



How To Make Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Activity Declarations

Prior to leaving port, a vessel with a NE multispecies limited access permit must send a communication to NOAA Fisheries Service via its vessel monitoring system (VMS) indicating its fishing plans. This is known as a VMS declaration. The declaration includes, among other things, what fishery you intend to fish in, what gear you plan to use and what area you will be fishing in.

This is separate from the trip start hail requirement that a sector vessel makes to its dockside monitoring provider.

Details of how to make this declaration are included in the permit holder letter dated June 3, 2010.

Following are the specific areas that must be completed as part of this electronic declaration:

Gear Type

Here you must either select trawl, hook, Day gillnet, or Trip gillnet.

Broad Stock Area (BSA)

Under this heading, you need to identify what area(s) you will be fishing in on each trip you plan to take. With this information, we will be able to attribute vessel catch to stock areas to monitor catch of each stock, until such time that vessel trip reports (VTR) are received.

Since both sectors and the common pool have the ability to trade allocation, knowing how close a sector or the common pool is to its respective allocation is really important. If you select more than one BSA, prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line upon returning to port, you also must complete a VMS catch report, attributing catch to each BSA fished on that trip.

When using a multispecies and monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) on the same trip, you also must declare all BSAs that might be fished.

Sector or Common Pool Trip

When taking a sector trip, sector vessels have the option to select either a sector trip "on a multispecies DAS" or "not on a multispecies DAS". A declaration of a sector trip "not on a multispecies DAS" will result in no DAS being charged. A sector trip "on a multispecies DAS" will be charged Category A DAS for that trip. Vessels may not use Category B DAS, while participating in a sector.

Fisheries Program

Common pool vessels must select the intended fisheries program (either regular access or special management program access) and the DAS type (A or B DAS) that will be fished on that trip.

Sector vessels that do not intend

EXAMPLE ONLY FOR SECTOR VESSEL:
NE Multispecies Declaration Screen
SkyMate Screen

SELECT FISHERIES PROGRAM
 REGULAR ACCESS (A DAS) [NMS-MUL/MNK]
 OPEN ONLY
 US/CANADA WEST (A DAS) [NMS-USC/MNK]
 AREA 4 ONLY
 AREA 4 AND OPEN
 US/CANADA EAST [NMS-USC/MNK]
 AREA 1
 USING A DAS
 USING B-REG DAS
 USING B-RES DAS

Sector vessels should ignore reference to DAS

Sector vessels don't have to check anything here just the fishing area if they are fishing in Area 1

to fish a DAS must declare only the fisheries program and should not select the intended type of DAS to be fished. For those of you using Boatracs or SkyMate, you still have to check the appropriate box or boxes in this section to indicate the area where you intend to fish, even if you have stated you are taking a sector trip. You can ignore subheadings relating to DAS. These subheadings only apply to DAS vessels (See Example in Related Box). Your forms cannot be submitted unless all relevant sections of the declaration are completed.

Monkfish VMS Declaration Screen

A vessel with a NE multispecies limited access permit intending to fish for monkfish must declare into the monkfish fishery using the monkfish VMS declaration screen in VMS. *(cont'd on next page)*



Sector vessels declaring into the monkfish fishery will automatically be charged groundfish DAS in accordance with the monkfish regulations.

When to Use IVR

For all sector and common pool groundfish trips, 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) for vessels that have a valid VMS unit onboard the vessel, declare the activity code "DOF" (Declare Out of Fishery) on your VMS unit.

Vessels that are issued a limited access Handgear A or Small Vessel NE multispecies permit and intend-

ing to fish exclusively in 1 BSA but do not have a valid VMS onboard, should utilize the IVR system. If vessels that are issued either of these permit categories intends to fish in multiple BSAs, an approved and operational VMS unit will be required.

Attention: SkyMate Users

When completing the Trip End Hail, please enter NA in the Second Port & State of Landing boxes, if you do not have a second landing port. These boxes cannot be left blank.

If you just enter NA in both these boxes, you will then be able to submit your form.

Upcoming VMS Training and Listening Meetings Schedule:

To provide Vessel Monitoring System training and to solicit feedback on fishing under Amendment 16 and sector regulations, NOAA Fisheries Service will be holding the following public meetings:

June 10, 5-8p
New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park
33 William Street
New Bedford, MA

June 14, 5-8p
National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA

June 17, 5-8p
Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel
250 Market Street
Portsmouth, NH

June 23, 5-8p
Eastland Park Hotel
157 High Street
Portland, ME

June 28, 5-8p
Coastal Institute
University of Rhode Island
215 South Ferry Road
Narragansett, RI

July 8, 5-8p
Gurney's Inn and Resort
290 Old Montauk Hwy
Montauk, NY

Training Dockside and At-sea Monitors

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center has held eleven training courses over the past month and a half for at-sea and dockside monitoring. The Fisheries Sampling Branch manages the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, At-Sea Monitoring Program, the associated certification trainings, and the training for dockside monitoring. Pending the conclusion of the May trainings, there will be approximately 108 certified At-Sea Monitors from three service provider companies (AIS Inc., East West Technical Services, and MRAG Americas), and 86 Dockside Monitors from five service provider companies (the three listed above, plus Atlantic Catch Data Ltd. and Saltwater Inc.). The At-Sea

Monitoring Training is eight days in length, and the Dockside Monitoring Training is four days long. The Monitoring Training includes safety training, species identification, fisheries information, catch estimation, conflict resolution, and dealer and vessel tours. The development of these new training courses included curriculum development, pre-test assessments, training manuals, reference guides, presentation materials, and testing and evaluation criteria. The certification is good for up to one year, given that data quality standards and codes of conduct are met. More information regarding training is available at:

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/>