



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Northeast Region
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**NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR
 THE ATLANTIC HERRING FISHERY
 Effective September 8, 2011**

This letter summarizes new and existing notification and reporting requirements for participants in the Atlantic herring (herring) fishery. Please be aware that Framework 46 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan may change these requirements. If requirements do change, you will receive revised instructions.

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GENERAL REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

If you are an owner/operator of a vessel issued a limited access herring permit, please report as follows:

- Declare that the vessel is participating in the herring fishery (HER) via the vessel monitoring system (VMS) prior to leaving port. If a vessel is declared out of the herring fishery (DOF) prior to leaving port, that vessel may not harvest, possess, or land herring on that trip.
- Submit a VMS catch report for each day (0000–2400 hr) of a trip by 9 a.m. of the following day for all herring caught. If no herring are caught during that day, you should report zero catch.
- Detailed instructions for completing the VMS catch report are provided on page 4 of this letter. Additionally, updated VMS operator instructions (effective September 1, 2011) are available on the VMS web page at www.nero.noaa.gov, under ‘Fishing Industry & Seafood Dealers.’
- Submit a vessel trip report (VTR) for each week (Sunday–Saturday) by midnight on Tuesday of the following week. If no fish are caught during that week, you should report zero catch.

If you are an owner/operator of a vessel issued an All Areas or Areas 2/3 Limited Access Herring Permit (Category A or B permit) on a declared herring trip, using either midwater trawl or purse seine gear, you must also:

- Obtain the appropriate letter of authorization (LOA) for the gear fished before beginning any fishing trip. You can obtain an LOA by phoning the Northeast Region Permit Office (978-281-9370).
- Provide notice and contact information (e.g., contact name and phone number; vessel name; date, time, and port of departure) to the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (508-990-9057) at least 72 hr prior to beginning any trip.
- Carry an observer on board if intending to fish using midwater trawl in Northeast multispecies Closed Area I.
- Notify the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement, by completing the VMS pre-landing notification form (instructions on page 5 of this letter), of the time and place of offloading at least 6 hr prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on your return trip to port, or, for vessels that have not fished seaward of the VMS demarcation line, at least 6 hr prior to landing.

If you are the owner/operator of a vessel issued an open access herring permit, please report as follows:

- If you have another permit (e.g., multispecies, monkfish, scallop) that requires your vessel to operate a VMS, you should declare the vessel out of the fishery (DOF) via VMS prior to leaving port on a herring trip. If you do not have another permit that requires your vessel to operate a VMS, no declaration is necessary.
- Submit an interactive voice response (IVR) catch report for each week (Sunday-Saturday) by midnight on Tuesday of the following week for all herring caught (kept and discarded). If no herring are caught during that week, then you do not need to submit an IVR catch report.
- Submit a VTR for each week by midnight on Tuesday of the following week. If no fish are caught during that week, you should report zero catch.

Reminder for all vessel owner/operators: Herring may only be sold to federally permitted dealers or at-sea processors, unless it is being sold at-sea to a vessel that is purchasing the herring for its own use as bait.

If you have been issued a dealer permit or are the owner/operator of a vessel issued an at-sea processing permit, please report as follows:

- Submit, for each transaction, an electronic dealer report for each week (Sunday-Saturday) by midnight on Tuesday of the following week. If no fish are bought during that week, you should report that zero fish were bought.
- Report the vessel name and Federal permit number of each vessel that harvested any fish received. Many vessels have similar names, so please double check vessel name and permit number.
- Report the weight units for purchased fish. Please double check weight units because reporting the wrong unit could count as additional landings and lead to early closures.
- Report the VTR serial number from the vessels that harvested the fish.

If you have been issued a dealer permit or are the owner/operator of a vessel issued an at-sea processing permit, please follow these instructions for handling haddock:

- Dealers, including at-sea processors, that cull or separate all other fish from the herring catch must separate and retain all haddock offloaded from vessels that have an All Areas or Areas 2/3 Limited Access Herring Permit.
- Haddock may not be sold, purchased, received, traded, bartered, or transferred, and must be retained, after it has been separated from the herring, for at least 12 hr for dealers and processors on land, and for 12 hr after landing on shore by at-sea processors.
- The dealer or at-sea processor must report all haddock on the weekly electronic dealer report and must use the appropriate disposition code for the haddock. You must clearly indicate the vessel name and permit number of vessels that landed the retained haddock.
- Law enforcement officials must be given access to inspect the haddock.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REPORTING QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please phone the following numbers:

- VMS Reporting – 978-281-9213;
- Dealer Reporting – 978-281-9212;
- IVR Reporting – 978-281-9209;
- VTR Reporting – 978-281-9246;
- Regulations – 978-281-9315;
- Permits – 978-281-9370.

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR VMS CATCH REPORT

The new VMS herring catch report is shown below. The layout of the report will vary depending on the VMS vendor you use, but the information should be the same. If the information on your catch report is different than below, you must update your VMS software.

Your VMS vendor will have given you new software, which you must use for any trips on or after September 1, 2011. Please contact your vendor if you need help obtaining the new software or contact the Northeast VMS Team at 978-281-9213 if you need help using the new software.

Please enter VTR serial number, date fish caught, and herring catch (kept and discarded) for each herring management area. If no herring were caught in an area, please enter 0 lb for that area.

This report also contains fields for reporting all fish kept by haddock stock area. Please do not complete these fields at this time. If/when there is a requirement to report by haddock area, you will receive additional reporting instructions.

This report is required by all limited access herring vessels on all declared herring trips. For each day of a declared trip, this report must be submitted by 9 a.m. the following day. Negative reports (0 lb) must be submitted when no fish were caught.

Note: VTR serial number must be the same number reported to the seafood dealer receiving the landings at the end of the trip. If you use multiple pages of the VTR on the trip, record the serial number from the first VTR page used.

Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number: _____
 Date fish caught: Month (01-12) _____
 Day (01-31) _____

SPECIES	AREA 1A	AREA 1B	AREA 2	AREA 3
Herring Kept (lb)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Herring Discarded (lb)	_____	_____	_____	_____
All Fish Kept (lb)	GOM Haddock Area		GB Haddock Area	
	_____		_____	

Note: Reporting by haddock area is only required for vessels using mid-water trawl gear in Areas 1A, 1B, and/or 3. Include total lb of all herring and non-herring.

GOM Haddock Area includes Stat Areas 464, 465, and 511 thru 515.

GB Haddock Area includes Stat Areas 521, 522, 525, 526, 561, and 562.

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR VMS PRE-LANDING NOTIFICATION FORM

The new herring VMS pre-landing notification form is shown below. The layout of the form will vary depending on the VMS vendor you use, but the information should be the same. If the information on your pre-landing notification form is different than below, you must update your VMS software (see information on page 4).

Currently, only vessels issued an All Areas or Areas 2/3 Limited Access Herring Permit (Category A or B permit) on a declared herring trip, using midwater trawl or purse seine gear, must complete this form. Vessels with an Incidental Catch Limited Access Herring Permit (Category C) are not currently required to complete this form. If/when additional vessels are required to complete this form, you will receive additional reporting instructions.

This report is to be sent by limited access herring vessels on a declared herring trip as described below:

- a. Category A & B vessels: Fishing with mid-water trawl or purse seine gear in any area.
- b. Category C vessels: Fishing with mid-water trawl gear in areas 1A, 1B, and/or 3.

Note: Send report at least 6 hours prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on the return trip to port, or 6 hours prior to landing if no fishing occurred seaward of the VMS demarcation line.

Estimated Landing Month (01 - 12): _____

Estimated Landing Day (01 - 31): _____

Estimated Landing Hour (00 - 23): _____

Estimated Landing Minute (00 - 59): _____

Landing Port State: _____

Landing Port City: _____

The National Marine Fisheries Service requires this information for the conservation and management of marine fishery resources in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The data reported will be used to develop, implement, and monitor fishery management strategies and for a variety of other uses. Submission is mandatory for those persons falling under the requirements of 50 CFR 648.7 (b). All data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA regulations and Administrative Orders. Public reporting burden for catch reporting is estimated to average 5 min per individual per VMS response, 7 min per individual per IVR response, and 5 min per individual per VTR response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to NMFS, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number.

OMB Number: 0648-0202 and 0648-0212

Expiration: 4-30-2013 and 1-31-2013