Pre-Trip Notification System Vessel Instructions
Groundfish Fishing Year 2017

What is the Pre-Trip Notification System?

The Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) was designed by NMFS to provide a fast, simple, and effective way to ensure fair and adequate coverage of all vessels fishing for northeast groundfish. An algorithm works to determine if each separate trip is selected for coverage. In order to reach the targeted observer and at-sea monitor coverage rates for discard calculation, trips are randomly selected based on the combination of their sector, area, and gear without regard to individual vessel identity. However, vessels with low coverage that cancel trips assigned observers are identified by the PTNS, and their trips may not be selected randomly.

Do I have to notify?

You must notify NMFS 48 hours in advance via the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) if you will be taking a groundfish trip. This includes any research set-aside trip using Multispecies A Days-at-Sea and applies to both vessels in a sector and those in the common pool. Trips may be groundfish-only or monkfish-groundfish trips. See the PTNS Frequently Asked Questions at https://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/ptns/PTNS_FAQ.pdf for further information on PTNS eligibility.

Notifications must be made a full 48 hours in advance.
Notifications received less than 48 hours in advance may be required to delay departure up to 48 hours from the time of initial notification.

Who do I notify?

NMFS Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
Website: fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS
Phone: 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371), monitored 24/7, 365 days a year
Email: NEFSC_PTNS@noaa.gov, monitored daily, 365 days a year

How do I notify?

Via internet, email or phone (see instructions following)

Entry into PTNS may be delayed if your notification is submitted via telephone or email. The actual time that you call or email is considered the time of your notification in regard to the 48-hour requirement.

Internet Notification
1. Log into your PTNS account at http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS
2. Click on the “New Trip” tab
3. Enter sail date and time of planned trip
4. Select fishery – “Multispecies (MUL)”
5. Select VMS activity code – “Multispecies (MUL)” for groundfish trips, “Monkfish (MNK)” for monkfish-groundfish trips
6. Enter estimated trip duration as number of days
7. Select port of departure
8. Select gear intending to fish
9. Select broad stock area intending to fish
10. Select Special Management Program, if applicable
11. If making a set-only gillnet trip, check the box next to “Set-Only Trip”
12. Click “Submit” once and wait for a message indicating your notification has been accepted

For trips 1 or 2 days in length: Enter information for each potential sail date separately, up to 9 days in advance (48 hours of notification time allows a maximum of 7 sail dates)

Email Notification
Send an email to NEFSC_PTNS@noaa.gov containing the following information:
1. Vessel contact name and phone number
2. Vessel permit number
3. Planned sail date(s) and time(s)
4. Estimated length of trip(s) in days, indicate if taking day trips or a multiday trip
5. Port of departure
6. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet <8”, gillnet 8” and larger)
7. Area fishing (Gulf of Maine, Inner Georges Bank, Outer Georges Bank, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)

Telephone Notification
Call 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371) and relay to the answerer or leave in a clear voicemail:
1. Vessel contact name and phone number
2. Vessel permit number
3. Planned sail date(s) and time(s)
4. Estimated length of trip(s) in days, indicate if taking day trips or a multiday trip
5. Port of departure
6. Gear (trawl, longline, handline, gillnet <8”, gillnet 8” and larger)
7. Area fishing (Gulf of Maine, Inner Georges Bank, Outer Georges Bank, Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic)

Do I have to take an observer?

Once a notification is entered into the PTNS, it will be issued a confirmation number and an automated email will be sent indicating that it was entered. Under the “Pending Trips” tab in your PTNS web account, each successfully entered trip will be listed. No later than 24 hours prior to the PTNS sail time, a trip’s final status will be visible in your PTNS web account, and an automated email will be sent indicating whether a waiver of PTNS groundfish coverage has been issued or an observer has been assigned to a specific trip. You may contact the provider at the phone number listed in the email or you may await contact from an observer. Regardless of whether contact has been made, a trip may not sail without an observer unless it has been issued a waiver in the PTNS. If you want to sail and do not have a waiver in the PTNS and do not have an observer onboard, call the PTNS line at 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371).

Automated emails are sent to the email address(es) registered in the vessel’s PTNS account. Ensure that yours stay up to date.

Can I delay my trip?

Day trips (those 1 or 2 days in estimated length) are valid for departures on that calendar day only and may not be delayed. Multiday trips (those 3 or more days in estimated length) may be delayed. You may cancel a multiday trip and re-notify if you plan to delay for greater than 48 hours. Contact the PTNS Team - and provider, if applicable - if your multiday trip is not sailing at the time listed in the PTNS.

Please contact the PTNS Team at 1-855-FISHES1 (1-855-347-4371) if you have any questions.