



**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
Office of Law Enforcement  
Northeast Division

**Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

Activity Declaration Code Format  
For the Greater Atlantic Region

March 18, 2014

## DECLARATION CODE FORMAT

The format of a Declaration code is: **CCC-PPP-AADGTB**.

Fields within the code are formatted per the table below:

Code	Description	Length	Type
CCC	Plan Code	3	Alpha
PPP	Program Code	3	Alpha
AA	Area Identifier	2	Alphanumeric
D	Days-at-Sea (DAS) Code	1	Alpha
G	Gear Type	1	Alpha
T	Trip Modifier	1	Alpha
B	Broad Stock Area (BSA)	1	Alpha

### **How do I determine the meaning of a VMS declaration code?**

Use the tables on the following pages to break down the individual fields within the code.

For example, NMS-SEC-OPXWMA would be:

- a. Plan Code 'NMS' is 'Northeast Multispecies'.
- b. Program Code 'SEC' is 'Multispecies Sector Vessel Trip'.
- c. Area Identifier 'OP' is 'Open Area'.
- d. Days-at-Sea Code 'X' is 'No Days-at-Sea'.
- e. Gear Type 'W' is 'Trawl'.
- f. Trip Modifier 'M' is 'Monkfish Option'.
- g. Broad Stock Area 'A' is 'Gulf of Maine (GOM)'.

**Plan Code (CCC-???-??????)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
NMS	Northeast Multispecies
MNK	Monkfish
SES	Scallop
HER	Herring
SCO	Surfclam & Ocean Quahog
SMB	Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish
PWD	Power Down
DOF	Declare out of Fishery

**Program Code (???-PPP-??????)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
SEC	Multispecies Sector Vessel Trip
COM	Multispecies Common Pool Vessel Trip
NAS	Monkfish Northern Management Area Sector Vessel Trip
NAC	Monkfish Northern Management Area Common Pool Vessel Trip
SAS	Monkfish Southern Management Area Sector Vessel Trip
SAC	Monkfish Southern Management Area Common Pool Vessel Trip
NAM	Monkfish Northern Management Area Monkfish-Only Vessel Trip
SAM	Monkfish Southern Management Area Monkfish-Only Vessel Trip
NOC	Monkfish Northern Management Area Common Pool Vessel Trip - Offshore Program Access
SOC	Monkfish Southern Management Area Common Pool Vessel Trip - Offshore Program Access
NOS	Monkfish Northern Management Area Sector Vessel Trip - Offshore Program Access
SOS	Monkfish Southern Management Area Sector Vessel Trip - Offshore Program Access
BDP	Multispecies B-DAS Program
SAA	Special Access Area
SCA	Limited Access
SCG	Limited Access General Category (LAGC)
HER	Herring Trip
CAR	Herring Carrier Trip
HMS	Herring Trip with Mackerel and/or Squid Retention

SFC	Surfclam
OQU	Ocean Quahog
MMQ	Maine Mahogany Quahog
SWE	State Waters Exemption
TST	Transit
CML	Fishing - Commercial
REC	Fishing - Recreational/Charter
SCI	Scientific Research
NAF	NW Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) participation
MAC	Mackerel Trip
MAS	Mackerel Trip with Longfin Squid Retention
MAH	Mackerel Trip with Herring Retention
MHS	Mackerel Trip with Herring and Longfin Squid Retention
SQL	Longfin Squid Trip
SQM	Longfin Squid Trip with Mackerel Retention
SQH	Longfin Squid Trip with Herring Retention
SHM	Longfin Squid Trip with Herring and Mackerel Retention
PWD	Power Down

**Area Identifier (???-???-AA????)**

Code	Description
U1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP
U2	Eastern US/Canada Area
U3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area
U4	Western US/Canada Area
U5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP
U6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP
U7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP
U8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP
R1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Open Area
R2	Eastern US/Canada Area + Open Area

R3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + Open Area
R5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area
R6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area
R7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area
R8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area
W1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area
W2	Eastern US/Canada Area + Western US/Canada Area
W3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + Western US/Canada Area
W5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area
W6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area
W7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area
W8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area
O1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O2	Eastern US/Canada Area + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O4	Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
O8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Western US/Canada Area + Open Area
H1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP
H2	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
H3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
H4	Western US/Canada Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
H5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP
H6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP

H7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP
H8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP
T1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
T2	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
T3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
T5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
T6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
T7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
T8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
P1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P2	Eastern US/Canada Area + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P4	Western US/Canada Area + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
P8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP
Q1	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
Q2	Eastern US/Canada Area + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
Q3	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Area + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
Q5	Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
Q6	Eastern US/Canada Area + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
Q7	CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area

Q8	Eastern US/Canada Area + CA-2 Yellowtail/Haddock SAP + Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP + Open Area + CA-1 HGH SAP + Western US/Canada Area
C1	Closed Area 1
HX	CA-1 Hook Gear Haddock (HGH) SAP
HO	CA-1 Hook Gear Haddock (HGH) SAP + Open Area
1S	CA-1 Scallop Access Area
C2	Closed Area 2
2S	CA-2 Scallop Access Area
HC	Hudson Canyon Scallop Access Area
NL	Nantucket Lightship
NS	Nantucket Lightship Scallop Access Area
OF	Monkfish Offshore Area
VB	Virginia Beach
OP	Open Area
DM	DELMARVA Scallop Access Area
OQ	Surfclam & Ocean Quahog Open Area
OM	Maine Mahogany Quahog Zone
NG	Northern Gulf of Maine (Federal)
SN	Northern Gulf of Maine (State only)
SW	State Waters Exemption
GB	Georges Bank PSP Area Reopened Portion
XX	None or Not Applicable

**Days-at-Sea (DAS) Code (???-???-??D???)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	Multispecies 'A' (and Monkfish or Monkfish RSA for 'MNK' trips only)
B	Multispecies 'B'-Regular
R	Multispecies 'B'-Reserve
S	Scallop (and Monkfish or Monkfish RSA for 'MNK' trips only)
C	Combination Multispecies 'A' and Scallop (and Monkfish or Monkfish RSA for 'MNK' trips only)

D	Combination Multispecies 'B' and Scallop
E	Combination Multispecies 'R' and Scallop
X	No Days-at-Sea (NE-Sector), Monkfish or Monkfish RSA DAS ('MNK' trips only)(NE) or Quota (SE)

### Gear Type (???-???-???G??)

Code	Description
W	Bottom Trawl
H	Hook
G	Gillnet
M	Mid-Water Trawl
S	Purse Seine
O	Other Gear
X	None or Not Applicable

### Trip Modifier (???-???-????T?)

Code	Description
Y	Scallop Compensation Trip - Yes
N	Scallop Compensation Trip - No
M	Monkfish Option
R	Research Set Aside Trip
C	Scallop Compensation and Research Set Aside Trip
X	None

## Broad Stock Area (BSA) (???-???-?????B)

Code	Description
A	Gulf of Maine (GOM)
B	Inshore Georges Bank (IGB)
C	Offshore Georges Bank (OGB)
D	Southern New England (SNE)
E	Gulf of Maine and Inshore Georges Bank (GOM + IGB)
F	Gulf of Maine and Offshore Georges Bank (GOM + OGB)
G	Gulf of Maine and Southern New England (GOM + SNE)
H	Inshore Georges Bank and Offshore Georges Bank (IGB + OGB)
I	Inshore Georges Bank and Southern New England (IGB + SNE)
J	Offshore Georges Bank and Southern New England (OGB + SNE)
K	Gulf of Maine and Inshore Georges Bank and Offshore Georges Bank (GOM + IGB + OGB)
L	Gulf of Maine and Inshore Georges Bank and Southern New England (GOM + IGB + SNE)
M	Gulf of Maine and Offshore Georges Bank and Southern New England (GOM + OGB + SNE)
N	Inshore Georges Bank and Offshore Georges Bank and Southern New England (IGB + OGB + SNE)
O	Gulf of Maine and Inshore Georges Bank and Offshore Georges Bank and Southern New England (GOM + IGB + OGB + SNE)
X	None