



Atlantic Herring Research Set-Aside (RSA) Vessel Operator Reporting Requirements

Ensure you understand these requirements before initiating an RSA compensation fishing trip. If you have questions, contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

When harvesting Atlantic herring RSA quota, the vessel operator is subject to reporting requirements in addition to those already required by the herring fishery. The vessel operator must report RSA compensation fishing activity through the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). If the vessel must report using the technical difficulty line, the nature of the technical difficulty must be provided. When using the technical difficulty line, all of the reporting requirements must still be met. Below is summary of the RSA reporting requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in the revocation of your authorization to harvest RSA quota, and may subject the violator to fines and/or permit sanctions.

Northeast Fishery Observer Program

If your vessel was issued a Herring Category A or B permit, or if your vessel was issued any herring permit and will be fishing with midwater trawl gear in Herring Management Areas 1A, 1B, and/or 3; you must call the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program at (774) 392-2735 at least 72 hr in advance of a fishing trip to request an observer.

If your vessel was issued a Herring Category C or E permit, you must call the Observer Program at (774) 392-2735 at least 48 hr in advance of a fishing trip to request an observer.

Pre-Trip Notification Requirement

For each trip where RSA quota may be landed the vessel operator must declare the intent to harvest RSA quota via VMS. You must declare an RSA trip as part of your herring declaration and complete and submit the 'RSA and EFP Trip Start Hail' form prior to leaving port. Refer to page 3 of these RSA reporting instructions for additional information.

Catch Report

You must 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.

Pre-Land Notification Requirement

At least 6 hours prior to entering port or landing your catch, you must submit two pre-landing notifications via VMS. You must complete and submit the 'Herring Pre-Landing Notification' and 'RSA and EFP Trip End Hail' forms at least 6 hours prior to entering port or landing your catch. If fishing ends less than 6 hours before returning to port, you must complete and submit the 'Herring Pre-Landing Notification' and the 'RSA and EFP Trip End Hail' form immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds.

Vessel Trip Report (VTR)

You must complete and submit 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. **When filling out your VTR, you must fill out the “RSA/EFP: # of Crew” section in box number 6.**

Contacts

RSA Program questions– (978) 281-9315

VMS technical difficulties – (978) 281-9213

VTR questions – (978) 281-9246

Atlantic Herring RSA Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Reporting Worksheet

This worksheet outlines the steps and information needed to fulfill your Atlantic Herring RSA trip report requirements using your Skymate or Boatracs VMS.

Skymate:

- Trip Declaration: In addition to your normal trip declaration procedures, you must declare your intent to harvest Atlantic herring RSA quota on your VMS. When declaring an Atlantic herring RSA trip select “Yes” on question 4; “Will herring RSA quota be harvested on this trip?”
- Hail Forms: In addition to the declaration, you must also complete and submit the ‘RSA and EFP Trip Start Hail’ prior to leaving port, the ‘RSA and EFP Trip End Hail’ before returning to port to report estimated RSA quota that will be landed, and the ‘RSA and EFP Trip End Hail’ within 24 hours after landing to report exact RSA quota landings. Follow the steps below to access the hail forms on your VMS unit. When submitting the ‘RSA and EFP Trip End Hail’ form the second time with exact weights, you do not have to report estimated date and time of arrival and offload.
 - 1) From the main screen select “Forms NE”
 - 2) Then select “More”
 - 3) Then select “RSA/EFP”
 - 4) Then Select either “RSA/EFP TS” or “RSA/EFP TE”

Boatracs:

- Trip Declaration: You must declare out of fishery as you normally would, or starting September 1, 2014, you must declare your intent to harvest Atlantic herring RSA quota on your VMS. When declaring an Atlantic herring RSA trip select “Yes” on question 4; “Will herring RSA quota be harvested on this trip?”
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- Hail Forms: In addition to the declaration, you must also complete and submit the ‘RSA and EFP Trip Start Hail’ prior to leaving port, the ‘RSA and EFP Trip End Hail’ before returning to port to report estimated RSA quota that will be landed, and the ‘RSA and EFP Trip End Hail’ within 24 hours after landing to report exact quota landings. When submitting the ‘RSA and EFP Trip End Hail’ form the second time with exact weights, you do not have to report estimated date and time of arrival and offload. The hail forms can be located at the following macros on your VMS unit:
 - RSA and EFP Trip Start Hail use Macro 49
 - RSA and EFP Trip End Hail use Macro 50

