officer concerning the taking, catching, harvesting, landing, purchase, sale, possession, or transfer of stone crab.

(n) Interfere with, obstruct, delay, or prevent by any means an investigation, search, seizure, or disposition of seized property in connection with enforcement of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

(o) Fish for any species or anchor a fishing vessel in a marine reserve as specified in §654.28.

(p) Except for a person who is in compliance with the FPWCC stone crab trap limitation program, possess or use a stone crab trap, possess more than 1 gallon (4.5 L) of stone crab claws, or sell stone crab claws in or from the management area without a commercial vessel permit as specified in §654.4(a).

(q) Falsify information on an application for a commercial vessel permit or submitted in support of such application as specified in §654.4(a)(1) or (2).

(r) [Reserved]

(s) Pull or tend a stone crab trap, effective May 11, 2010, in the portion of