VMS Reporting Instructions for Vessel Owners/Operators

McMurdo Version

Effective –November 25, 2019

These instructions are developed for the use of vessel owners and operators who are required to maintain a VMS unit and send reports in accordance with the Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regulations at 50 CFR 648.9 and 648.10. These instructions supplement the regulations and do not replace them. Owners and operators are encouraged to review the regulations.

These instructions are also available on-line through the NOAA website:


and

Office of Law Enforcement webpage - https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/enforcement
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1. **Continuous Reporting.** While in port your VMS is required to continuously report your vessel’s position to NMFS. Scallop-permitted vessels must report every half-hour, while all other vessels report hourly.

2. **Power Down and Letter of Exemption (LOE).** You may turn the power off to your VMS under specific conditions. You must first consider all of your active GAR permits that require a VMS – your most restrictive reporting requirement will apply. **Table 1** below shows VMS reporting requirements by permit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit (Note 1)</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Start of each Fishing Year:</th>
<th>Exception (Note 4)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited Access Scallop</td>
<td>2,3,5,6,7,8</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every half-hour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfclam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Quahog</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herring</td>
<td>A,B,C,E, Carrier</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour, except Carrier which must report 24/7 from 1st carrier trip declared via VMS.</td>
<td>May apply for NMFS Letter of Exemption (LOE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine Mahogany Quahog (Note 2)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour from 1st MMQ trip, regardless of fishing year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAGC Scallop (general category)</td>
<td>A,B,C</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every half-hour.</td>
<td>May declare the Power Down declaration (Note 1).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multispecies (Note 3)</td>
<td>A,D,E,F</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour from 1st groundfish trip taken and for remainder of fishing year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monkfish</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour during the Offshore Fishery Program season October 1 to April 30 only.</td>
<td>May apply for LOE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longfin &amp; Illex Squid, and Butterfish Moratorium</td>
<td>1A,1B,5,6</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel</td>
<td>T1,T2,T3</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 every hour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When electing to provide VMS notifications under:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monkfish</td>
<td>A,B,C,D</td>
<td>Must report 24/7 from 1st elected VMS trip taken and for remainder of fishing year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasional Scallop</td>
<td>4,9</td>
<td>Reports every hour.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1 – In Port VMS Reporting Requirements**

- **Note 1.** Your most restrictive permit applies in determining whether you can power down your VMS in port. Example – if you hold an LAGC scallop permit and a surfclam permit, you must report 24/7 at the dock/mooring and cannot declare the power down code.

- **Note 2.** These vessels are not required to use a VMS until they fish for, land, take, possess or transfer ocean quahogs under a limited access Maine mahogany quahog permit. From that point forward, they must keep the VMS unit on at all times and make trip declarations for as long as the permit is issued to the vessel.

- **Note 3.** Sector vessels must have an operational VMS installed when (1) fishing on a sector trip declared into the groundfish fishery, or (2) when targeting monkfish or skate on a groundfish days-at-
sea (DAS); the VMS must be on and used from the first trip until the end of the fishing year. There may be annual NMFS exemptions that apply to certain sectors. **Common pool vessels** must have an operational VMS installed when (1) taking the first groundfish DAS trip, or (2) when Category C and HA-permitted vessels are fishing in more than one Broad Stock Area; they must also keep the VMS on and use VMS for all subsequent trips through the fishing year.

- **Note 4.** The regulations at 50 CFR 648.10(c)(2) allow a vessel to power off their VMS after (1) obtaining a NMFS Letter of Exemption (LOE), or (2) sending the power down declaration. The vessel’s most restrictive permit will determine which situation applies. Circumstances that allow an owner to obtain an LOE include (1) the vessel is expected to be out of the water for > 72 consecutive hours, or (2) the vessel will be dockside or moored for a minimum of 30 consecutive days (the vessel may not engage in any fisheries or move from the dock/mooring until the VMS unit is turned back on). The request must be made in advance of the intended exemption period. The LOE application form is available on the VMS web page or by contacting the VMS Team (see Page 15). Fill it out and mail, e-mail or fax it to the VMS Team in advance of the date you intend to turn the VMS unit off. You may not turn your VMS unit off until you receive your LOE from NMFS. The LOE must reside on the vessel at all times.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - BEFORE LEAVING PORT**

1. **VMS Power.** If your VMS has been powered off, turn it on and confirm that the unit is reporting normally. You may call the VMS Team to ensure that OLE is receiving your vessel’s signal.

2. **VMS Hardware.** Be sure that your McMurdo FMCT/G (formerly Boatracs) VMS enhanced display unit (EDU) is connected and shows a normal status. The EDU is required in order to be VMS-compliant at sea as it allows NMFS to communicate with your vessel via e-mail.

3. **VMS Software (Macros).** Run the current version of NMFS-required McMurdo macros on your EDU. Failure to operate the required macros will compromise your ability to send proper declarations and forms, and may lead to enforcement action. Approved macro changes are typically sent over the air by McMurdo to all vessels via the satellite network. Contact McMurdo Fleet Management if your unit does not have all the required macros (see page 16).

**Effective November 25, 2019 – Activity Reports (declarations) v19 and Reports (forms) v16**

4. **Activity Declaration.** For every trip, begin by clicking on the button directly below ‘Create Msg’ at the bottom of the EDU screen. Enter the 2-digit macro number of your intended activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macro</th>
<th>Vessel Activity Report</th>
<th>Declaration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Version 19.0</td>
<td>Notes (explanatory notes for macros 20, 21 &amp; 22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Version 19.6</td>
<td>Surfclam; Ocean Quahog; Mussel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Version 19.7</td>
<td>Herring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Version 19.8</td>
<td>Mackerel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Version 19.9</td>
<td>Squid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Version 19.1</td>
<td>Multispecies Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Version 19.2</td>
<td>Multispecies Common Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Version 19.3</td>
<td>Monkfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Version 19.4</td>
<td>Scallop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Version 19.5</td>
<td>Declare Out of Fishery; Power Down In Port</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2 – Vessel Activity Report (Declaration) Macros**
The macro form will be shown on your screen. Read each line carefully and enter the information asked for in each required field (and any appropriate optional fields). For macros 20, 21 and 22, be sure to read the associated notes in macro 14. Use the up and down arrow keys to scroll up/down the macro page, and use the ‘Enter’ key to scroll across a line. Place an ‘X’ in the appropriate fields for your intended activity. Once you are satisfied that the information entered is correct, click on the button directly below ‘Send’ at the bottom of the screen. This action sends your activity declaration to NMFS via McMurdo for your intended trip (see two exceptions below). The screen will ask you to confirm sending by hitting the ‘Y’ key. The screen will then indicate that your declaration message has been ‘queued for delivery’.

The logic that verifies whether you sent a ‘valid’ declaration occurs at the McMurdo Operations Center (‘valid’ means NMFS regulations allow your chosen combination of gear, DAS, area(s), broad stock area(s), etc.). You will receive an acknowledgment e-mail from McMurdo which is indicated by the ‘Message Waiting’ light illuminated in red. Click on the button directly below ‘Read Next’ at the bottom of the screen to view the message. The acknowledgment from McMurdo will be either an acceptance or rejection message. An acceptance indicates that your declaration was valid and forwarded on to NMFS. A rejection indicates that your declaration was sent incorrectly and could not be forwarded on to NMFS. The rejection will provide you a brief description of your error(s) so that you may send a new and accepted declaration.

When selecting areas and broad stock areas to fish, Charts 1-4 on pages 7-10 may be useful.

Attachment 1 provides you with screen views and guidance for each of the McMurdo declarations and forms macros. Please familiarize yourself with the declaration macros before reading on (please note the ‘steps’ in many of the declaration screens). Paragraphs 5 and 6 below provide guidance on sending a declaration for ‘Declare Out of Fishery’ (DOF) trips and ‘Monkfish Option’ trips.

a. Exception 1 - Fishing Inside of, or Inside & Outside of, the VMS Demarcation Line on a Trip. VMS starts and ends trips as the vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line (see page 9 for an explanation) and is not able to accurately calculate trip length in these situations. If you intend to fish completely inside the VMS demarcation line, or fish both inside and outside the demarcation line on the same trip, you must (1) declare the trip through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Call-In system (1-888-284-4904) and (2) declare the DOF activity declaration on your VMS unit (Note – If you experience difficulty using the IVR system, call the Analysis and Program Support Division (APSD) for assistance at (978) 281-9234. APSD also maintains a back-up IVR message line at 888-487-9994).

b. Exception 2 - Fishing on the Same VMS Declaration that was Last Declared. This alternative method allows owner/operators to call the IVR system and follow the prompts to ‘Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code’. It is not to be used in lieu of an inoperable VMS. This feature saves you the step of sending a declaration from your VMS unit and will provide you with a confirmation number; however, it may only be used if your declaration is identical to the last declaration received by NMFS. The IVR system will report to you the last 12-character VMS declaration ‘code’ received from your vessel so be prepared to know the declaration code you wish to use for your trip. See Attachment 2 for directions on how to use this feature.
Charts 1-4 on the following pages depict various regulatory areas to assist you with Multispecies and Monkfish declaration reporting.

Chart 1 – Multispecies Broad Stock Areas (BSA) (50 CFR 648.10(k)(3))
Chart 2 – Eastern and Western US/Canada Management Areas (50 CFR 648.85(a))

Note – Both the Eastern and Western US/CA Areas are entirely within the Offshore Georges Bank Broad Stock Area (OGB BSA). Therefore, when declaring either the Eastern or Western US/CA, or both, under the Broad Stock Area question you must also select the OGB BSA.
Note – Both SAPs are entirely within the Offshore Georges Bank Broad Stock Area (OGB BSA). Therefore, when declaring either the Eastern US/CA Haddock SAP, CA-2 Yellowtail Flounder/ Haddock SAP, or both, under the Broad Stock Area question you must also select the OGB BSA.
Note – When declaring a Monkfish trip and also using Multispecies days-at-sea, you must declare those multispecies broad stock areas (BSAs) you intend to fish. The Monkfish Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) covers all four (4) BSAs as shown above; you must select one or all of the BSAs you intend to fish. The Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) is the area entirely outside the NFMA; if you intend to fish any part of your trip in the SFMA, you must also select one or all of the four BSAs you intend to fish.

For those few Monkfish Category F permit holders who fish the Offshore Fishery Program Area and also intend to use Multispecies days-at-sea, this area covers two BSAs – you must select the Offshore Georges Bank (OGB) BSA and/or Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE-MA) BSA.
5. Declaring Out of Fishery. These declarations are used whenever the vessel’s activity will be any activity other than the requirement to declare a limited access scallop trip, general category scallop trip, multispecies sector or common pool trip, monkfish days-at-sea trip, herring trip, surfclam trip, ocean quahog trip, Maine mahogany quahog trip, longfin or illex squid trip, or mackerel trip. This declaration is also appropriate for any vessel movement away from the dock/mooring when no fishing activity is intended (for example, transits, equipment shakedown/testing, retrieving lost gear, etc). You will find the Declare Out of Fishery or DOF declaration at the top of Macro 24.

There are seven (7) DOF declarations to choose from, as follows:

- **Transit without Product Onboard.** Select for all transits between ports when there is no fishing activity, as well as equipment shakedown/testing, retrieving lost gear, etc. (VMS code: DOF-TST-XXXXXX).

- **Transit with Product Onboard.** Select for all transits authorized by regulations in which the vessel is declaring out of a VMS-required fishery and there is product onboard the vessel (VMS code: DOF-TSP-XXXXXX).

- **Fishing - Commercial.** Select for trips when fishing that does not require a declaration for the species listed above (Para. 5) or for activities covered by Exception 1 on page 6. This declaration also requires you to choose your intended gear. (VMS code: DOF-CML-XXX?XX where ‘?’ represents the gear code chosen).

- **Exempted Fishing Permit.** Select for trips when fishing on an EFP and targeting species not addressed in the other declaration macros. This declaration also requires you to choose your intended gear. (VMS code: DOF-EFP-XXX?XX where ‘?’ represents the gear code chosen).

- **Fishing - Recreational/Charter.** Select for recreational and charter fishing trips (VMS code: DOF-REC-XXXXXX).

- **Scientific Research.** Select for trips involving scientific research activity when not on an Experimental fishing permit (VMS code: DOF-SCI-XXXXXX). This declaration also requires you to choose your type of research – NMFS Letter of Acknowledgment (LOA) or Other Research.

- **NAFO.** Select only when permitted by NMFS to participate in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) outside the U.S. EEZ (VMS code: DOF-NAF-XXXXXX).  
  (Note: The McMurdo unit is not approved for use in the NAFO fishery)

6. Declaring the Monkfish Option with a Multispecies Declaration. If you anticipate exceeding the monkfish incidental catch limit while on a multispecies sector or DAS trip and want to retain the monkfish caught, declare the monkfish option in Step 1. This action preserves your ability to change to a monkfish DAS trip later while at sea (you do not accrue Monkfish DAS unless you decide during the trip to redeclare your trip as a Monkfish trip). However, you must fish your multispecies trip entirely within the monkfish Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA). Your VMS code will show either an ‘M’ (for monkfish option) or an ‘I’ (for monkfish option and on an EFP trip) in the 2nd to last character. To declare the option, go to the appropriate multispecies sector (Macro 20) or common pool (Macro 21) declaration screen, then read the text in Step 1 and enter an ‘X’ in the field to the left of ‘Yes’.

7. Declaration Code. When received and accepted, your declaration is converted into a 12-character VMS code (format: XXX-XXX-XXXXXX) by McMurdo and transmitted to NMFS. Your
acknowledgment message will report the code back to you with a brief description. Check the code and description to be sure they accurately reflect your intended activity. If not, you may always resend a declaration before leaving port.

8. **Declaration Acknowledgment.** Regulations require that you send an accurate declaration; therefore, you are encouraged to await an acknowledgment. An ‘acceptance’ acknowledgment is your confirmation that NMFS will receive the declaration that you sent. It is possible that your declaration may be delivered to NMFS before you receive an acknowledgment; you may always call the VMS Team during the workday to confirm receipt.

9. **Required VMS Reports.** Your VMS software also includes several required forms (reports) macros. We have covered the sending of an activity declaration prior to leaving port. Now, we will discuss those forms that, if appropriate for your intended activity, must be sent before leaving port. A list of these forms macros is in Table 3 below. See Attachment 1 to view these forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macro</th>
<th>VMS Form</th>
<th>Must be sent by:</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Multispecies Trip Start Hail</td>
<td>All Sector vessels declaring a groundfish trip only when intending to fish on a NMFS exemption/option.</td>
<td>To provide advance notification to enforcement personnel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>RSA &amp; EFP Trip Start Hail</td>
<td>All vessels as required by their NMFS RSA or EFP Letter of Authorization.</td>
<td>To provide advance notification to enforcement personnel and to track individual RSA quota.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 – VMS Forms Required to be sent before Leaving Port

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – AT SEA AND RETURNING TO PORT**

1. **VMS Demarcation Line.** The VMS demarcation line is defined by a series of lines connecting 51 coordinates as described in 50 CFR 648.10 and the VMS web page. The line generally follows the contour of the Eastern Seaboard from northern Maine to North Carolina. When your vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line, the NMFS monitoring system automatically records a trip start and trip end event for your trip. Your trip starts on the first VMS position seaward of the line and ends with the first VMS position shoreward of the line.

2. **Trip Start and End.** A VMS trip consists of the VMS-assigned Trip Identification Number, VMS Activity Declaration (Code), Trip Start Date/Time, Trip End Date/Time, and Trip Duration. A VMS trip automatically starts on the first position report sent by your VMS unit that is seaward of the demarcation line (defined as ‘in the Northeast Fishery’). A VMS trip automatically ends on the first position report shoreward of the demarcation line upon the return to port. The declaration that is initially associated with the trip and reported to you in the Trip Start e-mail (described below) is the last declaration successfully received from your vessel prior to leaving port. The declaration reported to you in the Trip End e-mail is the final declaration associated with the trip and recorded in the VMS and GARFO databases.

Note - Do not declare out of the fishery on your return to port to end your trip or stop your days-at-sea clock – as previously stated, your trip automatically ends with the first VMS position shoreward of the demarcation line on the return to port.

3. **Position Reporting.** While away from the dock or mooring, your vessel’s VMS unit must be operational by sending automatic position reports and capable of sending and receiving messages. If you hold a VMS-required limited access or general category scallop permit, your VMS must send position reports on a half-hourly basis regardless of the vessel’s activity. For all other permits requiring the use of VMS, the unit must send automatic position reports on an hourly basis.
regardless of the vessel’s activity. For vessels that hold multiple permits, the most restrictive VMS reporting rate applies. If you replace your VMS unit, be sure the replacement unit is correctly set to your vessel’s proper reporting rate.

To determine if your McMurdo VMS is positioning normally and sending required position reports to NMFS, there is a light indicator labeled ‘No Signal’ to the right of the screen. If an amber-colored light is illuminated, the unit is not positioning. An alternate means to check is to press the ‘View Status’ button (left side of EDU) and ‘down arrow’ once to check the ‘M0’ value. The M0 value will have a ‘positive’ number if the unit is positioning (the higher the better, but the average in the Northeast is between 13 and 18). A final means is to call McMurdo 24-hour Client Care (see page 16) to verify positioning data, or send an e-mail request to fleetsupport@orolia.com from the VMS unit. E-mail is delivered by a different satellite system; if there is a problem with positioning, e-mail capability may still be available.

4. **If the VMS Unit Stops Positioning.** Please be sure that your VMS unit is well maintained and sending the required position reports. Periodically check your unit to ensure that it is positioning normally. If your VMS unit stops functioning (positioning and/or messaging) and you are unable to restore normal operation, your vessel is no longer VMS-compliant and continuing to fish may result in a violation. Notify the VMS Team, and have the unit checked/repaird and returned to operational status before the next trip.

5. **NMFS Courtesy E-Mail Notification of Trip Start and End.** The VMS Team manages a script that automatically sends a courtesy trip start and trip end e-mail to your VMS unit for every trip. All costs associated with courtesy e-mails are paid for by NMFS; no cost is incurred by your vessel. The Trip Start e-mail is sent approximately 4 hours after a trip start is recorded by the NMFS monitoring system. The message will be in the following format (example shown):

    From: nmfs.ole.ne@noaa.gov
    To: (vessel's VMS unit e-mail address)
    Subject: F/V (name) - Trip Start
    
    Trip Start: 2019-12-01 09:30
    Trip ID: 1301010
    VMS Code: NMS-SEC-OPXWXA. If code is incorrect, return to a port & redeclare.
    NE VMS Team: 978-281-9213.

    **Note** - The trip start email that your VMS unit receives from NMFS is not a confirmation of your trip declaration, but only provides the most-recent declaration received from your vessel.

    The Trip End e-mail is sent approximately 6-8 hours after a trip end is recorded. If your VMS is powered down while in port, delivery of the message to your VMS may time out before you receive it. You can also provide the VMS Team with a personal e-mail address to receive the trip start/end e-mails and other e-mails from NMFS (see Secondary Courtesy E-Mail Address Service below). The delays in delivery of trip start and end e-mails are a necessary feature of the NMFS VMS trip generation system to ensure accurate trip accounting. The message will be in the following format (example shown):

    From: nmfs.ole.ne@noaa.gov
    To: (vessel's VMS unit e-mail address)
    Subject: F/V (name) - Trip End
    
    Trip End: 2019-12-01 21:30
    VMS Code: NMS-SEC-OPXWXA
    Trip ID: 1301010
    Trip Length: 0.5 days
6. **Secondary Courtesy E-Mail Address Service.** The VMS Team maintains an e-mail service that allows owners to receive trip e-mails and other NMFS VMS correspondence with the vessel via the owner’s personal e-mail address. Go to ‘Contact Information’ on the VMS web page and see ‘VMS Courtesy Messaging’. There is no charge to the vessel owner for this service.

7. **If You Do Not Receive Your Trip E-mail(s).** The VMS Team stops the trip generation program temporarily any time that a delay in delivery of VMS data is detected from one or more VMS vendors. This is necessary to prevent problems with the proper generation of trips that could affect trip accounting. Once the trip generator is restarted, any backlog of trip e-mails should be sent to your vessel and, if appropriate, the secondary e-mail address. For questions, call the VMS Team.

8. **Declaring an Incorrect VMS Activity Declaration.** If your vessel leaves port on a trip and you declared the wrong activity, it’s recommended that you return the vessel to a port (or inside the VMS demarcation line for scallop-permitted vessels on scallop trips) and redeclare the proper activity through your VMS unit. If unable to do so, notify the VMS Team. You do not necessarily have to return to the port from which you departed. The vessel must be in a port, or as close to the port as safety dictates. A listing of ports and their OLE-defined geographic location is available on the VMS web page.

9. **Changing the VMS Declaration during a Trip.** When in the NE Fishery, your VMS unit does not allow you to change your trip declaration, except under three specific situations:
   - Declaring a ‘flex’ on a groundfish or monkfish trip;
   - Flipping the groundfish DAS type from ‘B’ to ‘A’, when possession limits are exceeded; and
   - Changing from a multispecies trip to a monkfish DAS trip (only if the monkfish option was declared in port).

   If eligible, a vessel may flex, flip and change to a monkfish declaration only once per trip. These actions do not necessarily have to occur simultaneously. These three situations are further described below.

   **Note** – Except under specific circumstances when the use of ‘Declare out of Fishery with Product Onboard’ is authorized by NMFS, you may not send another activity declaration after crossing the demarcation line upon return to port while you have product onboard the vessel.

   **a. Declaring a Multispecies or Monkfish ‘FLEX’ Trip.** A flex is declared at sea in the NE Fishery by adding fishing area(s) to the groundfish or monkfish declaration that you sent in port. The flex option is addressed in Macro #14 (Notes #2 and #4) and also in Macro #20 (Step 4). Only one flex per trip is allowed. Sector and common pool vessels have different flex options. To declare a flex, go to the declaration screen that you used to make your initial declaration for the trip, then:
   - For Steps 1-3. Choose the same selections you made in port.
   - For Step 4. Choose the same program areas that you made in port, and then choose additional areas you want to fish.
   - For Step 5. Choose the same broad stock areas (BSAs) that you made in port, and, if appropriate, choose any additional BSAs that you want to fish. Be sure that you select BSAs that encompass the program area(s) that you chose in step 4.
   - For Step 6. Choose the same EFP selection you made in port.
b. ‘Flipping’ the Multispecies Day-at-Sea (DAS) Type. This situation applies to Multispecies Common Pool vessels only. When multispecies trip limits are exceeded while fishing on a declared Regular or Reserve ‘B’ DAS trip, you must change or ‘flip’ your VMS trip declaration to ‘A’ DAS. To flip, go to the Multispecies Common Pool declaration screen that you used to make your initial declaration for the trip, then:

- Steps 1-2. Choose the same selections you made in port.
- Step 3. Choose ‘Mults A-DAS’.
- Step 4-5. Choose the same selections you made in port.
- Step 6. Choose the same EFP selection you made in port.

c. Changing from a Multispecies to a Monkfish DAS Declaration. To invoke the monkfish option that you selected with your initial declaration, and change to a monkfish DAS declaration at sea, go to the Monkfish declaration screen, then:

- Step 1. Choose the same selection you made in port.
- Step 2. Choose both Monkfish and Mults DAS.
- Step 3. Choose ‘NFMA’.
- Step 4-5. Choose the same selections you made in port.
- Step 6. Choose the same EFP selection you made in port.

Your new Monkfish declaration will retain the trip modifier ‘M’ (for Monkfish Option) or ‘I’ (for Monkfish Option on an EFP trip) in the 2nd to last character of the code. You may also flex (one time) either before, during or after changing to a Monkfish DAS declaration. If you do not intend to invoke the monkfish option and want to remain on a groundfish trip declaration, no action is required and you may land your trip on the original declaration. Remember, if you declare the monkfish option before leaving port but decide to fish any part of your trip in the monkfish SFMA, you forfeit your option to change to a Monkfish DAS declaration. Your VMS screen provides brief instructions for changing to a Monkfish DAS declaration. The instructions are located on the Macro 20 (Sector) and Macro 21 (Common Pool) Multispecies declaration screens, with corresponding notes on Macro 14.

10. Required VMS Reports. The forms shown below are required to be sent from your VMS unit, as appropriate, while your vessel is at sea and seaward of the VMS demarcation line. A list of these forms is shown in Table 4 below. See Attachment 1 to view these forms and specific reporting instructions.
The VMS Team uses e-mail to communicate with your vessel via the VMS. Communications include notifying all VMS vessels of short-notice regulatory changes (area closures, possession limits, etc) and notifying individual vessel operators of potential closed area
incursions, VMS non-reporting, declaration miscodings, requests to contact a NMFS enforcement agent or officer, etc. In addition to other notification methods, the Coast Guard may request the VMS vendors to send a severe weather warning. For these purposes, it is important that you monitor your incoming VMS e-mail and maintain the capability to send outgoing e-mail.

12. **Trip ‘Stitching’**. The trip stitching function is a part of the VMS trip generation program. Its purpose is to keep a trip open if a vessel briefly enters and positions shoreward of the VMS demarcation line then exits outside the line to continue its trip. The individual trip segments are stitched or joined together as one trip. For example, vessels that transit through Vineyard and Nantucket Sound may cross the demarcation line several times on their outbound or inbound trip. If trip stitching was not applied, a single trip may be recorded by NMFS as two or more trips, affecting the trip length and/or DAS charge. The rules associated with trip stitching are:

a. Did the base VMS declaration code (first 6 characters, ie, XXX-XXX) remain the same before and after the vessel entered the demarcation line? and,

b. Was the vessel inside the demarcation line for less than 4 hours (or, less than 55 minutes for LAGC scallop trips)?

If the answer to both questions above is **yes**, trip stitching will keep the trip intact so that only one trip is recorded. An unintended effect of trip stitching may occur when a vessel ends one trip then departs on another trip within 4 hours under the same base VMS code. Two separate trips may be captured as a single trip. Also, entering back inside the demarcation line for longer than 4 hours, such as transiting the Vineyard/Nantucket Sound area at slow speed, may result in a single trip being recorded as two trips. If you believe that your trip has been erroneously affected by trip stitching, call the VMS Team.

**ADDITIONAL VMS INFORMATION**

1. **DAS Charging for VMS Trips**. The DAS Program is managed by the Analysis and Program Support Division (APSD). Please contact APSD for assistance at (978) 281-9234.

2. **VMS Messaging Costs**. Vessel owners are financially responsible for all regulatory reporting requirements through VMS, which typically include the messaging shown below. It is recommended that you confirm your payment plan and associated costs with your VMS vendor. NMFS pays for all messages that we send to your vessel and for any additional position reports sent from your VMS unit if NMFS temporarily increases your reporting rate. Vessel owners typically pay for:

   - All required 30 or 60-minute position reports sent to NMFS.
   - All NMFS-required VMS declarations and reports.
   - All other outgoing messages.
   - All incoming messages, except those originated by NMFS.

3. **Replacing Your Vessel’s VMS Unit**. Please notify the VMS Team within 3 days of installation of the new unit and prior to your next trip. You will need to submit documentation that you have installed an operational, approved VMS unit. Complete the VMS Certification form available under the ‘Instructions & Forms’ tab on the VMS web page. Mail or fax the form to the VMS Team.

4. **Removing Your Vessel’s VMS Unit**. You may not remove the VMS from the vessel if you are required to report using VMS. If you cancel or transfer your permits, or sell the vessel and will no longer fish the vessel, contact your VMS vendor. The vendor is responsible for notifying NMFS of any VMS unit deactivations. You may also call the VMS Team to advise us of your intentions.
5. **Contacting the VMS Team.** The VMS Team is located in the Northeast Enforcement Division at: Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA, 01930.

- **Phone Number:** (978) 281-9213 (follow call prompts)
- **FAX Number:** (978) 281-9317
- **Hours:** 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Contact Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Semrau</td>
<td>Program Manager</td>
<td>Overall management of the Northeast VMS Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:William.Semrau@noaa.gov">William.Semrau@noaa.gov</a> (978) 281-9151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Bleszinski</td>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Herring, Mackerel &amp; Squid Reporting; VMS Training; VMS Letters of Exemption (to Power Down Inport); VMS Activations/Deactivations &amp; Welcome Letters</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Carol.Bleszinski@noaa.gov">Carol.Bleszinski@noaa.gov</a> (978) 281-9239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Lemire</td>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Scallop, Surfclam, Ocean Quahog, Maine Mahogany Quahog &amp; NAFO Reporting; VMS Training</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Carl.Lemire@noaa.gov">Carl.Lemire@noaa.gov</a> (978) 281-9274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Tolken</td>
<td>Technician</td>
<td>Multispecies &amp; Monkfish Reporting; VMS Letters of Exemption (to Power Down Inport); NAFO Reporting; VMS Training</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Samantha.Tolken@noaa.gov">Samantha.Tolken@noaa.gov</a> (978) 281-9230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Corcoran</td>
<td>Programmer</td>
<td>VMS Server, scripts, reports and data analysis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Philip.Corcoran@noaa.gov">Philip.Corcoran@noaa.gov</a> (978) 281-9309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 – VMS Team Contact List

6. **Alternate E-Mail Address to Contact the VMS Team.** You can send a VMS message at any time to: nmfs.ole.ne@noaa.gov. The VMS Team monitors this mailbox during business hours and will respond to your query. Your VMS Trip Start and End e-mails are sent from this address.

7. **Contacting the VMS Support Center.** If you are unable to reach the VMS Team, the National VMS Support Center has extended hours of operation and may be able to answer general questions about VMS registrations and vessel position reporting. The Support Center is also the primary point of contact for the National VMS Reimbursement program (see below). The Support Center will refer technical VMS questions to the appropriate vendor and regulatory questions to the Greater Atlantic Region. The Support Center is located at NMFS Headquarters, Office of Law Enforcement, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. Hours of operation are 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Their phone number is **(888) 219-9228 (toll-free).**

8. **VMS Reimbursement Program.** This program is centrally managed from OLE Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD. On the VMS web page, refer to the section entitled ‘VMS Reimbursement Program’ for a summary of the program, and a link to the latest Federal Register announcement of May 6, 2008. Owners/operators who believe they may be eligible should call the VMS Support Center to obtain a confirmation code then submit an application to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Contact the VMS Support Center or refer to the following website: www.psmfc.org.

9. **Contacting NMFS Enforcement.** For law enforcement emergencies only, call the Enforcement Hot Line toll-free on a 24-hour basis at **(800) 853-1964.** Please do not call the Hot Line for a VMS-related equipment or technical issue; rather, contact your respective VMS vendor (below). For law enforcement-related questions or concerns that are of a non-emergency nature, contact your local NMFS enforcement office during business hours as follows:
a. **Northeast Enforcement Division District 1 – New England:**
   - Office: Gloucester, MA (as of November 1, 2019)
   - Coverage: Maine through Connecticut
   - Phone Number: (978) 281-9213

b. **Northeast Enforcement Division District 2 – Mid-Atlantic:**
   - Office: Wall, NJ
   - Coverage: New York through Virginia
   - Phone Number: (732) 280-6490

10. **Contacting your VMS Vendor.** McMurdo Fleet Management may be reached at:
   - Address: 4296 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706
   - Phone: 1-800-262-8722
   - Email: fleetsupport@orolia.com
   - Call Center: 24/7 for technical support
   - Web Address: [https://www.oroliamaritime.com/](https://www.oroliamaritime.com/)

**Attachments:**
1. McMurdo Vessel Activity Reports (Declarations) v19 and Reports (Forms) v16
2. How to ‘Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code’
3. Groundfish Catch Reporting Requirements
## CHANGE LOG

<table>
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<th>CHANGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Redrafted to comply with the VMS software upgrade effective this date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Apr 2014</td>
<td><strong>Attachment 1. Page 25. Multispecies Catch Report, Macro #35.</strong> Clarified the groundfish sector reporting requirement by adding the following highlighted instruction text: “Important – Sector vessels are only required to submit a trip-level catch report (daily report is not required).”</td>
</tr>
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| 11 Jun 2014| **Page 2, Table of Contents.** Added two new subsections under “VMS Declaration”.  
**Page 15. Table 5.** The VMS Team contact name and responsibility sections have been updated to reflect personnel changes.  
**Attachment 2.** Added new attachment to provide instructions for “Confirming the Use of a Previous VMS Code.” |
| 30 Jun 2014| **Attachment 1. Page 25. Multispecies Catch Report, Macro #35.** Changed reporting instruction by stating that sector vessels must now submit a daily catch report when declared into the Eastern US/CA Area, Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP, and/or CA-2 Yellowtail/Flounder Haddock SAP.  
**Page 1.** Updated the VMS web address and inserted a newer GARFO website picture.  
**Various pages.** Removed references to a September 1, 2014 VMS compliance date for the longfin squid and mackerel fisheries.  
**Page 11.** Changed the times for the sending of trip start and trip end notification messages to 4 and 6-8 hours, respectively.  
**Page 14, Table 4.** Inserted text in the “Purpose” column for macros 47 and 48. |
| 15 Sep 2014| **Page 15.** Replaced Tyler Requejo with Robert Bollmann on NE VMS Team Contact List.  
**Page 4, Table 1.** Removed the power down declaration (exemption) text from Multispecies Sector vessel reporting.  
**Page 9, Table 3.** Entered text that Macros 38 and 44 are no longer required to be sent.  
**Pages 13 and 14.** Revised the text in the ‘Must be Sent By” column for Macros 35, 41, 42, 45, 47, 48 and 50.  
**Page 16, Table 5.** Replaced Robert Bollmann with Carl Lemire. Added Aimee Ahles. Updated technician responsibilities.  
**Pages 24-26, and 28-33.** Added a “Note” regarding regulatory actions and revised the declaration or form instructions. Removed forms and instructions for Macros #38, #43 and #44 on pages 28 and 31. |
| 30 Jun 2015| **Page 5.** Updated the declaration/forms macro version numbers for the new software upgrade.  
**Page 8.** Removed the DOF - Transit declaration, and added 2 new declarations of DOF - Transit with product and without product.  
**Page 9, Table 3.** Removed the Scallop Compensation Trip form.  
**Pages 13-14, Table 4.** Updated various reporting instructions and removed the Common Pool GOM Cod Trip Limit Exemption form.  
**Page 16.** Added the SkyMate and CLS unit non-renewals to the list of eligible reimbursement actions.  
**Attachment 1.** Replaced all declaration and form macros with current versions, and updated the reporting requirements. |
| 26 Aug 2015| **Various Pages.** Boatracs name change to “McMurdo Fleet Management”. Boatracs FMCT/G VMS name change to “McMurdo FMCT/G (Formerly Boatracs)”. |
| 28 Mar 2016| **Page 13, Multispecies Catch Report.** For ‘Trip-Level Reporting’, changed the ‘multiple BSA’ requirement from Steps 1, 2 & 3 to Steps 1, 2 & 4. For ‘Redfish Exemption Reporting’, changed the ‘switching codends’ requirement from Steps 1-4 to Steps 1-5. For ‘Small Mesh Exemption Reporting in Southern New England’, changed the ‘completing the large mesh portion of the trip’ requirement from Steps 1, 2 & 4 to Steps 1, 2, 4 & 5.  
**Pages 26-27.** The changes on Page 13 were also reflected in the Marco #35 instructions. |
<table>
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**Page 3.** New macros version numbers and a new attachment 3.  
**Page 4.** Added ‘Note 1’ to LAGC Scallop ‘Exceptions’. Added Illex Squid requirement. Added text regarding sector exemptions.  
**Page 5.** Updated Vessel Activity Report numbers in Table 2.  
**Page 8.** Added gear text to DOF-CML paragraph.  
**Page 9.** Macro 36 - Clarified text in ‘Must be Sent By’ block.  
**Page 13.** Macro 35 - Revised text in ‘Must be Sent By’ block. Macro 40 – Added “by one limit” in “Purpose” block. Macros 41,42,47,48 – Text changes to “Must be Sent By” block.  
**Page 14.** Changed Trip Stitching Rule for LAGC trips to 55 minutes.  
**Page 15.** Added SMB Amendment 16 to the Reimbursement paragraph.  
**Attachment 1.**  
**Multispecies and Monkfish declarations.** Removed text that required the use of the IVR Call-In System for scallop days-at-sea trips.  
**Scallop declaration.** Revamped the format, added Elephant Trunk Flex Area, required that an RSA filed be answered, and added gear reporting requirement for LAGC trips.  
**Surf clam/Ocean Quahog declaration.** Added an optional third field to select a scallop access area.  
**Squid declaration.** Added a reporting requirement for Illex Squid. Removed the Squid RSA field.  
**Declare Out of Fishery declaration.** Added gear selections to DOF-CML declaration menu.  
**Powerdown declaration.** Clarified the text.  
**Multispecies Catch.** Revised smaller mesh field text.  
**Multispecies Trip Start Hail.** Changed instruction text to ‘exemption and/or option’. Added SNE Small Mesh Exemption and Extra-Large Mesh Gillnet option.  
**Scallop Pre-Landing.** Revised instruction text (b). Added ‘All Other Fish Kept’ field.  
**Mackerel and Squid Catch.** Added Illex Squid to ‘Species Kept’ field.  
**RSA/EFP Trip End Hail.** Added field that asks if both commercial and RSA allocation will be landed. |
| 23 Oct 2017| **Page 15.** Table 4. VMS Technician Ahles transferred out of OLE.  
**Attachment 3.** Revised the (groundfish) catch report flow chart to reflect the regulatory change implemented by GARFO and announced in their October 12, 2017 bulletin. |
| 17 Apr 2018| **Page 5.** New effective date and new macro version numbers for Activity Reports and Forms.  
**Page 7.** Added text at top of page that Charts 1-5 must not be used for the depiction of closed areas.  
**Pg. 10.** Added a ‘Note’ under paragraph 5.  
**Pg. 13.** Macro 41. Added text about single-day trips.  
**Pg. 15.** Table 5. Added Samantha Tolken and updated responsibilities lists.  
**Pg. 16.** Updated main phone number for the OLE D1 office.  
**Attachment 1.** All macro screen views now show the latest form layout for Declarations v18 and Forms v15.  
**Pg. 20.** Surf clam and Ocean Quahog Declaration. Revised screen to reflect new scallop access area selections.  
**Pg. 21.** Squid Declaration. Revised screen. Revised instructions to allow selection of a combination longfin and illex trip.  
**Pg. 24.** Scallop Declaration. Revised screen. Revised instructions to allow selection of new and access areas and limited access NGOM RSA trip.  
**Pg 26.** Multispecies Catch Report. Added text to the Step 5 instructions.  
**Pg. 29.** Scallop Daily Catch Report. Revised screen to include text regarding single-day trips. |
<table>
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</table>
| 1 Mar 2019 | **Page 4. Table 1.** Replaced the SMB-1 permit with the new SMB-1A and SMB-1B longfin squid moratorium permits, and added the SMB-6 butterfish moratorium permit, all of which now require use of a VMS.  
**Page 16.** Updated the vendor’s address, email and web address.                                                                                                                                       |
| 21 Oct 2019| **Pg. 1.** New effective date (Format 16) and new website text/views.  
**Pg. 5.** New activity reports and forms versions, and macro numbering.  
**Pgs. 7-10.** New GIS charts 1-4 depicting reporting areas with notes.  
**Pg. 11.** Added DOF-EFP declaration text. Para 6 – Added ‘I’ for monkfish option on an EFP.  
**Pg. 12.** Table 2. RSA/EFP Start Hail. Revised text under ‘Purpose’.  
**Pg. 13.** Para 3 - Updated McMurdo email address to fleetsupport@orolia.com. Para 4 - 3rd sentence. Revised text pertaining to action when VMS is no longer compliant during a trip.  
**Pg. 14.** Para 9a – Added Step 6.  
**Pg. 15.** Para 8 - Revised text pertaining to actions when the wrong VMS code is declared. Para 9b and 9c - Added Step 6.  
**Pg. 16.** Table 4. Revised text for when the Scallop Preland must be sent. Revised text under ‘Purpose’ column for the RSA/EFP End Hail.  
**Pg. 18.** Removed regulatory actions under the reimbursement program and revised/shortened the paragraph.  
**Pg. 19.** Updated location and phone number of NE Division, District 1.  
**Attachment 1.** Replaced all macro views with newer versions and updated the instructions.                                                                                                          |
Declaration Macros. Once you select the appropriate macro to make your declaration, fill in all required fields. The ‘Up’ or ‘Down’ arrow button moves the cursor up or down the macro page. The ‘Enter’ button moves the cursor to the right (for example, when there is more than one field on a line). The ‘Up’ arrow button may also be used to move back to a previous field on that line. **Unless otherwise directed, place an ‘X’ in the appropriate fields**, verify your selection, and then click the ‘Send’ button. The screen will ask you to confirm your selection by entering a ‘Y’ before sending. Send your declaration and then review your acknowledgment message. Send another (correct) declaration if you receive a rejection acknowledgment from McMurdo.

The following pages will show you each of the macros. Guidance for filling in the fields is shown in the red boxes to the left and/or right of the form.

*** Note: When selecting an area or areas to fish in from the appropriate declaration macro, be sure that the area(s) is open for your intended fishing activity. The areas shown on your VMS declaration macros are entirely independent of any regulation or action by NMFS that opens or closes an area. For assistance on regulatory areas that are open or closed, contact the GARFO Sustainable Fisheries Division (978-281-9315) or the VMS Team.

Macro #14 – Notes:

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This separate macro was created because some of the explanatory notes in the declaration macros could not fit due to macro size restrictions. In the declaration macro views on the following pages, there will be field instructions that ask you to review the appropriate note (#1-5) in this macro.

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**Vessel Activity Report V15.0**

**NE - Notes**

Please refer to this document as directed by multispecies and monkfish declaration macros.

#1. Note: If yes, you must fish entirely within the Monkfish NMMA. If you exceed the incidental Monkfish limit, you must redeclare your trip at the Monkfish declaration screen by selecting NMMA and the same grid, program and BSA(s).

#2. Flex option: You may add the open area and/or Western US/CA area to your Eastern US/CA area, CA-2 yellowtail/haddock sad or Eastern sad trip once per trip by repeating steps 1-5 on the multispecies common pool screen.

#3. Note: If redeclaring a Monkfish trip from a multispecies trip, select NMMA.

#4. Multis Flex option: You may add Program area(s) and BSA(s) once per trip by repeating steps 1-5 on the monkfish screen.

#5. Monkfish-permitted vessels must make BSA selections below when using multis DAS in step 5.
Macro #16 – Surfclam, Ocean Quahog and Mussel declaration:

Step 1. Select the type of trip (only one).

Step 2. If you selected ‘Surfclam ITQ’ or ‘Ocean Quahog ITQ’ in Step 1, and you intend to fish one of these 2 areas, select the area. Otherwise, leave this question blank.

Step 3. Select an area, but only if you will fish in a scallop access area and retain > 40 lb of scallops. Otherwise, leave this question blank.

Step 4. If you will fish under a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.

Macro #17 – Herring declaration:

Step 1. Herring carrier has no gear capable of catching fish. Select either Yes’ or No’. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move across the row in order to select ‘No’. Select only one.

Step 2. Select the gear you intend to fish. Select ‘None’ if you answered ‘Yes’ in Step 1. Select only one.

Step 3. Select either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

Step 4. Select ‘Yes’ only if you intend to harvest herring quota under a NMFS-authorized RSA. Otherwise, select ‘No’.

Step 5. If you will fish under a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.
Macro #18 – Mackerel declaration:

Step 1. Select either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move across the row in order to select ‘no’. Skip to Step 3 only if you do not intend to retain herring.

1. DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN HERRING?
   - YES [ ] NO [ ] (IF NO – GO TO STEP 3)

2. (REQUIRED ONLY IF YES TO STEP 1)
   WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?
   - BOTTOM TRAWL [ ]
   - MID-WATER TRAWL (SINGLE OR PAIR) [ ]
   - PURSE SEINE [ ]
   - OTHER GEAR [ ]

3. DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN SQUID?
   - YES [ ] NO [ ]

Macro #19 – Squid declaration:

Step 1. Select one or both of the species you intend to target.

2. Select either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. Skip to Step 4 if you answered ‘No’ and you do not intend to retain herring.

1. WHAT IS YOUR TARGET SPECIES
   (NOTE: SELECT ONE OR BOTH)
   - LONGFIN SQUID [ ]
   - ILLEX SQUID [ ]

2. DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN HERRING?
   - YES [ ] NO [ ] (IF NO, GO TO STEP 4)

3. (REQUIRED ONLY IF YES TO STEP 2)
   WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?
   - BOTTOM TRAWL [ ]
   - MID-WATER TRAWL (SINGLE OR PAIR) [ ]
   - PURSE SEINE [ ]
   - OTHER GEAR [ ]

4. DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN MACKEREL?
   - YES [ ] NO [ ]
Macro #20 - Multispecies Sector declaration:

**Note** – For sector (catch share) vessel use only.

Step 1. First, read **Note #1** on Macro 14. Select ‘Yes’ only if you may need to change your declaration while in the NE Fishery to a monkfish trip. Otherwise, leave blank.

Step 2. Select the gear you intend to fish. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move across the row in order to select ‘hook’ or ‘gillnet’. Select only one.

Step 3. Select either one of the 3 choices, or select multispecies (mults) A-DAS and scallop DAS, as appropriate.

Step 4. Select each area you intend to fish.

To FLEX, reenter your selections for steps 1-6 again, but select additional area(s) and broad stock area(s) (BSA) in Steps 4 and 5, respectively.

Step 5. Select the Broad Stock Area(s) that encompass the areas selected in Step 4.

Step 6. If you will fish under a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.
Macro #21 - Multispecies Common Pool declaration:

**Note** – For common pool vessel use only.

**Step 1.** First, read **Note #1** on Macro 14. Select ‘Yes’ only if you may need to change your declaration while in the NE Fishery to a monkfish trip. Otherwise, leave blank.

**Step 2.** Select the gear you intend to fish. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move across the row in order to select ‘hook’ or ‘gillnet’. Select only one.

**Step 3.** Select appropriate Days at Sea (DAS) for your trip. Your choices are:
- Multispecies (mults) A
- Mults B-Regular
- Mults B-Reserve
- Mults A & Scallop
- Mults B-Regular & Scallop
- Mults B-Reserve & Scallop

To FLIP (change from a B-DAS to an A-DAS), reenter your selections for Steps 1-2 and 4-6 again, but select Mults A in Step 3.

**Step 4.** Select each area you intend to fish. If you intend to FLEX, first read **Note #2** on Macro 14.

To FLEX, reenter your selections for Steps 1-6 again, but select additional area(s) and broad stock area(s) (BSA) in Steps 4 and 5, respectively.

**Step 5.** Select the Broad Stock Area(s) that encompass the areas selected in Step 4.

**Step 6.** If you will fish under a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.
Macro #22 – Monkfish declaration:

Step 1. Select the gear you intend to fish. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move across the row in order to select ‘hook’ or ‘gillnet’. Select only one.

Step 2. Unless this is a Monkfish RSA trip, always select at least Monkfish DAS. Additionally, if appropriate, select Multispecies (Mults) DAS and/or Scallop DAS.

Step 3. Select one of the two areas you intend to fish. Note - If you intend to fish in both the NFMA and SFMA, then select “Any part of trip fished in SFMA.”

If you’re at sea and changing your multispecies declaration to a monkfish declaration, first read Note #3 on Macro 14.

Step 4. Select each area you intend to fish.

If you selected only Monkfish DAS in Step 2, then select ‘Monkfish-Only’ (for CAT F vessels, select ‘Monkfish Offshore Area’). If you selected Mults DAS in Step 2, you must select appropriate Mults areas here.

If you intend to FLEX, first read Note #4 on Macro 14.

To FLEX, reenter your selections for Steps 1-5 again, but select additional area(s) and broad stock area(s) (BSA) in Steps 4 and 5, respectively.

Step 5. First, read Note #5 on Macro 14.

Select the Broad Stock Area(s) that encompass the Mults areas selected in Step 4. However, select ‘Monkfish-Only (No BSA declared)’ if you did not select any Mults areas in Step 4.

Step 6. If you will fish under a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.
Macro #23 - Scallops declaration:

For LAGC scallop trips:

First, make one selection from either A, B or C.

Next, select the gear you intend to fish. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move across the row in order to select ‘trawl’.

Then, go to the bottom of the macro and answer the RSA and EFP questions. If you intend to fish for RSA quota during part or all of your trip, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’. If you intend to fish on a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.

Send your declaration.

For Limited Access scallop trips:

First, make one selection from either A, B, C or D.

Then, answer the RSA and EFP questions. If you intend to fish for RSA quota during part or all of your trip, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’. Note: If you selected a Northern Gulf of Maine RSA trip, you must select ‘Yes’ to the RSA question. If you intend to fish on a NMFS-authorized EFP, select ‘Yes’. Otherwise, select ‘No’.

Send your declaration.
Macro #24 – Declare Out of Fishery & Power Down declarations:

**Declare Out of Fishery:** Select only one of the seven (7) choices as follows:

- **DOF-CML.** When targeting species not addressed in the other declaration macros. You must also select a gear below.
- **DOF-EFP.** When on an EFP and targeting species not addressed in the other declaration macros. You must also select a gear below.
- **DOF-TST.** When transiting without product onboard.
- **DOF-TSP.** When transiting with product onboard.
- **DOF-REC.** When on a recreational trip.
- **DOF-SCI.** When conducting scientific research (not intended for EFP trips). You must also select NMFS LOA or Other Research below.
- **DOF-NAF.** DO NOT USE.

**Vessel Activity Report V19.5**

**NE – Declare Out of Fishery/Power Down DOF (Declaring Out of Limited Access/ LAGC Scalloo, NE Multispecies or Monkfish, Herring, Surfclam/ Ocean Quahog, Mackerel/Squid Trip; or Declaring Into a Southeast Region Non-VMS Trip)**

**NOTE: SELECT ONE DOF ACTIVITY BELOW:**
- [ ] Fishing - Commercial (DOF-CML)
- [ ] Exempted Fishing Permit (DOF-EFP)
- [ ] Transit Without Product Onboard (DOF-TST)
- [ ] Transit With Product Onboard (DOF-TSP)
- [ ] Fishing - Recreational/Charter (DOF-REC)
- [ ] Scientific Research (DOF-SCI)

**GEAR:** (Only for DOF-CML and DOF-EFP)
- [ ] Bottom Trawl
- [ ] Mid-Water Trawl
- [ ] Bottom Hock
- [ ] Pelagic Hook
- [ ] Pot/Trap
- [ ] Gillnet
- [ ] Seine
- [ ] Dredge
- [ ] Other Gear

**Power Down in Port – Important:** This declaration may only be sent while in port and after landing all product. Be sure this declaration is transmitted from your VMS before powering off the unit. Prior to leaving port, your VMS must be powered on and an activity declaration sent. Use of this powerdown declaration while underway is a violation.

- [ ] NMFS-Authorized Power Down [PFD-PWD]

**Power Down:** This declaration is only for use by LAGC scallop-permitted vessels when in port as long as they do not have other permits requiring continuous VMS reporting. Otherwise, a NMFS Letter of Exemption (LOE) is required.
Form Macros. The following pages display all VMS forms or reports, and instructions (red boxes) for completing them. Remember - Use the ‘Up’ or ‘Down’ arrow button to move the cursor up or down the macro page. Use the ‘Enter’ button to move the cursor to the right (for example, when there is more than one field on a line). The ‘Up’ arrow button may also be used to move back to a previous field on that line. Enter the information into the appropriate fields, verify your selections, and then click the ‘Send’ button. The screen will ask you to confirm your selection by entering a ‘Y’ before sending.

***You will receive a rejection message from McMurdo if you enter invalid information in any field. If so, simply send a new report while being sure to send the correct information. Contact the VMS Team if you need assistance.

Macro #35 - Multispecies Catch Report:

All catch reports must contain at least the operator’s permit number and VTR number. Refer to Attachment 3 on Page 35 for guidance on when to send this report.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 7 or 8 digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Enter the 2-digit month, day and year of the reported catch. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.

Step 4. First, enter the 3-digit statistical (stat) area where the species kept was harvested (you may enter up to 4 different stat areas on a single catch report).

Next, below each stat area enter the estimated weight of each species kept (up to 6 digits). Finally, be sure to enter the total amount of NON-groundfish kept for each stat area.

Step 5. Enter a ‘Y’ in the box only if immediately switching to smaller mesh. During the remainder of your trip, you do not need to reselect this box.

All vessel may contact: NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division (978-281-9315), NMFS VMS Team (978-281-9213 OR NMFS.OLE.NE@NOAA.GOV), or see 50 CFR Part 648 for specific reporting requirements.

DEPENDING UPON WHERE YOU DECLARE TO FISH AND ANY SECTOR EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THIS REPORT AS FOLLOWS:

(A) FOR DAILY REPORTS, BY 9 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY; OR
(B) FOR A TRIP-LEVEL REPORT, BEFORE CROSSING THE VMS DEMARCATION LINE.

IF YOU ARE IN A SECTOR, CONTACT YOUR SECTOR MANAGER FOR ASSISTANCE. ANY
Macro #36 - Multispecies Trip START Hail:

The trip start hail is required by NMFS only if a sector vessel intends to fish on a NMFS exemption or option approved for your sector.

| Step 1. | Enter your 8-digit operator permit number. |
| Step 2. | Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number. |
| Step 3. | Enter ‘Y’ for ‘Yes’ if you will be taking a NMFS observer or at-sea monitor onboard this trip. Otherwise, enter ‘N’ for ‘No’. |
| Steps 4 & 5. | Enter an ‘X’ by all appropriate exemptions and/or provisions to be fished under for this trip. |
| Steps 6 & 7. | Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and enter the 2-character state (postal abbreviation) where the catch will be landed. |
| Steps 8. | In the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit ‘hour:minute’ in 24-hour clock of your estimated return to port. **Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.** |
| Step 9. | See the ‘Note’ to determine if you must enter the estimated offload date/time. If so, in the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock of your estimated offload. |
| Step 10. | Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time. |

### Multispecies Trip Start Hail V16

SUBMIT THIS REPORT BEFORE YOU LEAVE PORT ON YOUR GROUNDFISH TRIP AS REQUIRED BY (A) OR (B) BELOW:

(A) WHEN FISHING UNDER NMFS-AUTHORIZED SECTOR EXEMPTION AND/OR OPTION, OR

(B) WHEN REQUIRED BY YOUR SECTOR OPS PLAN.

1. OPERATOR’S 8-DIGIT PERMIT #: 
2. VTR SERIAL #: 

(REPORTED TO DEALER)

3. OBSERVER OR ASM ON-BOARD (Y/N)? ☐

4. SECTOR EXEMPTION(S)/OPTION(S) TO BE FISHED UNDER THIS TRIP:

- **A. REDFISH EXEMPTION**
- **B. SNE SMALL MESH EXEMPTION**
- **C. EXTRA-LARGE MESH GILLNET IN SNE AND/OR IGB OPTION**
- **D. OTHER EXEMPTION/OPTION(S) (WHEN DIRECTED BY NMFS)**
  - (1) EXEMPTION/OPTION 1
  - (2) EXEMPTION/OPTION 2

5. SECTOR OPS PLAN PROVISIONS TO BE FISHED UNDER THIS TRIP:

- **A. INSHORE GULF OF MAINE**
- **B. OTHER PROVISIONS (WHEN DIRECTED BY NMFS)**
  - (1) PROVISION 1
  - (2) PROVISION 2

6. LANDING PORT CITY: 

7. LANDING STATE (ABBREVIATED): ☐

8. ESTIMATED ARRIVAL: ☐ [HH/MM/DD] (HH=00-23)

9. ESTIMATED O Soflad: ☐ [HH/MM/DD] (HH=00-23)

10. COMMENTS: 

Report blank if NMFS has not authorized the exemption or option specific for your sector.

Enter blank fields only if NMFS has not authorized the option specific for your sector.
Macro #37 - Multispecies Trip END Hail:

The trip end hail is required on all groundfish trips by sector and common pool vessels.

1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.
2. Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.
3. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and enter the 2-character state (postal abbreviation) where the catch will be landed.
4. Enter the 2-digit month, then day and then year of your estimated return to port. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.
5. Enter the dealer or offload location (up to 25 alphanumeric characters).
6 & 7. For your estimated arrival and offload date and time, in the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.

Macro #40 - Monkfish Trip Limit Overage Days at Sea Adjustment:

1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.
2. Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.
3. Enter the 2-digit month, then day and then year of your estimated return to port. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.

NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

Steps 10 & 11. Enter the total amount of groundfish kept and non-groundfish kept in pounds.

Steps 8 & 9. Complete only if you will also offload additional product at another port.

Steps 6 & 7. For your estimated arrival and offload date and time, in the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.

Steps 12. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.
Macro #41 - Scallop Daily Catch Report:

**Step 1.** Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

**Step 2.** Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

**Step 3.** Enter the 2-digit month, then day and then year of the reported catch. **Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.**

**Step 4.** Enter only scallop meats kept in pounds (up to 6 digits).

**Step 5.** Enter ‘Y’ or ‘N’ to indicate whether any scallops were harvested from the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area.

Macro #42 - Scallop Pre-Landing Notification:

**Step 1.** Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

**Step 2.** Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

**Step 3.** Enter the 2-digit month, then day and then year of the reported catch. **Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.**

**Step 4.** Enter ‘Y’ or ‘N’ if you intend to land any scallops, and then complete steps 5-10. Otherwise, enter ‘N’ for ‘No’, and then send the form.

**Step 5.** Enter ‘Y’ or ‘N’ to indicate whether any scallops to be landed were harvested from the Northern Gulf of Maine Management Area.

**Step 6.** If only landing meats, enter the estimated weight in pounds in that field only. If only landing bushels in-shell, enter the estimated number of bushels in that field only. If landing both meats and bushels, enter the estimated weight and bushel count in each field.

**Step 7.** Enter ‘All Other Fish Kept’ (excluding scallops) in pounds. Enter up to 6 digits.

**Step 8.** In the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock of your estimated return to port. **Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.**

**Steps 9 & 10.** Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and enter the 2-character state (postal abbreviation) where the catch will be landed.
Macro #45 - Herring Daily Catch Report:

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Enter the 2-digit month, day and year of the reported catch. **Use the 'Enter' key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.**

Step 4. You must fill in both 'kept' and 'discarded' in pounds for at least one of the areas. Enter up to 7 digits in each field, as appropriate.

Step 5. **Answer this question only if an observer is onboard.** Enter 'Y' for 'Yes' if you had a slippage event for this reported period and also select the reason. If you select 'Other', briefly provide the reason. Otherwise, enter an 'N' for 'No' if no slippage event occurred.

Step 6. If you are using mid-water or bottom trawl gear then enter a 'Y'. Otherwise, enter an 'N' and then send the message.

Step 7. **Only if you answered 'yes' to the previous question,** enter the 3-digit statistical area(s) and associated amount of total fish kept in pounds (up to 7 digits).

Macro #46 - Herring Pre-Landing Notification:

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. In the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit "hour:minute" in 24-hour clock of your estimated return to port. **Use the 'Enter' key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.**

Steps 4 & 5. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and enter the 2-character state (postal abbreviation) where the catch will be landed.
Macro #47 - Mackerel and Squid Daily Catch Report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Enter the 2-digit month, day, and year of the reported catch. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Enter the estimated weight in pounds of mackerel and/or squid kept for that day (up to 6 digits). You must complete at least one of the 3 fields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Enter the estimated weight of all product kept in pounds for that day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6    | Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and enter the 2-character state (postal abbreviation) where the catch will be landed.

Macro #48 - Mackerel Pre-Landing Notification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>In the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock of your estimated return to port. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Enter the estimated weight of all product kept in pounds for that day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Answer this question only if an observer is onboard. Enter ‘Y’ for ‘Yes’ if you had a slippage event for this reported period and also select the reason. If you select ‘Other’, briefly provide the reason. Otherwise, enter an ‘N’ for ‘No’ if no slippage event occurred.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Macro #49 - RSA and EFP Trip START Hail:

The specific reporting requirements will be stated in the NMFS permit that authorizes the compensation fishing or experimental fishing activity.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter the 4 or 5-digit project code from your permit.

Step 3. Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Steps 4 & 5. Enter the 3-digit port code and enter the 2-character state (postal abbreviation) where the catch will be landed.

Step 6. In the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock of your estimated return to port. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.

Step 7. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

Step 8. Enter the 2-digit IVR species code. To the right of each code, enter the estimated weight of the species kept and discarded in pounds, and, if applicable, the associated herring area (1A, 1B, 2 or 3).

Step 9. Enter a ‘Y’ if you intend to land both your commercial and RSA allocation. Otherwise, enter an ‘N’ for RSA allocation only.

Step 10. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

Macro #50 - RSA and EFP Trip END Hail:

The specific reporting requirements will be stated in the NMFS permit that authorizes the compensation fishing or experimental fishing activity.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter the 4 or 5-digit project code from your permit.

Step 3. Enter your 7 or 8-digit VTR, or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Steps 4 & 5. For your estimated arrival and offload date and time, in the first 3 boxes, enter the 2-digit month, then day, and then year. In the final box, enter the 2-digit “hour:minute” in 24-hour clock. Use the ‘Enter’ key to move the cursor to the next field to the right.

Step 6. Enter a ‘Y’ if you intend to land both your commercial and RSA allocation. Otherwise, enter an ‘N’ for RSA allocation only.

Step 7. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.
ATTACHMENT 2

How to ‘Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code’

Note: The information provided in this attachment is also available on the VMS web page.

Under U.S. Fisheries Law, vessel owner/operators are required to declare their activity for every trip prior to leaving port. In response to a New England Fishery Management Council request to ease the financial strain, time and technical burdens associated with declaring an activity through the VMS unit on each trip, NMFS has developed an alternative declaration method through the IVR system.

Who can use this method?

Vessel owner/operators who intend to fish a trip under the same VMS activity code that was last sent from the vessel's VMS unit and received by NMFS, have the option of notifying NMFS that they are confirming their previous VMS declaration by calling the IVR system.

Have the following information ready before calling:

- Your vessel’s 6-digit federal permit number
- Your IVR PIN (same as your Fish On-Line PIN)(available from the GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division at 1-888-487-9994)
- Your 8-digit operator permit number
- Your most recent VMS activity code (format xxx-xxx-xxxxxx)

Instructions:

- Call the IVR system at 1-888-284-4904.
- At ‘Main Menu’, press 1 to “Report the start or end of a trip, declare a block, or confirm the use of a previous VMS code.”
- At ‘Fishing Activity Reporting’, enter your vessel’s 6-digit permit number and your IVR PIN.
- When prompted, record your name and operator permit number, then press the # key.
- When prompted, press 1 to confirm your name and operator number, or press 2 to re-record the information.
- When prompted, press 4 to “Confirm the use of a previous VMS code.”
- The IVR will respond with either:

  1) “Your most recent VMS activity code is ( ).” When prompted, press 1 to confirm the use of this code. The system will then provide you with a confirmation number which you should record and keep with you on your trip. However, if this is not the code you will use, when prompted, hang up and declare your trip through your VMS unit; or

  2) “Your most recent VMS activity code cannot be confirmed.” When prompted, hang up and declare your trip through your VMS unit.
ATTACHMENT 2 (Cont’d)

How to ‘Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code’

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

• All other VMS reporting requirements for your trip still apply.

• This alternative method of declaring a trip prior to leaving port is not to be used in lieu of an inoperative VMS unit. Your VMS unit must be fully functional.

• The IVR back-up message line should not be used if you are unable to use the main IVR system.

• The code reported to you by the IVR system is the most recent code sent from your vessel’s VMS unit and received by NMFS. Therefore, your most recent code sent may be from your last trip or when in port after your last trip.

• If the IVR system is unable to confirm your VMS activity code, it is likely for one of the following reasons:
  (1) No code for your vessel could be retrieved;
  (2) Your last code was the power down code (PWD-PWD-XXXXXX);
  (3) Your last code was a Southeast Region code (for dual-reporting vessels); or
  (4) Your last code was a code that could only be declared when inside the NE Fishery.

• You will still receive an automated trip start and trip end message from NMFS through your VMS unit. Your trip will be recorded in NMFS’ monitoring system with the code that you confirmed through the IVR system.
ATTACHMENT 3

Groundfish VMS Catch Reporting Requirements
Revised - October 4, 2017

QUESTION 1
Did you send a TRIP START HAIL with any of the following selected?
- Redfish Exemption
- Southern New England (SNE) Small Mesh Exemption
- Extra-Large Mesh Gillnet in SNE and/or Inshore Georges Bank (IGB) Option

Yes — I selected the ‘Redfish Exemption’.
Yes — I selected the ‘SNE Small Mesh Exemption’ or ‘Extra-Large Mesh Gillnet in SNE and/or IGB Option’.

Send a Daily Catch Report for each day of your trip with fields 1, 2, 3 & 4 completed (by 9:00 am the following day).
Additional requirements may apply; proceed to Question 2.

QUESTION 2
If you sent a TRIP START HAIL and selected the ‘Redfish Exemption’, ‘SNE Small Mesh Exemption’ or ‘Extra-Large Mesh Gillnet in SNE and/or Inshore Georges Bank (IGB) Option’, are you switching immediately to smaller mesh?

Yes — I will fish the ‘Redfish Exemption’.

Send one Catch Report for your entire trip with fields 1, 2 & 4 completed (before crossing the VMS demarcation line).
Additional requirements may apply; proceed to Question 2.

A catch report is not required.

There are no additional catch report requirements.

---

VMS - Multispecies Catch Report
Field 1 - Operator’s permit number
Field 2 - VTR serial number
Field 3 - Date fish caught
Field 4 - Species kept by stat. area
Field 5 - Switching to smaller mesh

Northeast VMS Team
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