



**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
Northeast Division
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Gloucester, MA 01930-2276**

**VMS Reporting Instructions for Vessel Owners/Operators
(SkyMate I1500 Version)**

Effective – March 28, 2016

These instructions are developed for the use of vessel owners and operators who are required to maintain a VMS unit and send reports in accordance with the Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regulations at 50 CFR 648.9 and 648.10. These instructions supplement these regulations and do not replace them. Owners and operators are encouraged to review the regulations.

These instructions are also available on the Greater Atlantic Region (GAR) VMS web page at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/vms/index.html> as shown below:



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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – IN PORT

1. **Continuous Reporting.** While in port your VMS is required to continuously report your vessel’s position to NMFS. Scallop-permitted vessels must report every half-hour, while all other vessels report hourly.

2. **Power Down and Letter of Exemption (LOE).** You may turn the power off to your VMS under specific conditions. You must first consider all of your active GAR permits that require a VMS – your most restrictive reporting requirement will apply. **Table 1** below shows VMS reporting requirements by permit:

Permit (Note 1)	Category	Start of each Fishing Year:	Exception (Note 4)
Limited Access Scallop	2,3,5,6,7,8	Must report 24/7 every half-hour.	May apply for NMFS Letter of Exemption (LOE).
Surfclam	1	Must report 24/7 every hour.	
Ocean Quahog	6	Must report 24/7 every hour.	
Herring	A,B,C,E, Carrier	Must report 24/7 every hour, except Carrier which must report 24/7 from 1 st carrier trip declared via VMS.	
Maine Mahogany Quahog (Note 2)	7	Must report 24/7 every hour from 1st MMQ trip, regardless of fishing year	
LAGC Scallop (general category)	A,B,C	Must report 24/7 every half-hour.	May declare the Power Down declaration.
Multispecies (Note 3)	A,D,E,F	Must report 24/7 every hour from 1st groundfish trip taken and for remainder of fishing year.	May apply for LOE.
Monkfish	F	Must report 24/7 every hour during the Offshore Fishery Program season October 1 to April 30 only.	
Longfin Squid	1	Must report 24/7 every hour.	
Mackerel	T1,T2,T3	Must report 24/7 every hour.	
When electing to provide VMS notifications under:		Must report 24/7 from 1st elected VMS trip taken and for remainder of fishing year.	
Monkfish Occasional Scallop	A,B,C,D 4,9	Reports every hour. Reports every half-hour.	

Table 1 – In Port VMS Reporting Requirements

- **Note 1.** Your most restrictive permit applies in determining whether you can power down your VMS in port. Example – if you hold an LAGC scallop permit and a surfclam permit, you must report 24/7 at the dock/mooring and cannot declare the power down code.
- **Note 2.** These vessels are not required to use a VMS until they fish for, land, take, possess or transfer ocean quahogs under a limited access Maine mahogany quahog permit. From that point forward, they must keep the VMS unit on at all times and make trip declarations for as long as the permit is issued to the vessel.
- **Note 3. Sector vessels** must have an operational VMS installed when (1) fishing on a sector trip declared into the groundfish fishery, or (2) when targeting monkfish or skate on a groundfish days-at-sea (DAS); the VMS must be on and used from the first trip until the end of the fishing year. **Common pool vessels** must have an operational VMS installed when (1) taking the first groundfish

DAS trip, or (2) when Category C and HA-permitted vessels are fishing in more than one Broad Stock Area; they must also keep the VMS on and use VMS for all subsequent trips through the fishing year.

- **Note 4.** The regulations at 50 CFR 648.10(c)(2) allow a vessel to power off their VMS after (1) obtaining a NMFS Letter of Exemption (LOE), or (2) sending the power down declaration. The vessel's most restrictive permit will determine which situation applies. Circumstances that allow an owner to obtain an LOE include (1) the vessel is expected to be out of the water for > 72 consecutive hours, or (2) the vessel will be dockside or moored for a minimum of 30 consecutive days (the vessel may not engage in any fisheries or move from the dock/mooring until the VMS unit is turned back on). The request must be made in advance of the intended exemption period. The LOE application form is available on the VMS web page or by contacting the VMS Team (see **Page 15**). Fill it out and mail, e-mail or fax it to the VMS Team in advance of the date you intend to turn the VMS unit off. You may not turn your VMS unit off until you receive your LOE from NMFS. The LOE must reside on the vessel at all times.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS - BEFORE LEAVING PORT

1. **VMS Power.** If your VMS has been powered off, turn it on and confirm that the unit is reporting normally. You may call the VMS Team to ensure that OLE is receiving your vessel's signal.
2. **VMS Hardware.** Be sure that your tablet is connected to your SkyMate VMS. The tablet is required in order to be VMS-compliant at sea as it allows NMFS to communicate with your vessel via e-mail.
3. **VMS Software.** Run the current version of NMFS-required SkyMate software on your tablet. Failure to install the required software will compromise your ability to send proper declarations and forms, and may lead to enforcement action. The software can be sent over the air by SkyMate. It is also typically available from an authorized SkyMate dealer and on the SkyMate website at www.skymate.com (see 'Downloads').

To verify, press the 'Home' button, then 'VMS', and then 'Setup'. Under 'VMS Configuration Parameters', check the 'VMS NE Forms Release Number' as shown below:

Effective September 11, 2015 – VMS NE Forms Release Number 20150616
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4. **Activity Declaration.** For every trip, begin by pressing the 'SkyMate' icon on the Main screen, then 'VMS' on the Home screen, then 'Northeast', and then 'Activity NE'. Press 'Activity NE' and then the appropriate fishing activity (multispecies sector trip, multispecies common pool trip, monkfish trip, etc), complete the required steps (and any appropriate optional steps) and send an activity declaration for your intended trip (see two exceptions below). Your SkyMate VMS software has built-in logic that helps you make and send a 'valid' declaration ('valid' means NMFS regulations allow your chosen combination of gear, DAS, area(s), broad stock area(s), etc.).

When selecting areas and broad stock areas to fish, **Charts 1-5 on pages 6-7** may be useful. When your selections are valid, the 'Send' button will appear above and to the left of the declaration menu. The **Attachment 1** provides you with screen views and guidance for each of the SkyMate declarations and forms. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the declaration screens before reading on (please note the 'steps' in many of the declaration screens). **Paragraphs 5 and 6** below provide guidance on sending a declaration for 'Declare Out of Fishery' (DOF) trips and 'Monkfish Option' trips.

a. **Exception 1 - Fishing Inside of, or Inside & Outside of, the VMS Demarcation Line on a Trip.** VMS starts and ends trips as the vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line (see **page 9** for an explanation) and is not able to accurately calculate trip length in these situations. 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) declare the DOF-CML (Fishing – Commercial) activity declaration on your VMS unit (**Note** – If you experience difficulty using the IVR system, call the Analysis and Program Support Division (APSD) for assistance at **(978) 281-9234**. APSD also maintains a back-up IVR message line at **888-487-9994**).

b. **Exception 2 - Fishing on the Same VMS Declaration that was Last Declared.** This alternative method allows owner/operators to call the IVR system and follow the prompts to ‘**Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code**’. It is not to be used in lieu of an inoperable VMS. This feature saves you the step of sending a declaration from your VMS unit and will provide you with a confirmation number; however, it may only be used if your declaration is identical to the last declaration received by NMFS. The IVR system will report to you the last 12-character VMS declaration ‘code’ received from your vessel so be prepared to know the declaration code you wish to use for your trip. See **Attachment 2** for directions on how to use this feature.

Charts 1-5 depict various areas for Multispecies and Monkfish declaration reporting:

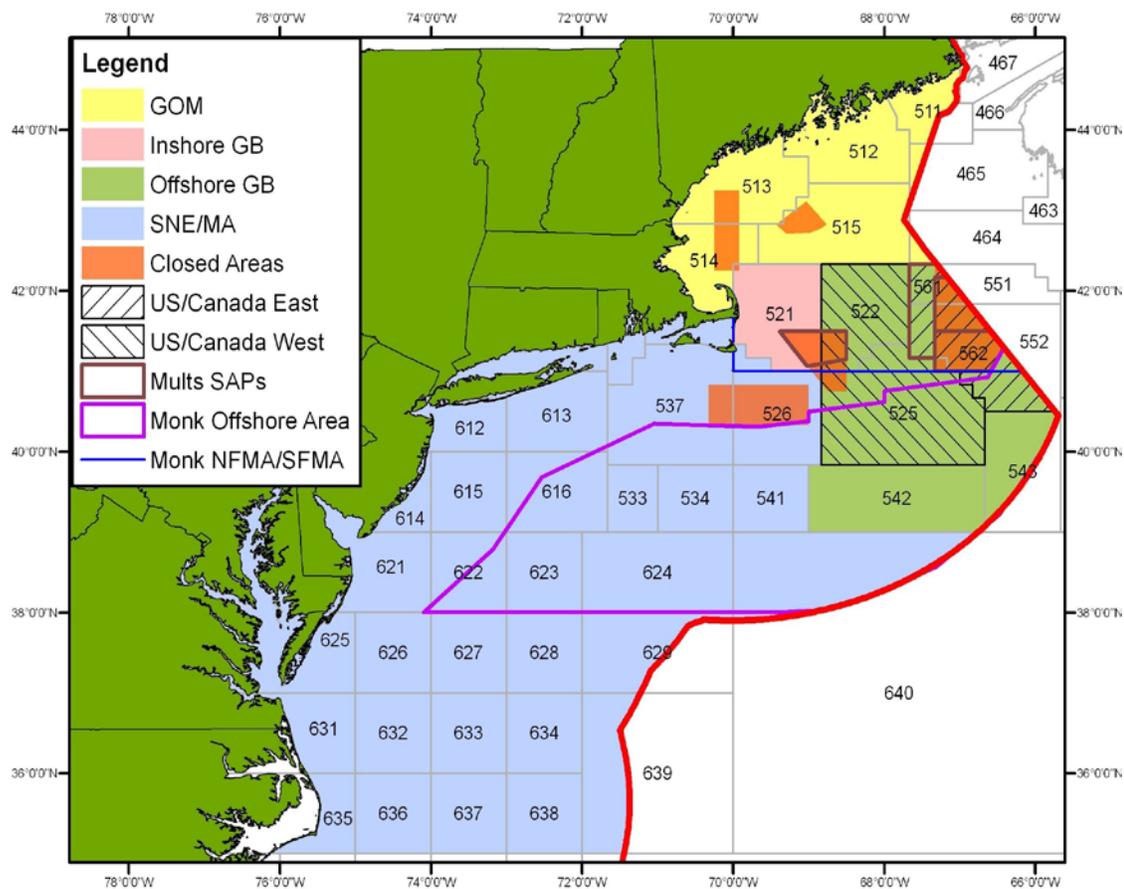
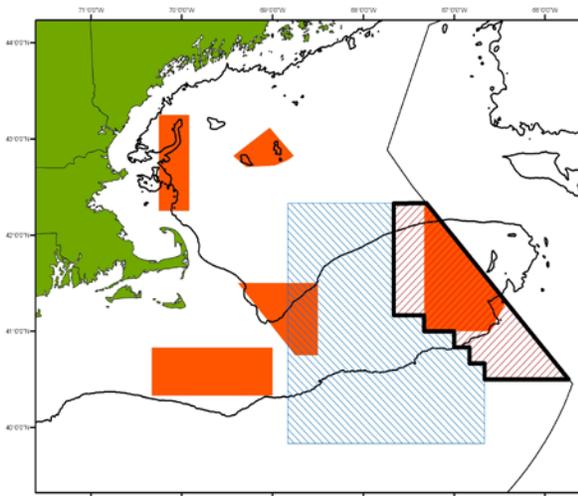
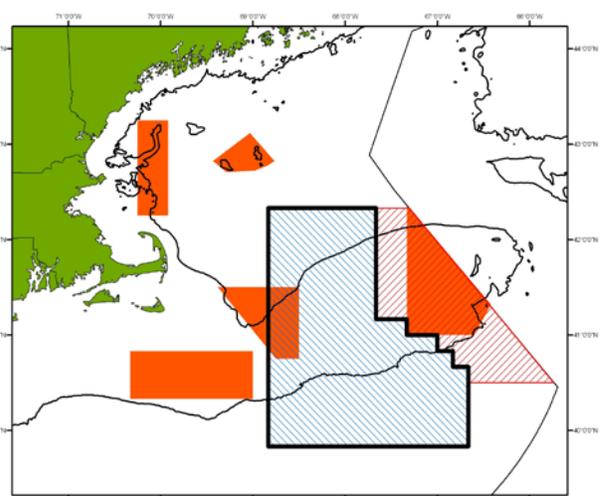


Chart 1 - Statistical, Closed, Broad Stock, US/Canada, SAP & Monkfish Areas

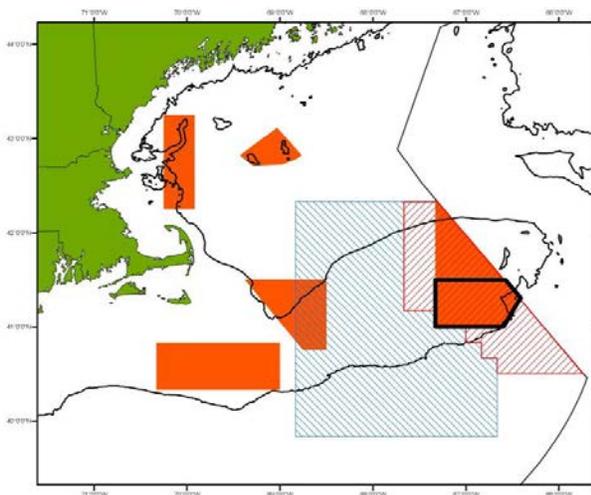
Note - Areas shown below are depicted by heavy black borders.



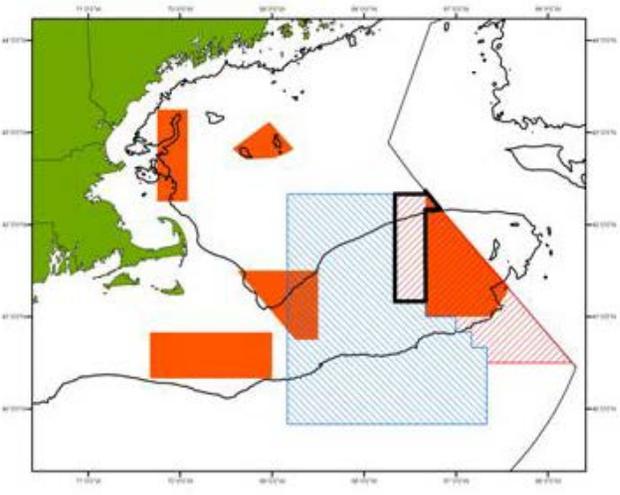
**Chart 2 - Eastern US/Canada Area
50 CFR 648.85(a)**



**Chart 3 - Western US/Canada Area
50 CFR 648.85(a)**



**Chart 4 - CA-2 Yellowtail/Flounder Haddock SAP
50 CFR 648.85(b)**



**Chart 5 - Eastern US/Canada Haddock SAP
50 CFR 648.85(b)**

5. Declaring Out of Fishery. These declarations are used whenever the vessel's activity will be any activity other than a limited access scallop trip, general category scallop trip, multispecies sector or days-at-sea trip, monkfish days-at-sea trip, herring trip, surfclam trip, ocean quahog trip, Maine mahogany quahog trip, or longfin squid/mackerel trip. This declaration is also appropriate for any vessel movement away from the dock/mooring when no fishing activity is intended (for example, transits, equipment shakedown/testing, retrieving lost gear, etc). You will find the Declare Out of Fishery or DOF declaration screen by selecting on your SkyMate VMS screen:

Activity NE → More → More → DOF/PWD

There are six (6) DOF declarations to choose from, as follows:

- **Transit without Product Onboard.** Select for all transits between ports when there is no

fishing activity, as well as equipment shakedown/testing, retrieving lost gear, etc.
(VMS code: DOF-TST-XXXXXX).

- **Transit with Product Onboard.** Select for all transits authorized by regulations in which the vessel is declaring out of a VMS-required fishery and there is product onboard the vessel (VMS code: DOF-TSP-XXXXXX).
- **Fishing - Commercial.** Select for trips when fishing for a non-VMS-required species or for activities covered by Exception 1 on **page 6** (VMS code: DOF-CML-XXXXXX).
- **Fishing - Recreational/Charter.** Select for recreational and charter fishing trips (VMS code: DOF-REC-XXXXXX).
- **Scientific Research.** Select for trips involving scientific research activity when not on an Experimental fishing permit (VMS code: DOF-SCI-XXXXXX).
- **NAFO.** Select only when permitted by NMFS to participate in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) outside the U.S. EEZ (VMS code: DOF-NAF-XXXXXX).

6. **Declaring the Monkfish Option with a Multispecies Declaration.** If you anticipate exceeding the monkfish incidental catch limit while on a multispecies sector or DAS trip and want to retain the monkfish caught, declare the monkfish option in Step 1. This action preserves your ability to change to a monkfish DAS trip later while at sea (you do not accrue Monkfish DAS unless you decide during the trip to redeclare your trip as a Monkfish trip). However, you must fish your multispecies trip entirely within the monkfish Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA). Your VMS code will show an ‘M’ (for monkfish option) in the 2nd to last character. To declare the option, go to the appropriate multispecies sector or common pool declaration screen, then read the text in Step 1 and click the box to the left of ‘Yes’.

7. **Declaration Code.** Your declaration is converted by your VMS software into a 12-character VMS code (format: XXX-XXX-XXXXXX) and transmitted to NMFS when you press the ‘Send’ button. The top left corner of your screen will display a message stating “Declaration Queued for delivery”. Also, at the bottom of your declaration screen, the “Last Activity Code Sent” along with a brief description will be displayed. Check the code and description to be sure they accurately reflect your intended activity.

8. **Declaration Acknowledgment.** Regulations require that you send an accurate declaration; therefore, you are encouraged to await an acknowledgment. When your declaration is received by the satellite provider’s gateway or LES (Land-Earth Station), the top left corner of your screen will display, “Declaration code (12-character code) successfully delivered.” The acknowledgment is your confirmation that NMFS will receive the declaration that you sent. The bottom of your declaration screen will also provide you the “Last Activity Code Successfully Acknowledged” along with a brief description. You may always call the VMS Team during the workday to confirm receipt of your declaration.

9. **SkyMate Code Log.** A list of all declarations sent is stored in your software Code Log. On the declaration screen, pressing on “Code Log” in the upper left corner will provide you a listing of declaration messages sent.

10. **Required VMS Reports.** There are activity declarations and there are ‘forms’ in your VMS software. We have covered the sending of an activity declaration prior to leaving port. Now, we will discuss those forms that, if appropriate for your intended activity, must be sent before leaving port. A list of these forms is shown in **Table 2** below. See **Attachment 1** to view these forms.

VMS Form	Must be sent by:	Purpose
Multispecies Trip Start Hail	All Sector vessels declaring a groundfish trip only when fishing on a NMFS exemption(s) or Ops Plan provision(s).	To provide advance notification to enforcement personnel.
RSA & EFP Trip Start Hail	All vessels as required by their NMFS RSA or EFP Letter of Authorization.	

Table 2 – VMS Forms Required to be sent before Leaving Port

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS – AT SEA AND RETURNING TO PORT

1. **VMS Demarcation Line.** The VMS demarcation line is defined by a series of lines connecting 51 coordinates as described in 50 CFR 648.10 and the VMS web page. The line generally follows the contour of the Eastern Seaboard from northern Maine to North Carolina. When your vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line, the NMFS monitoring system automatically records a trip start and trip end event for your trip. Your trip starts on the first VMS position seaward of the line and ends with the first VMS position shoreward of the line.

2. **Trip Start and End.** A VMS trip consists of the VMS-assigned Trip Identification Number, VMS Activity Declaration (Code), Trip Start Date/Time, Trip End Date/Time, and Trip Duration. A VMS trip automatically starts on the first position report sent by your VMS unit that is seaward of the demarcation line (defined as ‘in the Northeast Fishery’). A VMS trip automatically ends on the first position report shoreward of the demarcation line upon the return to port. The declaration that is initially associated with the trip and reported to you in the Trip Start e-mail (described below) is the last declaration successfully received from your vessel prior to leaving port. The declaration reported to you in the Trip End e-mail is the final declaration associated with the trip and recorded in the NE Region database.

Note - Do not declare out of the fishery on your return to port to end your trip or stop your days-at-sea clock – as previously stated, your trip automatically ends with the first VMS position shoreward of the demarcation line on the return to port.

3. **Position Reporting.** While away from the dock or mooring, your vessel’s VMS unit must be operational by sending automatic position reports and capable of sending and receiving messages. If you hold a VMS-required limited access or general category scallop permit, your VMS must send position reports on a half-hourly basis regardless of the vessel’s activity. For all other permits requiring the use of VMS, the unit must send automatic position reports on an hourly basis regardless of the vessel’s activity. For vessels that hold multiple permits, the most restrictive VMS reporting rate applies. If you replace your VMS unit, be sure the replacement unit is correctly set to your vessel’s proper reporting rate.

To determine if your SkyMate VMS is positioning normally and sending required position reports to NMFS, press on “**Position**” on the Home screen. Next, press ‘**Position**’, ‘**Select Layers**’ and ‘**My Position**’. Scroll up to view both the chart and a table below it showing the date, latitude, longitude and method. If ‘**Method**’ shows ‘**GPS**’, it means the GPS antenna and receiver are in good working

order. The positional data should be valid. If ‘**Method**’ shows ‘**No Fix**’, it means the GPS antenna/receiver is not functioning well and no position will be displayed. If this situation persists, check the GPS connection at this point and call SkyMate (see **page 16**) for technical support.

4. **If the VMS Unit Stops Positioning.** Please be sure that your VMS unit is well-maintained and sending the required position reports. Periodically check your unit to ensure that it’s positioning normally. If your VMS unit stops functioning (positioning and/or messaging) and you’re unable to restore normal operation, you are required to terminate your trip and return to port. Notify the VMS Team, and have the unit checked/repaired and returned to operational status before the next trip.

5. **NMFS Courtesy E-Mail Notification of Trip Start and End.** The VMS Team manages a script that automatically sends a courtesy trip start and trip end e-mail to your VMS unit for every trip. All costs associated with courtesy e-mails are paid for by NMFS; no cost is incurred by your vessel. The Trip Start e-mail is sent approximately 4 hours after a trip start is recorded by the NMFS monitoring system. The message will be in the following format (example shown):

```
From: NMFS.OLE.NE@noaa.gov
To: (vessel’s VMS unit e-mail address)
Subject: F/V (name) - Trip Start

Trip Start: 2014-03-01 09:30
Trip ID: 1301010
VMS Code: NMS-SEC-OPXWXA. If code is incorrect, return to a port & redeclare.
NE VMS Team: 978-281-9213.
```

The Trip End e-mail is sent approximately 6-8 hours after a trip end is recorded. If your VMS is powered down while in port, delivery of the message to your VMS may time out before you receive it. You can also provide the VMS Team with a personal e-mail address to receive the trip start/end e-mails and other e-mails from NMFS (see **Secondary Courtesy E-Mail Address Service** below). The delays in delivery of trip start and end e-mails are a necessary feature of the NMFS VMS trip generation system to ensure accurate trip accounting.

The message will be in the following format (example shown):

```
From: NMFS.OLE.NE@NOAA.GOV
To: (vessel’s VMS unit e-mail address)
Subject: F/V (name) - Trip End

Trip End: 2014-03-01 21:30
VMS Code: NMS-SEC-OPXWXA
Trip ID: 1301010
Trip Length: 0.5 days
```

6. **Secondary Courtesy E-Mail Address Service.** The VMS Team maintains an e-mail service that allows owners to receive trip e-mails and other NMFS VMS correspondence with the vessel via the owner’s personal e-mail address. Go to ‘Contact Information’ on the VMS web page and see ‘VMS Courtesy Messaging’. There is no charge to the vessel owner for this service.

7. **If You Do Not Receive Your Trip E-mail(s).** The VMS Team stops the trip generation program temporarily any time that a delay in delivery of VMS data is detected from one or more VMS vendors. This is necessary to prevent problems with the proper generation of trips that could affect trip accounting. Once the trip generator is restarted, any backlog of trip e-mails should be sent to your vessel and, if appropriate, the secondary e-mail address. For questions, call the VMS Team.

8. **Declaring an Incorrect VMS Activity Declaration.** If your vessel leaves port on a trip and you declared the wrong activity, you should return the vessel to a port (or inside the VMS demarcation line for scallop-permitted vessels on scallop trips) and redeclare the proper activity through your VMS unit. You do not necessarily have to return to the port from which you departed. The vessel must be in a port, or as close to the port as safety dictates. A listing of ports and their OLE-defined geographic location is available on the VMS web page.

9. **Changing the VMS Declaration during a Trip.** When in the NE Fishery, your VMS unit does not allow you to change your trip declaration, except under three specific situations:

- Declaring a ‘flex’ on a groundfish or monkfish trip;
- Flipping the groundfish DAS type from ‘B’ to ‘A’, when possession limits are exceeded; and
- Changing from a multispecies trip to a monkfish DAS trip (only if the monkfish option was declared in port).

If eligible, a vessel may flex, flip and change to a monkfish declaration only once per trip. These actions do not necessarily have to occur simultaneously. These three situations are further described below.

Note – Except under specific circumstances when the use of ‘Declare out of Fishery with Product Onboard’ is authorized by NMFS, you may not send another activity declaration after crossing the demarcation line upon return to port while you have product onboard the vessel.

a. **Declaring a Multispecies or Monkfish ‘FLEX’ Trip.** A flex is declared at sea in the NE Fishery by adding fishing area(s) to the groundfish or monkfish declaration that you sent in port. The flex option is addressed in Step 4 of the declaration menu screens. Only one flex per trip is allowed. Sector and common pool vessels have different flex options. To declare a flex, go to the declaration screen that you used to make your initial declaration for the trip, then:

- For Steps 1-3. Choose the same selections you made in port.
- For Step 4. Choose the same program areas that you made in port, and then choose additional areas you want to fish.
- For Step 5. Choose the same broad stock areas (BSAs) that you made in port, and, if appropriate, choose any additional BSAs that you want to fish. Be sure that you select BSAs that encompass the program area(s) that you chose in step 4.

b. **‘Flipping’ the Multispecies Days-at-Sea (DAS) Type.** This situation applies to Multispecies Common Pool vessels only. When multispecies trip limits are exceeded while fishing on a declared Regular or Reserve ‘B’ DAS trip, you must change or ‘flip’ your VMS trip declaration to ‘A’ DAS. To flip, go to the Multispecies Common Pool declaration screen that you used to make your initial declaration for the trip, then:

- Steps 1-2. Choose the same selections you made in port.
- Step 3. Choose 'Mults A-DAS'.
- Step 4-5. Choose the same selections you made in port.

c. **Changing from a Multispecies to a Monkfish DAS Declaration.** To invoke the monkfish option that you selected with your initial declaration, and change to a monkfish DAS declaration at sea, go to the Monkfish declaration screen, then:

- Step 1. Choose the same selection you made in port.
- Step 2. Choose both Monkfish and Mults DAS.
- Step 3. Choose 'NFMA'.
- Step 4-5. Choose the same selections you made in port.

Your new Monkfish declaration will retain the trip modifier 'M' (for Monkfish Option) in the 2nd to last character of the code. You may also flex (one time) either before, during or after changing to a Monkfish DAS declaration. If you do not intend to invoke the monkfish option and want to remain on a groundfish trip declaration, no action is required and you may land your trip on the original declaration. Remember, if you declare the monkfish option before leaving port but decide to fish any part of your trip in the monkfish SFMA, you forfeit your option to change to a Monkfish DAS declaration. Your VMS screen provides brief instructions for changing to a Monkfish DAS declaration. The instructions are located on the Sector and Common Pool Multispecies declaration screens.

10. **Required VMS Reports.** The forms shown below are required to be sent from your VMS unit, as appropriate, while your vessel is at sea and seaward of the VMS demarcation line. A list of these forms is shown in **Table 3** below. See **Attachment 1** to view these forms and specific reporting instructions.

VMS Form	Must be sent by:	Purpose
Multispecies Catch Report	<p>Trip-Level Reporting. Submit one report before crossing the VMS demarcation line if:</p> <p>(1) You are declared into a single Broad Stock Area (BSA), and you have not declared into the Eastern US/Canada Area or a sector exemption(s). Complete Steps 1 and 2.</p> <p>(2) You are declared into multiple BSAs outside of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) BSA, and you have not declared into the Eastern US/Canada Area or a sector exemption(s). Complete Steps 1, 2 & 4.</p> <p>Daily Reporting. Submit a report for each day of your entire trip by completing Steps 1-4. Each daily report must include an estimate of all catch from 0000 to 2359 hours and must be submitted by 9 AM the following day. A report is required even if you do not catch fish, and regardless of the area actually fished. Daily catch reports are required if:</p> <p>(1) You are declared into the GOM BSA and any other BSA.</p> <p>(2) You are declared into any part of the Eastern US/Canada Area.</p> <p>(3) You are declared into the Redfish Exemption Area.</p> <p>Redfish Exemption reporting. In addition to daily reporting (Steps 1-4), you must also submit a report before switching codends by completing Steps 1-5. The report is sent before switching codends;</p>	To report VTR and estimated weights prior to landing.

	<p>provide an estimate of all catch that day between 0000 hours and the time of the report. The daily report the following day at 9 AM must include any catch from the time you switched codends, until 11:59 PM. You must submit a final report once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port by completing Steps 1-4.</p> <p>Small-Mesh Exemption in Southern New England. You must submit a report by completing Steps 1, 2, 4 & 5 with an estimate of all catch on board, upon completing the large-mesh portion of the trip. You must submit a final report by completing Steps 1, 2 & 4 with an estimate of all catch on board once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port.</p>	
Multispecies Trip End Hail	All vessels on groundfish-declared trips at least 6 hours before arrival (or immediately after the last tow or hauling of gear if fishing ends less than 6 hours before arrival).	To provide advance notice for the monitoring of offloads.
Monkfish Trip Limit Overage DAS Adjustment	Those vessels on monkfish-declared trips that exceed their DAS charge, before crossing the VMS demarcation line on return to port.	To report that the daily trip limit was exceeded by one extra limit so that the vessel's DAS charge may be adjusted.
Scallop Daily Catch Report	All Limited Access and LAGC IFQ scallop-permitted vessels on scallop-declared trips by 9 am daily.	To report VTR and estimated weights prior to landing.
Scallop Pre-Landing Notification	<p>Limited Access and General Category vessels on the following trips at least 6 hours before arrival (or upon crossing shoreward of the demarcation line when a limited access vessel declares out of the limited access scallop day-at-sea fishery to transit to a port south of 39 degrees North with scallops onboard):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) All vessels on a declared LAGC scallop trip; (2) A vessel with an LAGC IFQ or NGOM scallop permit on a declared trip <u>outside</u> the scallop fishery when scallops are kept; (3) On a declared limited access scallop access area trip; (4) Declaring out of the limited access scallop day-at-sea fishery to transit to a port south of 39 degrees North with scallops onboard. 	To provide advance notice for the monitoring of offloads.
Herring Daily Catch Report	All vessels on a declared herring trip by 9 am daily.	To report VTR, and estimated pounds kept and discarded prior to landing.
Herring Pre-Landing Notification	All vessels on a declared herring trip at least 6 hours before arrival (or as soon as the vessel stops fishing if the vessel is less than 6 hours from arrival).	To provide advance notice for the monitoring of offloads.
Mackerel and Longfin Squid Daily Catch Report	All Limited Access Mackerel and Limited Access Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium-permitted vessels on a mackerel or longfin squid-declared trip by 9 am daily.	To report VTR and estimated weights prior to landing.
Mackerel Pre-Landing Notification	Those Limited Access Mackerel-permitted vessels when the landing will exceed 20,000 lbs at least 6 hours before arrival (or as soon as the vessel leaves the fishing grounds if the vessel is less than 6 hours from arrival).	To provide advance notice for the monitoring of offloads.

RSA and EFP Trip End Hail	All vessels at least 6 hours before arrival as required by their NMFS RSA or EFP Letter of Authorization (or as soon as the vessel leaves the fishing grounds if the vessel is less than 6 hours from arrival).	To provide advance notice for the monitoring of offloads.
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Table 3 – VMS Forms Required to be Sent While in the NE Fishery

11. **VMS E-Mail Messaging.** The VMS Team uses e-mail to communicate with your vessel via the VMS. Communications include notifying all VMS vessels of short-notice regulatory changes (area closures, possession limits, etc) and notifying individual vessel operators of potential closed area incursions, VMS non-reporting, declaration miscodings, requests to contact a NMFS enforcement agent or officer, etc. In addition to other notification methods, the Coast Guard may request the VMS vendors to send a severe weather warning. For these purposes, it’s important that you monitor your incoming VMS e-mail and maintain the capability to send outgoing e-mail.

12. **Trip ‘Stitching’.** The trip stitching function is a part of the VMS trip generation program. Its purpose is to keep a trip open if a vessel briefly enters and positions shoreward of the VMS demarcation line then exits outside the line to continue its trip. The individual trip segments are stitched or joined together as one trip. For example, vessels that transit through Vineyard and Nantucket Sound may cross the demarcation line several times on their outbound or inbound trip. If trip stitching was not applied, a single trip may be recorded by NMFS as two or more trips, affecting the trip length and/or DAS charge. The rules associated with trip stitching are:

a. Did the base VMS declaration code (first 6 characters, ie, XXX-XXX) remain the same before and after the vessel entered the demarcation line? and;

b. Was the vessel inside the demarcation line for less than 4 hours (or, less than 70 minutes for LAGC scallop trips)?

If the answer to both questions above is **yes**, trip stitching will keep the trip intact so that only one trip is recorded. An unintended effect of trip stitching may occur when a vessel ends one trip then departs on another trip within 4 hours under the same base VMS code. Two separate trips may be captured as a single trip. Also, entering back inside the demarcation line for longer than 4 hours, such as transiting the Vineyard/Nantucket Sound area at slow speed, may result in a single trip being recorded as two trips. If you believe that your trip has been erroneously affected by trip stitching, call the VMS Team.

ADDITIONAL VMS INFORMATION

1. **DAS Charging for VMS Trips.** The DAS Program is managed by the Analysis and Program Support Division (APSD). Please contact APSD for assistance at **(978) 281-9234**.

2. **VMS Messaging Costs.** Vessel owners are financially responsible for all regulatory reporting requirements through VMS which typically include the messaging shown below. It is recommended that you confirm your payment plan and associated costs with your VMS vendor. NMFS pays for all messages that we send to your vessel and for any additional position reports sent from your VMS unit if NMFS temporarily increases your reporting rate. Vessel owners typically pay for:

- All required 30 or 60 minute position reports sent to NMFS.
- All NMFS-required VMS declarations and reports.
- All other outgoing messages.
- All incoming messages, except those originated by NMFS.

3. **Replacing Your Vessel’s VMS Unit.** Please notify the VMS Team within 3 days of installation of the new unit and prior to your next trip. You will need to submit documentation that you have installed an operational, approved VMS unit. Complete the VMS Certification form available under the ‘Instructions & Forms’ tab on the VMS web page. Mail or fax the form to the VMS Team.

4. **Removing Your Vessel’s VMS Unit.** You may not remove the VMS from the vessel if you’re required to report using VMS. If you cancel or transfer your permits, or sell the vessel and will no longer fish the vessel, contact your VMS vendor. The vendor is responsible for notifying NMFS of any VMS unit deactivations. You may also call the VMS Team to advise us of your intentions.

5. **Contacting the VMS Team.** The VMS Team is located within the Northeast Enforcement Division at the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA, 01930.

- Phone Number: (978) 281-9213 (follow call prompts)
- FAX Number: (978) 281-9317
- Hours: 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday

Name	Position	Responsibility	Contact Info
Bill Semrau	VMS Program Manager	Overall management of the Northeast VMS Program	William.Semrau@noaa.gov (978) 281-9151
Carol Bleszinski	VMS Technician	Multispecies & Monkfish Reporting; VMS Training; Activations & Deactivations; IVR declaration reporting by VMS vessels.	Carol.Bleszinski@noaa.gov (978) 281-9239
Carl Lemire	VMS Technician	Scallop, Surfclam, Ocean Quahog, Maine Mahogany Quahog & NAFO Reporting; VMS Training.	Carl.lemire@noaa.gov (978) 281-9274
Aimee Ahles	VMS Technician	Herring, Mackerel & Longfin Squid Reporting; Power Down Letters of Exemption (LOE); Welcome Letters.	Aimee.Ahles@noaa.gov (978) 281-9230
Philip Corcoran	VMS Programmer	VMS Server, scripts, reports & data analysis	Philip.Corcoran@noaa.gov (978) 281-9309

Table 4 – VMS Team Contact List

6. **Alternate E-Mail Address to Contact the VMS Team.** You can send a VMS message at any time to: nmfs.ole.ne@noaa.gov. The VMS Team monitors this mailbox during business hours and will respond to your query. Your VMS Trip Start and End e-mails are sent from this address.

7. **Contacting the VMS Support Center.** If you are unable to reach the VMS Team, the National VMS Support Center has extended hours of operation and may be able to answer general questions about VMS registrations and vessel position reporting. The Support Center is also the primary point of contact for the National VMS Reimbursement program (see below). The Support Center will refer technical VMS questions to the appropriate vendor and regulatory questions to the Greater Atlantic Region. The Support Center is located at NMFS Headquarters, Office of Law Enforcement, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910. Hours of operation are 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Their phone number is **(888) 219-9228 (toll-free)**.

8. **VMS Reimbursement Program.** On the VMS web page, refer to the section entitled ‘VMS Reimbursement Program’ for a summary of the program, and a link to the latest Federal Register announcement of May 6, 2008. Owners/operators who purchased and installed a VMS unit to comply with the following regulatory actions may be eligible for reimbursement of their purchase

cost up to \$3,100 as long as funds are available:

- Scallop Framework Adjustment 17
- Multispecies Framework Adjustment 42 and Amendment 16
- Surfclam/Ocean Quahog Framework 1
- Scallop Amendment 11
- Herring Amendment 5
- Squid, Mackerel, Butterfish Amendment 14
- SkyMate ST-2500G and CLS TST type approval non-renewals effective September 30, 2015

Owners/operators who believe they may be eligible should call the VMS Support Center to obtain a confirmation code then submit an application to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Contact the VMS Support Center or refer to the following website: www.psmfc.org.

9. **Contacting NMFS Enforcement.** For law enforcement emergencies only, call the Enforcement Hot Line toll-free on a 24-hour basis at **(800) 853-1964**. Please do not call the Hot Line for a VMS-related equipment or technical issue; rather, contact your respective VMS vendor (below). For law enforcement-related questions or concerns that are of a non-emergency nature, contact your local NMFS enforcement office during business hours as follows:

a. Northeast Enforcement Division District 1 – New England:

- Office: Boston, MA
- Coverage: Maine through Connecticut
- Phone Number: (617) 565-1811

b. Northeast Enforcement Division District 2 – Mid-Atlantic:

- Office: Wall, NJ
- Coverage: New York through Virginia
- Phone Number: (732) 280-6490

10. **Contacting your VMS Vendor.** SkyMate may be reached at:

- Address: 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 100, Reston, VA 20191
- Phone: 1-866-SKYMATE or (703) 961-5800
- E-mail: support@skymate.com
- Call Center: 24/7 for technical support (call above phone numbers)
- Web Address: <http://www.skymate.com/>

Attachments: (1) SkyMate Declarations and Forms – VMS NE Forms Release Number 20150616
(2) How to ‘Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code’

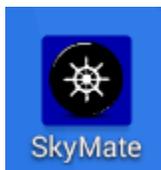
CHANGE LOG

DATE	CHANGES
11 Sep 2015	Incorporates all unique features of the SkyMate II500 VMS into the basic SkyMate Reporting Instructions.
28 Mar 2016	Pages 12-13, Multispecies Catch Report. For ‘Trip-Level Reporting’, changed the ‘multiple BSA’ requirement from Steps 1, 2 & 3 to Steps 1, 2 & 4. For ‘Redfish Exemption Reporting’, changed the ‘switching codends’ requirement from Steps 1-4 to Steps 1-5. For ‘Small Mesh Exemption Reporting in Southern New England’, changed the ‘completing the large mesh portion of the trip’ requirement from Steps 1, 2 & 4 to Steps 1, 2, 4 & 5. Page 31. For ‘Trip-Level Reporting’, changed the ‘multiple BSA’ requirement from Steps 1, 2 & 3 to Steps 1, 2 & 4.

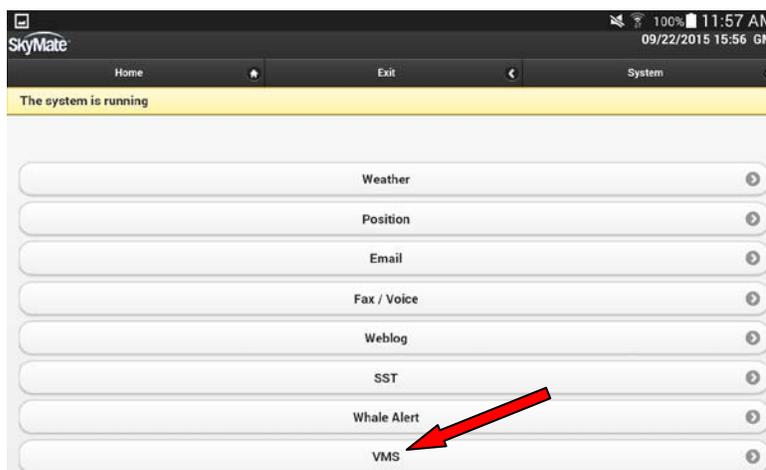
ATTACHMENT 1

SkyMate - VMS NE Forms Release Number 20150616

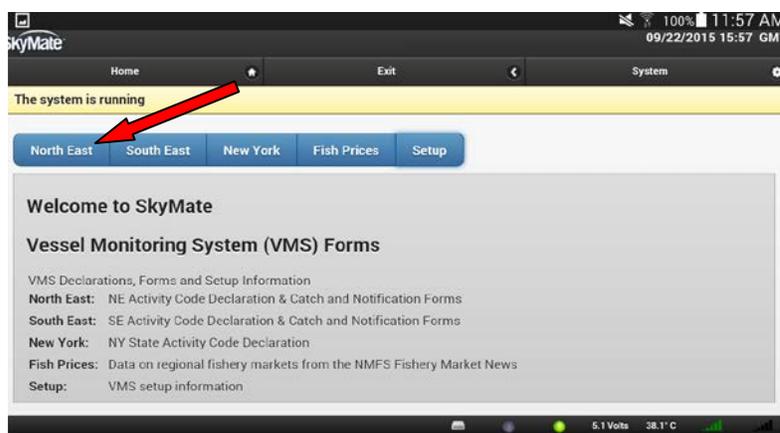
Declarations. The following views will show you how to navigate to each of the declaration screens. On your tablet, press the SkyMate icon shown below:



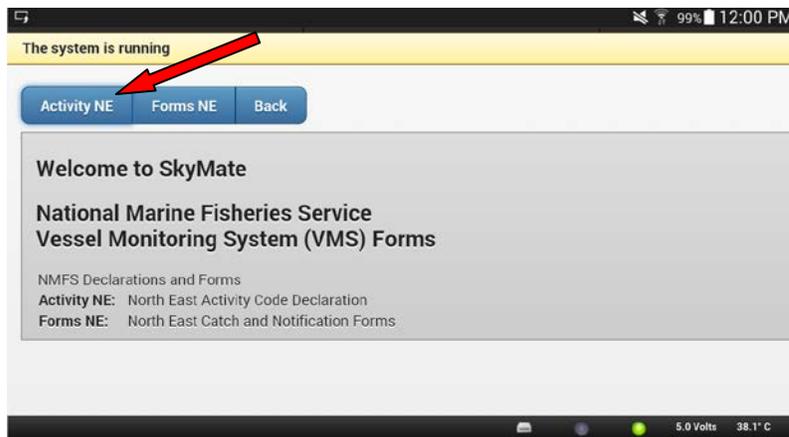
You should see the screen shown below. Press 'VMS' at the bottom of the screen.



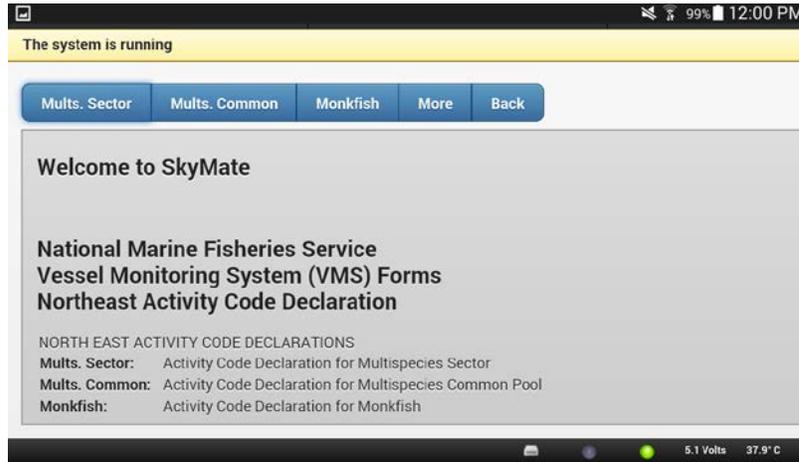
Then, press 'North East':



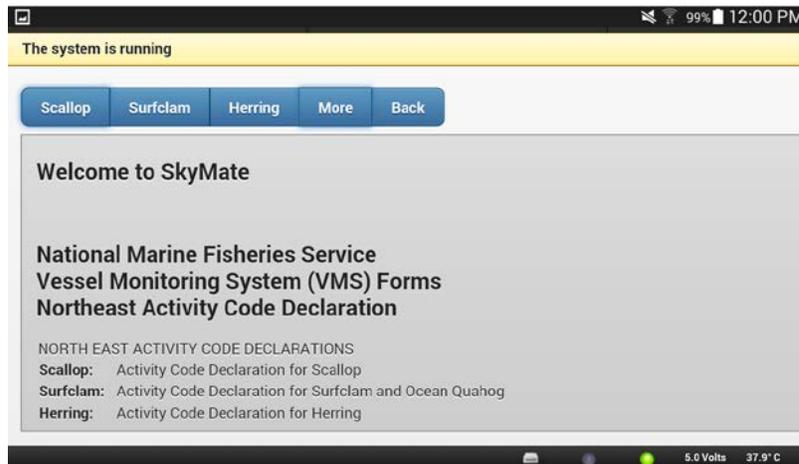
And, then press 'Activity NE':



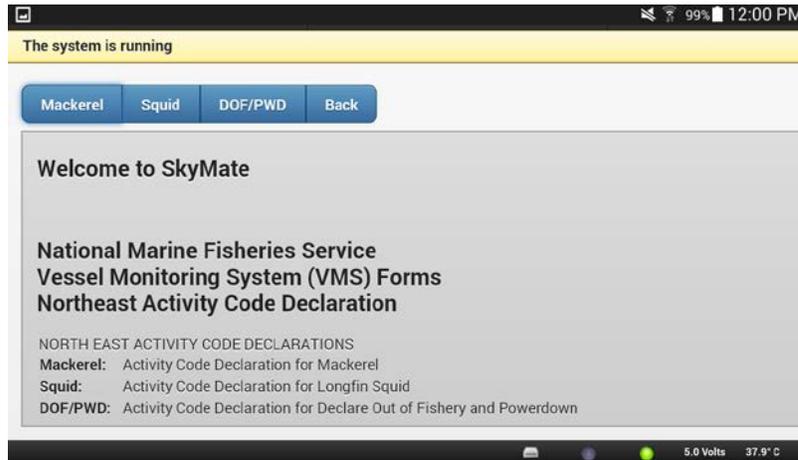
Selecting 'Activity NE' brings up declaration selections for: Multispecies Sector, Multispecies Common Pool, and Monkfish:



Selecting 'More' brings up declaration selections for: Scallop, Surfclam, and Herring:



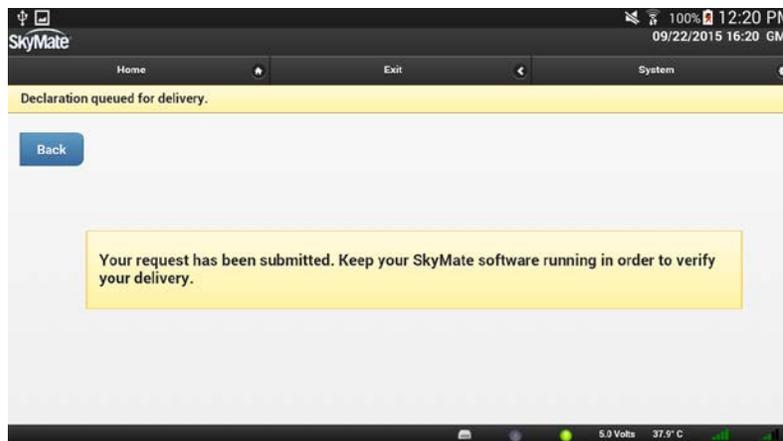
Selecting 'More' again brings up selections for: Mackerel, Squid and DOF (Declare Out of Fishery)/Power Down:



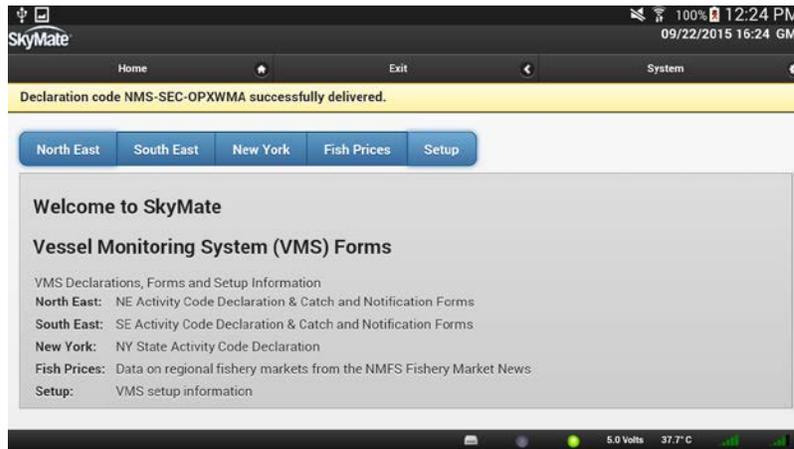
Declaration screens are shown on the following pages. Once you select the appropriate screen to make your declaration, follow the steps when they are provided, and make note of which fields are required and optional.

Scroll to your intended selections and click on the small square to the left. Your selections will be indicated by a checkmark in the small square and the selection text will be bold. Once you've answered at least all the required fields, the 'Send' button will appear at the top left of your screen. Review your selections to ensure they describe your intended activity, and then press 'Send'.

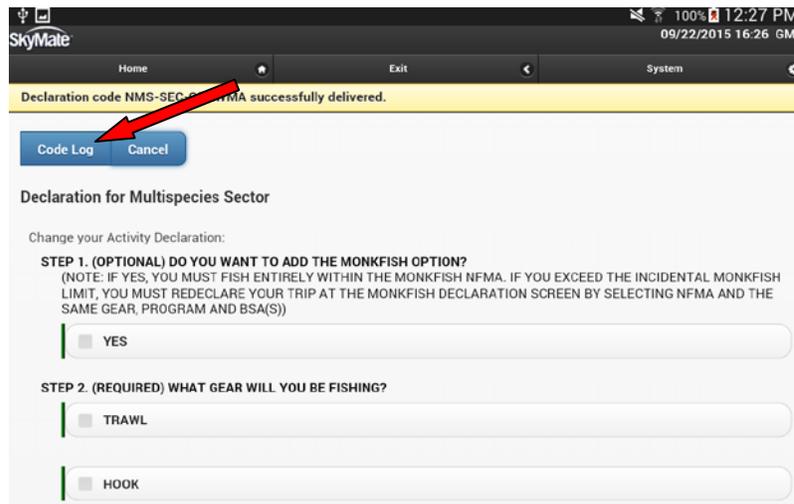
After sending a declaration, a message on your tablet will state: "Your request has been submitted for acknowledgment. Keep your SkyMate software running in order to verify your delivery." Also, in the top left of your screen, it will state: "Declaration queued for delivery".



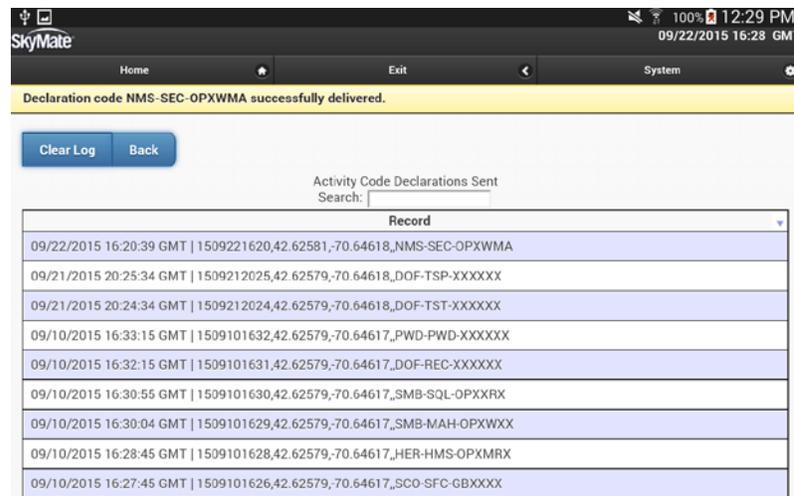
When your declaration is sent, the following message appears at the top left of your screen: “Declaration code () successfully delivered.”:



You can access your ‘Code Log’ from any of the declaration screens.



The Code Log displays a list of all your sent declarations:



Guidance for completing each declaration is shown in the red boxes to the left and right of the form.

***** Note: When selecting an area or areas to fish in from the appropriate declaration screen, be sure that the area(s) is open for your intended fishing activity. The areas shown on your VMS declaration screen are entirely independent of any regulation or action by NMFS that opens or closes an area.**

Select 'Activity NE', then 'Mults. Sector' to view the 'Declaration for Multispecies Sector' trips:

Note – For sector vessel use only.

Step 1. Select 'yes' only if you may need to change your declaration while in the NE Fishery to a monkfish trip.

Step 2. Select the gear you intend to fish. Select only one.

Step 3. Select either one of the 3 choices, or select Mults A-DAS and Scallop DAS, as appropriate.

Step 4. Select each area you intend to fish.

To FLEX, reenter your selections for steps 1-5 again, but select additional areas and broad stock area(s) (BSA) in Steps 4 and 5, respectively.

Step 5. Select the BSA(s) that encompass the areas selected in Step 4.

Declaration code NMS-SEC-OPXWMA successfully delivered.

Code Log Cancel

Declaration for Multispecies Sector

Change your Activity Declaration:

STEP 1. (OPTIONAL) DO YOU WANT TO ADD THE MONKFISH OPTION?
(NOTE: IF YES, YOU MUST FISH ENTIRELY WITHIN THE MONKFISH NFMA. IF YOU EXCEED THE INCIDENTAL MONKFISH LIMIT, YOU MUST REDECLARE YOUR TRIP AT THE MONKFISH DECLARATION SCREEN BY SELECTING NFMA AND THE SAME GEAR, PROGRAM AND BSA(S))

YES

STEP 2. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?

TRAWL

HOOK

GILLNET

STEP 3. (REQUIRED) WHAT DAS WILL YOU BE FISHING ON?
(NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR TRIP)

NO DAS

MULTS A-DAS

SCALLOP DAS (NOTE: TRAWL GEAR ONLY. YOU MUST ALSO DECLARE SCALLOP TRIP THRU IVR)

STEP 4. (REQUIRED) WHAT PROGRAM AREA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?
(NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR TRIP)
(FLEX OPTION: YOU MAY ADD PROGRAM AREA(S) AND BSA(S) ONCE PER TRIP BY REPEATING STEPS 1-5 ON THIS SCREEN)

REGULAR ACCESS (OPEN AREA)

WESTERN US/CANADA AREA

EASTERN US/CANADA AREA (OUTSIDE SAPS)

CA-2 YELLOWTAIL/HADDOCK SAP

EASTERN US/CANADA HADDOCK SAP

CA-1 HOOK GEAR HADDOCK SAP (HOOK GEAR ONLY)

STEP 5. (REQUIRED) WHAT BSA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?
(NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY BASED ON THE PROGRAM AREA(S) SELECTED ABOVE)

GULF OF MAINE

INSHORE GEORGES BANK

OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Select 'Activity NE', then Mults. Common' to view the 'Declaration for Multispecies Common Pool' trips:

Note – For **common pool** vessel use only.

Step 1. Select 'yes' only if you may need to change your declaration while in the NE Fishery to a monkfish trip.

Step 2. Select the gear you intend to fish. Select only one.

Step 3. Select all the appropriate DAS for your trip. Your choices are:

- multispecies (mults) A
- mults B-Regular
- mults B-Reserve
- mults A & scallop
- mults B-Regular & scallop
- mults B-Reserve & scallop

To FLIP, reenter your selections for Steps 1-2 and 4-5 again, but select Mults A in Step 3.

Step 4. Select each area you intend to fish.

To FLEX, reenter your selections for Steps 1-5 again, but select additional areas and broad stock area(s) (BSA) in Steps 4 and 5, respectively.

Step 5. Select the BSA(s) that encompass the area(s) selected in Step 4.

Code Log Cancel

Declaration for Multispecies Common Pool

Change your Activity Declaration:

STEP 1. (OPTIONAL) DO YOU WANT TO ADD THE MONKFISH OPTION?
 (NOTE: IF YES, YOU MUST FISH ENTIRELY WITHIN THE MONKFISH NFMA. IF YOU EXCEED THE INCIDENTAL MONKFISH LIMIT, YOU MUST REDECLARE YOUR TRIP AT THE MONKFISH DECLARATION SCREEN BY SELECTING NFMA AND THE SAME GEAR, PROGRAM AND BSA(S))

YES

STEP 2. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?

TRAWL

HOOK

GILLNET

STEP 3. (REQUIRED) WHAT DAS WILL YOU BE USING?
 (NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR TRIP. IF YOU SELECT B-DAS, YOU MUST FLIP TO A-DAS IF TRIP LIMIT EXCEEDED)

MULTS A-DAS (ALL PROGRAMS/ALL AREAS)

MULTS B-REGULAR DAS (ONLY SAPS OR B-DAS PROGRAM)

MULTS B-RESERVE DAS (ONLY SAPS)

SCALLOP DAS (NOTE: TRAWL GEAR ONLY. YOU MUST ALSO DECLARE SCALLOP TRIP THRU IVR)

STEP 4. (REQUIRED) WHAT PROGRAM AREA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?
 (NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR TRIP)
 (FLEX OPTION: YOU MAY ADD THE OPEN AREA AND/OR WESTERN US/CA AREA TO YOUR EASTERN US/CA AREA, CA-2 YELLOWTAIL/HADDOCK SAP OR EASTERN SAP TRIP ONCE PER TRIP BY REPEATING STEPS 1-5 ON THIS SCREEN)

REGULAR ACCESS (OPEN AREA)

WESTERN US/CANADA AREA

EASTERN US/CANADA AREA (OUTSIDE SAPS)

CA-2 YELLOWTAIL/HADDOCK SAP

EASTERN US/CANADA HADDOCK SAP

CA-1 HOOK GEAR HADDOCK SAP (HOOK GEAR ONLY)
 (NOTE: YOU MAY NOT SELECT THIS SAP WITH OTHER PROGRAMS)

B-DAS PROGRAM
 (NOTE: YOU MAY NOT SELECT THIS PROGRAM WITH ANY SAP ABOVE)

STEP 5. (REQUIRED) WHAT BSA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?
 (NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY BASED ON THE PROGRAM AREA(S) SELECTED ABOVE)

GULF OF MAINE

INSHORE GEORGES BANK

OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Select 'Activity NE', then 'Monkfish' to view the 'Declaration for Monkfish' trips:

Step 1. Select the gear you intend to fish. Select only one.

Step 2. Unless this is a Monkfish RSA trip, always select at least Monkfish DAS.

Additionally, if appropriate, select multispecies (mults) DAS and/or Scallop DAS (remember, select mults DAS if your allocation requires you to use both mults and monkfish DAS simultaneously).

Step 3. Select only one of the two fields. If you intend to fish in both the NFMA and SFMA, then select "Any part of trip fished in SFMA."

Step 4. Select each area you intend to fish.

If you selected only Monkfish DAS in Step 2, then select 'Monkfish-Only' (for CAT F vessels, select 'Monkfish Offshore Area'). If you selected Mults DAS in Step 2, you must select appropriate mults areas here.

To FLEX, reenter your selections for steps 1-5 again, but select additional area(s) and broad stock area(s) (BSA) in Steps 4 and 5, respectively.

Step 5. Select the BSA(s) that encompass the areas selected in Step 4. However, select 'Monkfish-Only' if you are not using Multispecies DAS.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Declaration for Monkfish" with a "Code Log" and "Cancel" button at the top left. The form is divided into five steps, each with a "Change your Activity Declaration" header and a "STEP X. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR/DAS/AREA/BSA WILL YOU FISH IN?" title. Each step includes a note and a list of radio button options.

STEP 1. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?
(NOTE: IF REDECLARING A MONKFISH TRIP FROM A MULTISPECIES TRIP, SELECT SAME GEAR)
Options: TRAWL, HOOK, GILLNET

STEP 2. (REQUIRED) WHAT DAS WILL YOU BE USING?
(NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
Options: MONKFISH DAS, MONKFISH RSA DAS (NOTE: MAY NOT BE USED WITH THE MONKFISH OPTION), MULTS DAS BY A SECTOR VESSEL, MULTS DAS BY COMMON POOL VESSEL, SCALLOP DAS (NOTE: FOR SCALLOP DAS TRIPS, YOU MUST USE TRAWL GEAR ONLY AND DECLARE A SCALLOP DAS TRIP USING THE IVR CALL-IN)

STEP 3. (REQUIRED) WHAT MANAGEMENT AREA WILL YOU FISH IN?
(NOTE: IF REDECLARING A MONKFISH TRIP FROM A MULTISPECIES TRIP, SELECT NFMA)
Options: ENTIRE TRIP FISHED IN NFMA, ANY PART OF TRIP FISHED IN SFMA

STEP 4. (REQUIRED) WHAT PROGRAM AREA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?
(NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOUR TRIP)
(MULTS FLEX OPTION: YOU MAY ADD PROGRAM AREA(S) AND BSA(S) ONCE PER TRIP BY REPEATING STEPS 1-5 ON THIS SCREEN)
Options: MONKFISH-ONLY (NO PROGRAM DECLARED), MONKFISH OFFSHORE AREA (PERMIT CAT F ONLY), MULTS REGULAR ACCESS (OPEN AREA), MULTS WESTERN US/CANADA AREA, MULTS EASTERN US/CANADA AREA (OUTSIDE SAPS), MULTS CA-2 YELLOWTAIL/HADDOCK SAP, MULTS EASTERN US/CANADA HADDOCK SAP, MULTS CA-1 HOOK GEAR HADDOCK SAP (HOOK GEAR ONLY)

STEP 5. (REQUIRED) WHAT MULTS BSA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?
(NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY BASED ON THE PROGRAM(S) SELECTED ABOVE. MONKFISH-PERMITTED VESSELS MUST MAKE BSA SELECTIONS BELOW WHEN USING MULTS DAS).
Options: MONKFISH-ONLY (NO BSA DECLARED), GULF OF MAINE, INSHORE GEORGES BANK, OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK, SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

Select 'Activity NE', then 'More', then 'Scallop' to view the 'Declaration for Scallop' trips:

For LAGC scallop trips: Select only one area or program.

You may then send your declaration, unless you intend to harvest scallop RSA quota (if so, go to the optional question at the bottom of the form and select 'yes', and then send your declaration).

For Limited Access scallop trips: Select from either paragraph A, B, or C.

If you select paragraph B, select only one area.

You may then send your declaration, unless you intend to harvest scallop RSA quota (if so, go to the optional question at the bottom of the form and select 'yes', and then send your declaration).

Code Log Cancel

Declaration for Scallop

Change your Activity Declaration:

GENERAL CATEGORY (LAGC) PERMIT:

(REQUIRED) IF YOU WILL BE FISHING ON A GENERAL CATEGORY (LAGC) PERMIT, SELECT AN AREA AND SEND YOUR DECLARATION:

- OPEN (FEDERAL EXEMPTION AREAS)
- MID-ATLANTIC SAA
- CLOSED AREA 1 SAA
- NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP SAA
- HUDSON CANYON SAA
- ELEPHANT TRUNK SAA
- NGOM (FEDERAL)
- NGOM (STATE ONLY)
- DELMARVA SAA
- STATE WATERS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

LIMITED ACCESS PERMIT:

(REQUIRED) IF YOU WILL BE FISHING ON A LIMITED ACCESS PERMIT, SELECT FROM A, B, OR C BELOW, AND SEND YOUR DECLARATION:

A. REGULAR ACCESS TRIP

- OPEN

B. SPECIAL ACCESS TRIP

- MID-ATLANTIC SAA
- CLOSED AREA 1 SAA
- CLOSED AREA 2 SAA
- NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP SAA
- ELEPHANT TRUNK SAA

C. STATE WATERS EXEMPTION PROGRAM

- OPEN

(OPTIONAL) WILL SCALLOP RSA QUOTA BE HARVESTED ON THIS TRIP?

- YES

Select 'Activity NE', then 'More', then 'Surfclam' to view the 'Declaration for Surfclam and Ocean Quahog' trips:

Step 1. Select the type of trip (only one).

Step 2. For ITQ trips, select only if you intend to fish the 'Reopened Portion of the Georges Bank PSP Area' during your trip.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Declaration for Surfclam and Ocean Quahog". At the top left are two buttons: "Code Log" and "Cancel". Below the title, it says "Change your Activity Declaration:". The form is divided into two steps. Step 1 is titled "STEP 1. (REQUIRED) WHAT TYPE OF TRIP WILL YOU BE FISHING? (NOTE: SELECT ONLY ONE)". It contains three radio button options: "SURFLAM ITQ TRIP", "OCEAN QUAHOG ITQ TRIP", and "MAINE MAHOGANY QUAHOG TRIP". Step 2 is titled "STEP 2. (OPTIONAL) FOR SURFLAM OR OCEAN QUAHOG ITQ TRIPS, WILL YOU FISH THE REOPENED PORTION OF THE GEORGES BANK PSP AREA? (NOTE: YOU MUST HAVE PRIOR NMFS AUTHORIZATION)". It contains one radio button option: "YES".

Select 'Activity NE', then 'More', then 'Herring' to view the 'Declaration for Herring' trips:

Step 1. Herring carrier has no gear capable of catching fish. Select either 'yes' or 'no'. Select only one.

Step 2. Select the gear you intend to fish. Select 'none' if you answered 'yes' in Step 1. Select only one.

Step 3. Select either 'yes' or 'no'. Select only one.

Step 4. Select 'yes' only if you intend to harvest herring RSA quota.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Declaration for Herring". At the top left are two buttons: "Code Log" and "Cancel". Below the title, it says "Change your Activity Declaration:". The form is divided into four steps. Step 1 is titled "STEP 1. (REQUIRED) ARE YOU DECLARING A HERRING CARRIER TRIP?". It contains two radio button options: "YES" and "NO". Step 2 is titled "STEP 2. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?". It contains five radio button options: "BOTTOM TRAWL", "MID-WATER TRAWL (SINGLE OR PAIR)", "PURSE SEINE", "OTHER GEAR", and "NONE (CARRIER TRIP ONLY)". Step 3 is titled "STEP 3. (REQUIRED) DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN MACKEREL AND/OR LONGFIN SQUID?". It contains two radio button options: "YES" and "NO". Step 4 is titled "STEP 4. (OPTIONAL) WILL HERRING RSA QUOTA BE HARVESTED ON THIS TRIP?". It contains one radio button option: "YES".

Select 'Activity NE', then 'More', then 'More' again, then 'Mackerel' to view the 'Declaration for Mackerel' trips:

Step 1. Select either 'yes' or 'no'. Skip to Step 3 if you don't intend to retain herring.

Step 2. If you answered 'yes' to step 1, select the gear you intend to fish. Select only one.

Step 3. Select either 'yes' or 'no'. Select only one.

Code Log Cancel

Declaration for Mackerel

Change your Activity Declaration:

STEP 1. (REQUIRED) DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN HERRING?

YES

NO (GO TO STEP 3)

STEP 2. (REQUIRED IF YES TO STEP 1) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?

BOTTOM TRAWL

MID-WATER TRAWL (SINGLE OR PAIR)

PURSE SEINE

OTHER GEAR

STEP 3. (REQUIRED) DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN LONGFIN SQUID?

YES

NO

Select 'Activity NE', then 'More', then 'More' again, then 'Squid' to view the 'Declaration for Longfin Squid' trips:

Step 1. Select either 'yes' or 'no'. Skip to Step 3 if you don't intend to retain herring.

Step 2. If you answered 'yes' to step 1, select the gear you intend to fish. Select only one.

Step 3. Select either 'yes' or 'no'. Select only one.

Step 4. Select 'yes' only if you intend to harvest longfin squid RSA quota.

Code Log Cancel

Declaration for Longfin Squid

Change your Activity Declaration:

STEP 1. (REQUIRED) DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN HERRING?

YES

NO (GO TO STEP 3)

STEP 2. (REQUIRED IF YES TO STEP #1) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?

BOTTOM TRAWL

MID-WATER TRAWL (SINGLE OR PAIR)

PURSE SEINE

OTHER GEAR

STEP 3. (REQUIRED) DO YOU INTEND TO RETAIN MACKEREL?

YES

NO

STEP 4. (OPTIONAL) WILL LONGFIN SQUID RSA QUOTA BE HARVESTED ON THIS TRIP?

YES

Select 'Activity NE', then 'More', then 'More' again, then 'DOF/PWD' to view 'Declare Out of Fishery and Power Down':

Declare Out of Fishery: Select only one of the 6 choices.

Please note:

Vessels authorized to transit 'with product onboard' should declare [DOF-TSP].

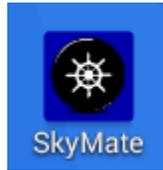
'Fishing – Commercial' is to be used for trips targeting non-VMS-required species.

'NAFO' is only for those few vessels receiving NMFS permits to participate in this international fishery outside the U.S. EEZ.

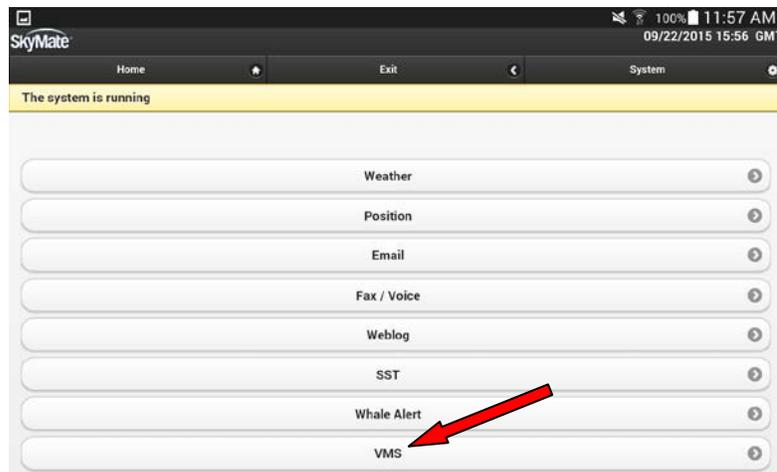
Power Down: This declaration is only for use by LAGC scallop-permitted vessels as long as they do not have other permits requiring continuous VMS reporting.

Forms. The following views will show you how to navigate to each of the forms screens. For all SkyMate forms, required fields will highlight in red if you try to send the form without completing those fields. Once all required fields are filled in, the ‘Send’ button will pop up near the top left of the form.

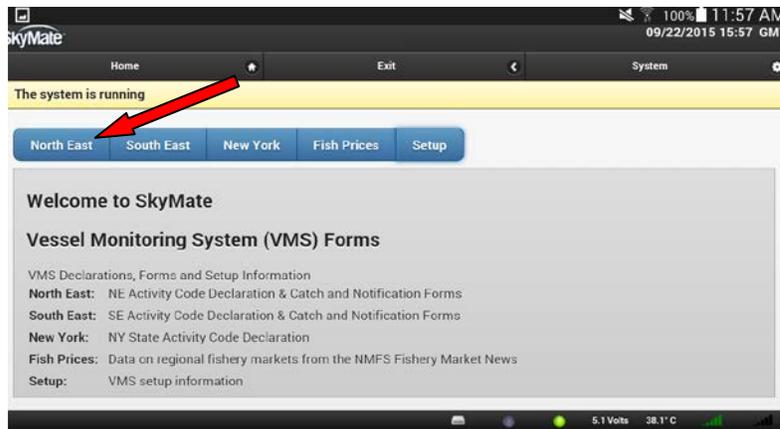
The following views will show you how to navigate to each of the forms screens. On your tablet, press the SkyMate icon shown below:



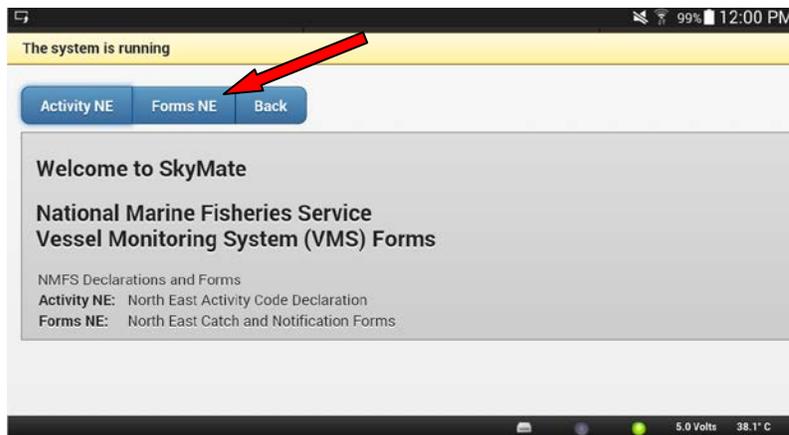
You should see the screen shown below. Press ‘VMS’ at the bottom of the screen.



Then, press ‘Northeast’:



And, then press 'Forms NE':



Selecting 'Forms NE' brings up selections for: Multispecies, Monkfish and Scallop:



Selecting 'More' brings up selections for: Herring, Mackerel and RSA/EFP:



Select 'Forms NE', then 'Multispecies' to bring up this screen:



There are three (3) Multispecies forms: Catch Report, Trip Start Hail, and Trip End Hail.

Multispecies Catch Report:

Trip-Level Reporting. Submit one report before crossing the VMS demarcation line if:

(1) You are declared into a single Broad Stock Area (BSA), and you have not declared into the Eastern US/Canada Area or a sector exemption(s). Complete Steps 1 and 2.

(2) You are declared into multiple BSAs outside of the Gulf of Maine (GOM) BSA, and you have not declared into the Eastern US/Canada Area or a sector exemption(s). Complete Steps 1, 2 & 4.

Daily Reporting. Submit a report for each day of your entire trip by completing Steps 1-4. Each daily report must include an estimate of all catch from 0000 to 2359 hours and must be submitted by 9 AM the following day. A report is required even if you do not catch fish, and regardless of the area actually fished. Daily catch reports are required if:

(1) You are declared into the GOM BSA and any other BSA.

(2) You are declared into any part of the Eastern US/Canada Area.

(3) You are declared into the Redfish Exemption Area.

All catch reports must contain at least the operator permit number and VTR number.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Select the 2-digit month, day and year of the reported catch.

Step 4. First, enter the 3-digit statistical (stat) area where the species kept was harvested (you may enter up to 4 different stat areas on a single catch report).

Next, below each stat area enter the estimated weight of each species kept (up to 6 digits). Finally, be sure to enter the total amount of NON-groundfish kept for each stat area.

Step 5. Redfish Exemption reporting. Submit a report before switching codends by completing Steps 1-5. Provide an estimate of all catch that day between 0000 hours and the time of the report. The daily report the following day at 9 AM must include any catch from the time you switched codends, until 11:59 PM. You must submit a final report once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port by completing Steps 1-4.

Small-Mesh Exemption in Southern New England. You must submit a report by completing Steps 1, 2, 4 & 5 with an estimate of all catch on board, upon completing the large-mesh portion of the trip. You must submit a final report by completing Steps 1, 2 & 4 with an estimate of all catch on board once you have stopped fishing and begin your return to port.

Form Log
Cancel

Multispecies Catch Report

Depending upon where you declare to fish and any sector exemption requirements, you may be required to submit this report as follows:

(a) For daily reports, by 9 AM the following day; or

(b) For a trip-level report, before crossing the VMS Demarcation Line.

If you are in a sector, contact your sector manager for assistance. Any vessel may contact: NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division (978-281-9315), NMFS VMS Team (978-281-9213 or nmfs.ole.ne@noaa.gov), or see 50 CFR Part 648 for specific reporting requirements.

1. Operator's Permit Number:

2. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number:
(Reported to dealer)

Note: You are not required to enter a 'zero' in those species fields below in which no fish were kept.

3. Date fish caught: Month ▼ / Day ▼ / Year ▼

4. Report (lbs) Kept by Stat Area:				
Cod	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Yellowtail	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Pollock	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
White hake	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Winter flounder	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Witch flounder	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Haddock	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Redfish	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Plaice	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Halibut	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Non-Groundfish	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

5. If you declared an exemption that allows the use of a smaller mesh codend on this trip and you intend to utilize that exemption immediately after sending this report, check this box:

Multispecies Trip START Hail:

The trip start hail is required by NMFS only if a sector vessel intends to fish on a NMFS exemption granted to your sector or on a Sector Ops Plan provision.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Select 'yes' if you will be taking a NMFS observer or at-sea monitor onboard this trip. Otherwise, select 'no'.

Steps 4 & 5. Select all appropriate exemptions and/or provisions to be fished under this trip.

Steps 6 & 7. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and select the state (from the drop-down menu) where the catch will be landed.

Step 8. Select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated return to port.

Step 9. See the 'Note' to determine if you must enter the estimated offload date/time.

If so, select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated offload.

Step 10. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

Form Log
Cancel

Multispecies Trip Start Hail

Submit this report before you leave port on your groundfish trip as required by (a) or (b) below:

(a) When fishing under an exemption(s), or
(b) When required by your Sector Ops Plan.

1. Operator's Permit Number:

2. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number:
(Reported to dealer)

3. Observer or ASM On-Board (Y/N)? Yes No

4. Sector Exemptions to be fished under this trip:
(Note: Check all that apply)

a. Redfish Trip

b. Closed Area Trip

c. Other Exemption (when directed by NMFS)

5. Sector Ops Plan Provisions to be fished under this trip:
(Note: Check all that apply)

a. Inshore Gulf of Maine

b. Other Provisions (when directed by NMFS):

(1) Provision 1

(2) Provision 2

6. Landing Port City:

7. Landing State: State

8. Estimated Arrival:
 Month / Day / Year Hour : Min

9. Estimated Offload:
(Note: Provide only for trips <6 hrs or if fishing within 6 hrs of offload port)
 Month / Day / Year Hour : Min

10. Comments:

Multispecies Trip END Hail:

The trip end hail is required on all groundfish trips by sector and common pool vessels.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Steps 3 & 4. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and select the state (from the drop-down menu) where the catch will be landed.

Step 5. Enter the dealer or offload location (up to 16 alphanumeric characters).

Steps 6 & 7. Select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated return to port and offload.

Steps 8 & 9. Complete only if you will offload at another port.

Steps 10 & 11. Enter the total amount of groundfish kept and non-groundfish kept in pounds.

Step 12. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

Form Log Cancel

Multispecies Trip End Hail

Submit this report from sea for your groundfish trip at least 6 hours before landing and prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line. If your fishing ends less than 6 hours before arrival, send your report immediately after the last tow or hauling of gear.

- Operator's Permit Number:
- Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number:
(Reported to dealer)
- Landing Port City:
- Landing State:
- Dealer/Offload location:
- Estimated Arrival: / / :
- Estimated Offload: / / :
- Second Offload Port City:
- Second Offload State:
- Total Groundfish Kept:
(lbs)
- Total non-Groundfish Kept:
(lbs)
- Comments:

Select 'Forms NE', then 'Monkfish' to bring up this screen. There is one Monkfish form: Monkfish Trip Limit Overage DAS Adjustment.



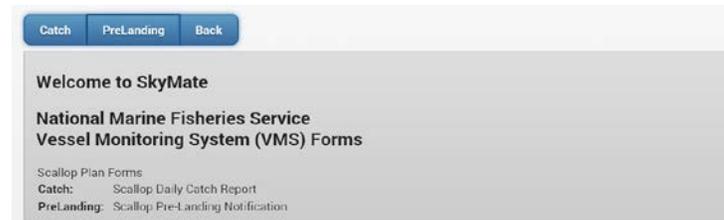
Monkfish Trip Limit Overage Days at Sea Adjustment:

- Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.
- Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.
- Step 3. Select the month, day and year of your estimated return to port.

The form contains the following fields:

- 1. Operator's Permit Number: [Text Input]
- 2. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number: (Reported to dealer) [Text Input]
- 3. Estimated Arrival: [Month] [Day] [Year] (Dropdown menus)

Select 'Forms NE', then 'Scallop' to bring up this screen:



There are two (2) Scallop forms: Scallop Daily Catch Report and Scallop Pre-Landing Notification.

Scallop Daily Catch Report:

- Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.
- Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.
- Step 3. Select the month, day and year of the reported catch.

The form contains the following fields:

- 1. Operator's Permit Number: [Text Input]
- 2. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number: (Reported to dealer) [Text Input]
- 3. Date fish caught: [Month] [Day] [Year] (Dropdown menus)
- 4. Scallop Meats Kept (lbs) [Text Input]
- 5. All Other Fish Kept (lbs): (Note: Excluding Scallop) [Text Input]

- Step 4. Enter scallops kept only. Enter up to 6 digits.
- Step 5. Enter Other Fish Kept (excluding scallops). Enter up to 6 digits.

Scallop Pre-Landing Notification:

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Select 'yes' if you need to make a correction to a report that you had previously sent, and also select the month, day and year of that report.

Otherwise, select 'no' and leave the prior report date field blank.

Step 3. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 4. Select 'yes' if you intend to land any scallops, and then complete steps 5-9.

Otherwise, select 'no', and then send the form.

Step 5. Select 'yes' or 'no' to indicate whether any scallops to be landed were harvested from the Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area.

Form Log **Cancel**

Scallop Pre-landing Notification

Submit this report from sea at least 6 hours before arrival (or immediately after fishing ends if less than 6 hours before arrival) when:

(a) On a declared LAGC scallop trip;
 (b) A vessel with an LAGC IFQ or NGOM scallop permit is on a declared trip outside the scallop fishery when scallops are kept;
 (c) On a declared limited access scallop access area trip; or
 (d) Declaring out of the limited access scallop day-at-sea fishery to transit to a port south of 39° N with scallops onboard (send this report immediately once shoreward of the VMS Demarcation Line at or south of 39° N).

1. Operator's Permit Number:

2. Correction of a prior report (Y/N): Yes No

If yes, Date of prior report: / /

If yes, all information provided below, including blank fields, will replace data submitted in the prior report.

3. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number:
 (Reported to dealer)

4. Scallops Retained/Landed? (Y/N): Yes No

If NO, send form.
 If YES, complete remaining blocks then send form.

5. Any scallops caught in Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Area? (Y/N): Yes No

6. Scallops onboard:
 (Note: Only enter lbs and bushels if intending to land both)

Meats (lbs):

Bushels in-shell:

7. Estimated Arrival: / / : :

8. Landing Port City:

9. Landing State:

Step 6. If only landing meats, enter the estimated weight in that field only. If only landing bushels in-shell, enter the estimated weight in that field only. If landing both meats and bushels, enter the estimated weights in each field.

Step 7. Select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated return to port.

Steps 8 & 9. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and select the state where the catch will be landed.

Select 'Forms NE', then 'More' and then 'Herring' to bring up this screen. There are two (2) Herring forms: Herring Daily Catch Report and Herring Pre-Landing Notification.

Catch **PreLanding** **Back**

Welcome to SkyMate

National Marine Fisheries Service
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Forms

Herring Plan Forms
Catch: Herring Daily Catch Report
PreLanding: Herring Pre-Landing Notification

Herring Daily Catch Report:

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Select the month, day and year of the reported catch.

Step 4. You must fill in both 'kept' and 'discarded' for at least one of the areas. Enter up to 7 digits in each field, as appropriate.

Step 5. Step 6. Select 'yes' if you had a slippage event for this reported period with an observer onboard and also select the reason. If you select 'Other', briefly provide the reason. Otherwise, select 'no'.

If you do not have an observer onboard, leave this question blank.

Step 6. If you are using mid-water or bottom trawl gear then select 'yes'. Otherwise, select 'no'.

Step 7. If you selected 'yes' to the previous question, enter the stat area(s) and associated amount of total fish kept. Enter up to 7 digits.

Form Log
Cancel

Herring Daily Catch Report

Submit this daily report for your Herring trip by 9 AM of the following day.

1. Operator's Permit Number:

2. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number: (Reported to dealer)

3. Date fish caught: Month Day Year

4. Herring (lbs)	AREA 1A	AREA 1B	AREA 2	AREA 3
Kept	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>			
Discarded	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>			

5. Did slippage occur with an observer onboard?

Y

N

If yes, select the reason:

Safety

Mechanical Failure

Dogfish

Other - Reason:

6. Are you fishing mid-water or bottom trawl gear? Y N

If yes, complete step 7; otherwise, send this report.

7. Total Fish Kept (including herring):

Statistical Area	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>			
Kept (lbs)	<input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>			

Herring Pre-Landing Notification:

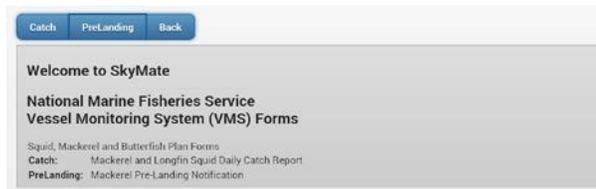
Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated return to port.

Steps 4 & 5. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and select the state where the catch will be landed.

Select 'Forms NE', then 'More' and then 'Mackerel' to bring up this screen. There are two (2) Mackerel forms: Mackerel and Longfin Squid Daily Catch, and Mackerel Pre-Landing Notification.



Mackerel and Longfin Squid Daily Catch Report:

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Select the month, day and year of the reported catch.

Step 4. Enter the estimated weight of mackerel and/or squid kept for that day. You must complete at least one of the 2 fields.

Step 5. Enter the estimated weight of all product kept for that day.

Step 6. Select 'yes' if you had a slippage event for this reported period with an observer onboard and also select the reason. If you select 'Other', briefly provide the reason. Otherwise, select 'no'.

If you do not have an observer onboard, leave this question blank.

Mackerel Pre-Landing Notification:

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 3. Select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated return to port.

Steps 4 & 5. Enter the name of the city (characters A-Z only) and select the state where the catch will be landed.

Select 'Forms NE', then 'More' and then 'RSA/EFP' to bring up this screen. There are two (2) RSA/EFP forms: RSA and EFP Trip Start Hail, and RSA and EFP Trip End Hail.

RSA and EFP Trip START Hail:

The specific reporting requirements will be stated in the NMFS permit that authorizes your compensation fishing or experimental fishing activity.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter the 4 or 5-digit project code from your permit.

Step 3. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Step 4. Enter the 3-digit (IVR) port code where the catch will be landed.

Step 5. Select the state where the catch will be landed.

Step 6. Select the month, day, year, hour & minute of your estimated return to port.

Step 7. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

RSA and EFP Trip END Hail:

The specific reporting requirements will be stated in the NMFS permit that authorizes your compensation fishing or experimental fishing activity.

Step 1. Enter your 8-digit operator permit number.

Step 2. Enter the 4 or 5-digit project code from your permit.

Step 3. Enter your 8-digit VTR or 14-digit e-VTR number.

Steps 4 & 5. Select the month, day, year, hour and minute of your estimated return to port and offload.

Step 6. Enter the 3-digit (IVR) port code where the catch will be landed.

Step 7. Select the state where the catch will be landed.

Step 8. Enter the 2-digit IVR species code. To the right of each code, enter the estimated weight of the species kept and discarded, and, if applicable, the associated herring area using 2 characters (1A, 1B, 02 or 03).

Step 9. Optional field. NMFS may provide instructions for use from time-to-time.

Form Log
Cancel

RSA and EFP Trip End Hail

Submit this report from sea for your Research Set-Aside (RSA) Compensation Fishing trip or Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) trip at least 5 hours before arrival.

Note: If fishing ends less than 6 hours before arrival, send the report immediately upon leaving the fishing grounds.

1. Operator's Permit Number:

2. RSA/EFP Project Code:

3. Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number:
(Reported to dealer)

4. Estimated Arrival: Month Day Year Hour Min

5. Estimated Offload: Month Day Year Hour Min

6. Landing Port Code:

7. Landing State:

8. RSA/EFP Product Kept/Discarded (lbs):

IVR Species Code	Kept	Discarded	Herring Area
<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>

9. Comments:

ATTACHMENT 2

How to ‘Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code’

Note: The information provided in this attachment is also available on the VMS web page.

Under U.S. Fisheries Law, vessel owner/operators are required to declare their activity for every trip prior to leaving port. In response to a New England Fishery Management Council request to ease the financial strain, time and technical burdens associated with declaring an activity through the VMS unit on each trip, NMFS has developed an alternative declaration method through the IVR system.

Who can use this method?

Vessel owner/operators who intend to fish a trip under the same VMS activity code that was last sent from the vessel's VMS unit and received by NMFS, have the option of notifying NMFS that they are confirming their previous VMS declaration by calling the IVR system.

Have the following information ready before calling:

- Your vessel's 6-digit federal permit number
- Your IVR PIN (same as your Fish On-Line PIN)(available from the GARFO Analysis & Program Support Division at 1-888-487-9994)
- Your 8-digit operator permit number
- Your most recent VMS activity code (format xxx-xxx-xxxxxx)

Instructions:

- Call the IVR system at 1-888-284-4904.
- At ‘Main Menu’, press 1 to “Report the start or end of a trip, declare a block, or confirm the use of a previous VMS code.”
- At ‘Fishing Activity Reporting’, enter your vessel's 6-digit permit number and your IVR PIN.
- When prompted, record your name and operator permit number, then press the # key.
- When prompted, press 1 to confirm your name and operator number, or press 2 to re-record the information.
- When prompted, press 4 to “Confirm the use of a previous VMS code.”
- The IVR will respond with either:

(1) “Your most recent VMS activity code is ().” When prompted, press 1 to confirm the use of this code. The system will then provide you with a confirmation number which you should record and keep with you on your trip. However, if this is not the code you will use, when prompted, hang up and declare your trip through your VMS unit; or

(2) “Your most recent VMS activity code cannot be confirmed.” When prompted, hang up and declare your trip through your VMS unit.

ATTACHMENT 2 (Cont'd)

How to 'Confirm the Use of a Previous VMS Code'

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All other VMS reporting requirements for your trip still apply.
- This alternative method of declaring a trip prior to leaving port is not to be used in lieu of an inoperative VMS unit. Your VMS unit must be fully functional.
- The IVR back-up message line should not be used if you are unable to use the main IVR system.
- The code reported to you by the IVR system is the most recent code sent from your vessel's VMS unit and received by NMFS. Therefore, your most recent code sent may be from your last trip or when in port after your last trip.
- If the IVR system is unable to confirm your VMS activity code, it is likely for one of the following reasons:
 - (1) No code for your vessel could be retrieved;
 - (2) Your last code was the power down code (PWD-PWD-XXXXXX);
 - (3) Your last code was a Southeast Region code (for dual-reporting vessels); or
 - (4) Your last code was a code that could only be declared when inside the NE Fishery.
- You will still receive an automated trip start and trip end message from NMFS through your VMS unit. Your trip will be recorded in NMFS' monitoring system with the code that you confirmed through the IVR system.