



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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VMS Daily Reporting on Sector Trips Declared into Eastern U.S./Canada Area

New reporting requirements for sector trips declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area
Effective Date: June 30, 2014

Sector vessels declared to fish in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, including the two Eastern U.S./Canada Special Access Programs (SAPs) (the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP and the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP) will need to submit daily VMS catch reports.

The reports must be submitted by 9 AM each day for the previous 24 hours, regardless of where the vessel is fishing, and are required to include the following information:

1. VTR serial number;
2. Date fish were caught;
3. Statistical area in which the fish were caught; and
4. Total pounds of cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder, pollock, American plaice, redfish, Atlantic halibut, ocean pout, Atlantic wolfish, and white hake kept (in pounds, live weight) in each Broad Stock Area fished.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is there a change from trip to daily reporting when I declare that I will be fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area?	This action was requested by the New England Fishery Management Council, and supported and approved by NMFS, to increase the accuracy of reporting of catch in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area. If you are not declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, the reporting requirement remains a trip-level VMS catch report for any trip declared into multiple Broad Stock Areas.
If I declare into the Eastern Area, but don't fish there, do I still have to submit daily reports?	Yes, the requirement is based on declaration. If you do not intend to fish in the Eastern Area, we recommend that you do not include it in your declaration. Once declared into the Eastern Area, you must submit daily reports for the entire trip, not just the portion that you spend fishing in the Eastern Area.
If I am declared into both the Eastern and Western Areas, do I have to submit daily reports?	Yes, you should submit a daily report for any trip where you are declared into the Eastern U.S./Canada Area, regardless of what other areas you have also declared. You must submit daily reports for the entire trip, not just the portion that is spent fishing in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area.
If I "flex" into either of the two SAPs, how do I report?	If you use the annually approved sector exemption from the requirement to declare from the dock your intent to fish in either the Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder/Haddock SAP or the Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP (flex), you will need to submit a report to indicate your catch up until the time that you declare into the SAP while at sea, and from that point on, submit daily VMS catch reports.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.