



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

June 30, 2011

Dear Northeast Region Seafood Dealer:

We are now accepting electronic vessel trip reports (eVTR) from some federally permitted fishing vessels. To accommodate electronic reporting, the length of the vessel trip report (VTR) serial number will be increased to 14 characters from the current 8 characters in our dealer reporting systems. The VTR serial number for vessels reporting electronically will consist of their permit number plus date and hour, and will be generated by the on-board reporting software. The combination of vessel permit number, date, and hour should be easier to use, and we hope will improve the accuracy of reports and the quality of data used to monitor our fisheries.

Vessel operators will provide their VTR serial numbers to you for entry into your reporting system and for uploading to us, or in one of our approved partner systems (Bluefin Data Inc., Dealer File Upload, or SAFIS). Vessel operators using paper VTRs will continue to use the 8 character serial number printed on the VTR form.

The VTR serial number is the key to matching information provided by the vessel operator about a fishing trip (e.g., location of fishing and gear used) to landings from that trip. In addition, accurate matching of the VTR and your landings report helps ensure that vessels are properly credited for their landings, that landings are attributed to the appropriate stock area, and, in the multispecies catch share program, that accurate amounts are deducted from each sector's allocation.

Please remember that:

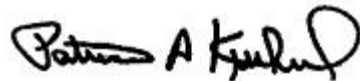
- You must report the VTR serial number for every trip when fish are purchased or received from a vessel that has a Federal fishing permit that requires VTR reporting (excluding vessels that only have a Federal lobster permit). These must be reported at the same time as the other required information. Only the price paid or value may be reported after the initial data submission. Dealer reports will be considered incomplete until the VTR field has been completed.
- If a vessel operator delivers the catch from several trips in a single offload or via truck, he/she must break these into separate trips and provide unique VTR serial numbers for each trip. Each trip must be reported through individual dealer reports.



- Accurate reporting of the vessel's Federal permit number is especially important in ensuring that landings are credited to the correct permit. The hull number should be reported for vessels that do not have a Federal permit.
- Port agents will no longer be allowed to update or change data on a dealer's behalf. Only you may change data. Your submissions constitute your official report on transactions and are your report of record. Our port agents will continue to work with you to address reporting problems.
- All reports must be submitted by midnight Tuesday for transactions completed in the previous week.

If you have any questions concerning these items, or dealer data quality in general, please contact either Greg Power (978-281-9304, greg.power@noaa.gov) or your local port agent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Patricia A. Kurkul
Northeast Regional Administrator