

HMS Charter/Headboat Category Permit

Any vessel that carries passengers for hire must obtain a permit in the HMS Charter/Headboat category. Anglers aboard vessels permitted in this category may collectively fish under either the daily HMS Angling or General category limit as applicable on that day. The size category of the first BFT retained or possessed will determine the fishing category of all persons aboard the vessel for that day, and the applicable catch limits. The Charter/ Headboat Category permit requires that the operator possess a USCG Captain's license

US Coast Guard Safety Equipment Category

When fishing under the Angling category (recreational), vessels must abide by the safety equipment requirements under "Uninspected Passenger Vessels" (category 1 and 2). When fishing under General category (commercial), vessels must abide by safety equipment requirements under "Commercial Fishing Vessel" categories (category 3 and 4). All uninspected passenger vessels are required to have a USCG licensed operator.

US Coast Guard Safety Equipment Requirements

SAFETY EQUIPMENT	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL 16' - 26'	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL OVER 26'	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS STATE REGISTERED	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED
PERSONAL FLOTATION				
INSIDE 03 MILES LESS THAN 40' IN LENGTH	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, II, III, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT	TYPE I, II, III, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT
INSIDE 03 MILES 40' OR MORE IN LENGTH	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT	TYPE I, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT
BEYOND BL INSIDE 03 MILES LESS THAN 40'	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, V	TYPES I,II,III, V OR IMMERSION SUIT	IMMERSION SUIT
BEYOND BL INSIDE 03 MILES 40' OR MORE IN LENGTH	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, V	Type I, Type V, or Immersion suit	IMMERSION SUIT
BEYOND 03 MILES, COLD WATER	TYPE I, V	TYPE I, V	IMMERSION SUIT	IMMERSION SUIT
MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RETORREFLECTIVETAPE P.M.L LIGHTS REQUIRED ON ALL PFDS AND IMMERSION SUITS TYPE V MUST BE WORN				
RING BUOY				
LESS THAN 16 FEET IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

MORE THAN 16 FEET BUT LESS THAN 26 FEET	NONE	NONE	24" ORANGE RING BUOY OR THROWABLE CUSHION MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RING BUOY MUST HAVE 60' LINE ATTACHED	24" ORANGE RING BUOY OR THROWABLE CUSHION MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RING BUOY MUST HAVE 60' LINE ATTACHED
RING BUOYS-CONT	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL 16' - 26'	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL OVER 26'	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS STATE REGISTERED	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED
MORE THAN 26 FEET IN LENGTH BUT LESS THAN 65 FEET	NONE	20" RING BUOY MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL	24" ORANGE RING BUOY MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL 60 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE	24" ORANGE RING BUOY MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL 60 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE
MORE THAN 65 FEET IN LENGTH	NONE	20" RING BUOY MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL	3 24" ORANGE RING BUOYS MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE 90 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED TO ONE	3 24" ORANGE RING BUOYS MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE 90 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED TO ONE
DISTRESS SIGNALS				
WITHIN 03 MILES OF COASTLINE	3 RED FLARES SEE 33CFR175 TABLE	3 RED FLARES See 33CFR 175 TABLE	3 RED FLARES OR 1 DISTRESS LIGHT AND 1DISTRESS FLAG	3 RED FLARES OR 1 DISTRESS LIGHT AND 1DISTRESS FLAG
BETWEEN 03 MILES AND 50 MILES OF COASTLINE	3 FLARES USCG APPROVED	3 FLARES USCG APPROVED	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, 6 RED FLARES USCG APPROVED COMMERCIAL	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, 6 RED FLARES USCG APPROVED COMMERCIAL
BEYOND 50 MILES OF COASTLINE	3 FLARES USCG APPROVED	3 FLARES USCG APPROVED	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, 6 RED FLARES SOLAS APPROVED	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, 6 RED FLARES SOLAS APPROVED
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS				
LESS THAN 26 FEET	1 BI	N/A	1 BI	1 BI
26 FEET TO 40 FEET	2 BI OR 1 BII	2 BI OR 1 BII	2 BI OR 1 BII	2 BI OR 1 BII
40 FEET TO 65 FEET	3 BI, OR 2 BII, OR 1 BI AND 1 BII	3 BI, OR 2 BII, OR 1 BI AND 1 BII	3 BI, OR 2 BII, OR 1 BI AND 1 BII	3 BI, OR 2 BII, OR 1 BI AND 1 BII
PROPERLY MOUNTED PROPERLY SERVICED				
SURVIVAL CRAFT				
Beyond 50 MILES	NONE	NONE	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE LFERAFT WITH SOLAS "A" PACK. STOWED FLOAT FREE AND AUTOMATIC INFLATION
20 to 50 MILES COLD WATER	NONE	NONE	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE LIFERAFT WITH SOLAS "B" PACK. STOWED FLOAT FREE AND AUTOMATIC INFLATION
20 TO 50 MILES WARM WATER	NONE	NONE	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE LIFERAFT
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, 12 TO 20 MILES, COLD WATER, 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE		INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2

BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, 12 TO 20 MILES, COLD WATER	NONE	NONE	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, WITHIN 12 MILES, COLD WATER, 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	BUOYANT APPARATUS	
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, WITHIN 12 MILES, COLD WATER, LESS THAN 36 FEET IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, WITHIN 20 MILES, WARM WATER	NONE	NONE	LIFE FLOAT SEE NOTE 2C	LIFE FLOAT SEE NOTE 2C
SAFETY EQUIPMENT	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL 16' - 26'	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL OVER 26'	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS STATE REGISTERED	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED
INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE, COLD WATER; OR LAKES, BAYS, SOUNDS, RIVERS; COLD WATER; 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE, COLD WATER; OR LAKES, BAYS, SOUNDS, RIVERS; COLD WATER; LESS THAN 36 FEET IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE, WARM WATER; OR LAKES, BAYS, SOUNDS, RIVERS WARM WATER	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
	<p>NOTE 2 (a) The survival craft requirements do not apply to vessels less than 36 feet in length when carrying 3 or less POB and operating inside 12 miles.</p> <p>NOTE 2 (b) A buoyant apparatus may be substituted for an inflatable buoyant apparatus for vessels 36 feet or more in length when carrying 3 or less POB and operating inside 12 miles.</p> <p>NOTE 2 (c) A buoyant apparatus may be used instead of a life float for warm waters if only a buoyant apparatus is required for the same area in cold water.</p>			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL APPROVED CG WATERLIGHT CURRENTLY SERVICED CURRENT RELEASE MECHANISM PAINTER LINE PROPERLY RIGGED </div>				
EPIRB				
UNDER 36 FEET IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	CATEGORY II	CATEGORY II
36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE	CATEGORY I	CATEGORY I
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> CURRENT NOAA REGISTRATION, BATTERY, HYDROSTATIC RELEASE AND FUNCTIONING PROPERLY </div>				
FIRST AID KIT				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
FIRST AID & CPR CERTIFICATION				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE AND WITH MORE THAN 2 POB
GUARDS FOR EXPOSED HAZARDS				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
COMPASS				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
ANCHOR				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE

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RADAR REFLECTOR				NON-METALLIC HULL WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT				
VHF RADIO 156-162 MHz				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE INSIDE 20 MILES
SAFETY EQUIPMENT	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL 16' - 26'	UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSEL OVER 26'	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS STATE REGISTERED	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED
VHF RADIO 2-27.5 MHz				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE GREATER THAN 100 MILES
MARINE SANITATION DEVICE APPROVED BY CG OR HAVE A HOLDING TANK TO PUMP TO SHORE. ALL OVBV VALVES MUST BE SECURED.	IF INSTALLED	IF INSTALLED	IF INSTALLED	IF INSTALLED
HIGH WATER ALARMS				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE AND 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH
BILGE PUMPS				WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	N/A	WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
				MUST BE POSTED IF 4 OR MORE POB
POLLUTION AND GARBAGE PLACARDS ALL VESSELS > 26 FT	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED
SAFETY ORIENTATION & DRILLS	REQUIRED	REQUIRED		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
PASSENGER COUNTS	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	N/A	N/A
INJURY PLACARD			REQUIRED	REQUIRED

HMS Angling Category Permit

Private recreational vessel owners who harvest Atlantic tunas must obtain a permit in the HMS Angling category. Permit holders in this category may retain only one large medium or giant “trophy” BFT per fishing year. Commercial sale of tuna is prohibited in this category.

US Coast Guard Safety Equipment Category

When fishing under the Angling category (recreational), vessels must abide by the safety rules for recreational vessels

SAFETY EQUIPMENT RECREATIONAL		
PERSONAL FLOTATION		
A PFD must be on board for each person in all waters.	Type I, II, III or V	Vsl > 16 ft type IV must be onbd.
All children under the age of 5 must wear the PFD while onbd all recreational vessels unless the railing is enclosed up to 3 feet high.		
For a type V to be legal it must be worn and used for the activity specified on the PFD.		
	W/O fixed system	With Fixed
Fire extinguishers-	< 26ft- 1-BI 26ft-40ft-2 BI or 1 BII 40 ft to 65ft- 3 B1 or 1 BII and 1 BI	26 ft –none 26ft – 40 ft 1- BI 40ft -65ft 2 BI or 1 BII
Visual distress signals	All vessels greater than 16 ft required <16 ft VDS's are required if operating between sunset and sunrise.	Acceptable signals: electric light Night time only; orange flag daytime only; 3 red hand held flares or 3 red rocket propelled flares, 3 parachute flares are all good for day and night. Daylight only:

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		orange floating smoke signal, Hand held orange smoke signal.
Navigation lights	IAW Nav Rule	
Ventilation Systems/backfire controls.	All gasoline powered constructed in away to entrap fumes requires installed ventilation	All gasoline engines require backfire control devices
Sound producing device	< 65 ft- a whistle or horn	

Atlantic Tunas General Category Permit

Vessel owners who harvest Atlantic tunas, including large medium and giant BFT, by handgear and plan to sell the tuna must obtain a permit in the General category.

US Coast Guard Safety Equipment Category

When fishing under General category (commercial), vessels must abide by safety equipment requirements under “Commercial Fishing Vessel” categories.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS STATE REGISTERED	COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS FEDERALLY DOCUMENTED
PERSONAL FLOTATION		
INSIDE 03 MILES LESS THAN 40' IN LENGTH	TYPE I, II, III, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT	TYPE I, II, III, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT
INSIDE 03 MILES 40' OR MORE IN LENGTH	TYPE I, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT	TYPE I, V, OR IMMERSION SUIT
BEYOND BL INSIDE 03 MILES LESS THAN 40'	TYPES I,II,III, V OR IMMERSION SUIT	IMMERSION SUIT
BEYOND BL INSIDE 03 MILES 40' OR MORE IN LENGTH	Type I, Type V, or Immersion suit	IMMERSION SUIT
BEYOND 03 MILES, COLD WATER	IMMERSION SUIT	IMMERSION SUIT
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RETORREFLECTIVE TAPE PIML LIGHTS REQUIRED ON ALL PFDS AND IMMERSION SUITS TYPE V MUST BE WORN </div>		
RING BUOY		
LESS THAN 16 FEET IN LENGTH	NONE	NONE
MORE THAN 16 FEET BUT LESS THAN 26 FEET	24" ORANGE RING BUOY OR THROWABLE CUSHION MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RING BUOY MUST HAVE 60' LINE ATTACHED	24" ORANGE RING BUOY OR THROWABLE CUSHION MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RING BUOY MUST HAVE 60' LINE ATTACHED
MORE THAN 26 FEET IN LENGTH BUT LESS THAN 65 FEET	24" ORANGE RING BUOY MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL 60 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE	24" ORANGE RING BUOY MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL 60 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE
MORE THAN 65 FEET IN LENGTH	3 24" ORANGE RING BUOYS MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE 90 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED TO ONE	3 24" ORANGE RING BUOYS MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL RETROREFLECTIVE TAPE 90 FEET OF LINE ATTACHED TO ONE

DISTRESS SIGNALS		
WITHIN 03 MILES OF COASTLINE	3 RED FLARES OR 1 DISTRESS LIGHT AND 1DISTRESS FLAG USCG APPROVED COMMERCIAL	3 RED FLARES OR 1 DISTRESS LIGHT AND 1 DISTRESS FLAG USCG APPROVED COMMERCIAL
BETWEEN 03 MILES AND 50 MILES OF COASTLINE	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE OR 6 RED FLARES	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, OR 6 RED FLARES
BEYOND 50 MILES OF COASTLINE	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, 6 RED FLARES SOLAS APPROVED	3 SMOKE, 3 PARACHUTE, 6 RED FLARES SOLAS APPROVED
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS		
LESS THAN 26 FEET	1 BI	1 BI
26 FEET TO 40 FEET	2 BI OR 1 BII	2 BI OR 1 BII
40 FEET TO 65 FEET	3 BI, OR 2 BII, OR 1 BI AND 1 BII	3 BI, OR 2 BII, OR 1 BI AND 1 BII
PROPERLY MOUNTED PROPERLY SERVICED		
SURVIVAL CRAFT		
Beyond 50 MILES	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE LFERAFT WITH SOLAS "A" PACK. STOWED FLOAT FREE AND AUTOMATIC INFLATION
20 to 50 MILES COLD WATER	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE LIFERAFT WITH SOLAS "B" PACK. STOWED FLOAT FREE AND AUTOMATIC INFLATION
20 TO 50 MILES WARM WATER	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE LIFERAFT
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, 12 TO 20 MILES, COLD WATER, 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH		INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, 12 TO 20 MILES, COLD WATER	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS	
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, WITHIN 12 MILES, COLD WATER, 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	BUOYANT APPARATUS	
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, WITHIN 12 MILES, COLD WATER, LESS THAN 36 FEET IN LENGTH	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
BEYOND BOUNDARY LINE, WITHIN 20 MILES, WARM WATER	LIFE FLOAT SEE NOTE 2C	LIFE FLOAT SEE NOTE 2C
INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE, COLD WATER; OR LAKES, BAYS, SOUNDS, RIVERS; COLD WATER; 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	BUOYANT APPARATUS	INFLATABLE BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE, COLD WATER; OR LAKES, BAYS, SOUNDS, RIVERS; COLD WATER; LESS THAN 36 FEET IN LENGTH	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2	BUOYANT APPARATUS SEE NOTE 2
INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE, WARM WATER; OR LAKES, BAYS, SOUNDS, RIVERS WARM WATER	NONE	NONE
MARKED WITH NAME OF VESSEL APPROVED CG WATERLIGHT CURRENTLY SERVICED CURRENT RELEASE MECHANISM PAINTER LINE PROPERLY RIGGED		
<p>NOTE 2 (a) The survival craft requirements do not apply to vessels less than 36 feet in length when carrying 3 or less POB and operating inside 12 miles.</p> <p>NOTE 2 (b) A buoyant apparatus may be substituted for an inflatable buoyant apparatus for vessels 36 feet or more in length when carrying 3 or less POB and operating inside 12 miles.</p> <p>NOTE 2 (c) A buoyant apparatus may be used instead of a life float for warm waters if only a buoyant apparatus is required for the same area in cold water.</p>		

EPIRB		
UNDER 36 FEET IN LENGTH	CATEGORY II	CATEGORY II
36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH	CATEGORY I	CATEGORY I
CURRENT NOAA REGISTRATION, BATTERY, HYDROSTATIC RELEASE AND FUNCTIONING PROPERLY		
FIRST AID KIT		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
FIRST AID & CPR CERTIFICATION		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE AND WITH MORE THAN 2 POB
GUARDS FOR EXPOSED HAZARDS		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
COMPASS		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
ANCHOR		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
RADAR REFLECTOR		NON-METALLIC HULL WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT		
VHF RADIO 156-162 MHz		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE INSIDE 20 MILES
VHF RADIO 2-4 MHz		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE INSIDE 100 MILES
VHF RADIO 2-27.5 MHz		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE GREATER THAN 100 MILES
MARINE SANITATION DEVICE APPROVED BY CG OR HAVE A HOLDING TANK TO PUMP TO SHORE. ALL OVBD VALVES MUST BE SECURED.	IF INSTALLED	IF INSTALLED
HIGH WATER ALARMS		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE AND 36 FEET OR MORE IN LENGTH
BILGE PUMPS		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS	N/A	WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
		MUST BE POSTED IF 4 OR MORE POB
POLLUTION AND GARBAGE PLACARDS	REQUIRED IF >26 FT	REQUIRED IF > 26 FT
SAFETY ORIENTATION & DRILLS		WHEN OPERATING BEYOND THE BOUNDARY LINE
INJURY PLACARD	REQUIRED	REQUIRED

State of Maine Marine Patrol Licenses & Regulations

1. Maine Commercial Fishing license single operator or with crew if using crew.
2. Sell to a federal permitted dealer
3. Must meet all the federal regulations to the permit category they are harvesting under.

NH Fish & Game Department Licenses & Regulations

If you have a recreational federal permit such as the **HMS Angling category permit**, **you still need the N.H. Recreational Saltwater Fishing License** to take, possess, or transport your recreationally caught species through New Hampshire state waters.

Reciprocity- If you hold a N.H. Recreational Saltwater Fishing License, you may legally fish in Maine up to Cape Neddick and in all coastal and estuarine waters of Massachusetts. NH has reciprocity with non-resident Recreational Saltwater Licenses holders of licenses from Maine and Massachusetts.

Commercial Saltwater License - Required to take, possess, land, or transport marine species for the purpose to sell. This license is issued to an individual. Lobsters and crabs may not be taken with this license. (Allows the use of helpers except for sea urchins or scallops by diving.)

New Hampshire Wholesale Marine Species License - Required to engage in the wholesale trade of buying, selling, processing and transport of Marine Species.

This reference guide is not an official representation of rules and regulations promulgated by NOAA Fisheries or the US Coast Guard, but is merely aimed at assisting anglers with safety equipment requirements. Anglers are ultimately responsible with complying with official regulations.



***In Collaboration with the Coastal Conservation Association
of New Hampshire***