



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Date Issued: 6/30/2015

ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY

Updated Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Declarations and Instructions

Effective Date: June 30, 2015

We have updated our VMS software change to reflect recent Framework 26 management measures. These updates occur on June 30, 2015. This bulletin contains information about what these changes mean for you, and reminders on new VMS reporting requirements.

New Scallop Declaration Instructions for all scallop vessels:

- To declare a Mid-Atlantic Access Area trip, use the new Mid-Atlantic SAA declaration.

New Scallop Declaration Instructions for limited access scallop vessels:

- If intending to declare out of the fishery to land scallops south of 39°N lat. at the conclusion of an open area trip, use the new “transit with product onboard” code (DOF-TSP) once inside of the demarcation line and once you have also submitted your pre-landing notification form (more instructions below).

New Scallop Pre-Landing Notification Instructions:

You must submit a pre-landing notification form under the following four circumstances:

- When on a declared limited access general category (LAGC) trip;
- When a vessel with an LAGC IFQ or Northern Gulf of Maine scallop permit is on a declared trip outside the scallop fishery when scallops are kept;
- When on a declared limited access scallop access area trip; or
- When declaring out of a limited access scallop open area trip 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).

The pre-landing notification form instructions have been updated to reflect these requirements (Macro #42 for Boatracs vessels).

What information must be submitted?

- Vessel operator’s permit number;
- Amount of scallop meats in pounds to be landed and the number of bushels of in-shell scallops to be retained/landed (*or in the case of a limited access scallop access area trip where no scallops were retained/landed, or an LAGC declared scallop trip, confirmation that no scallops were retained/landed*);

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

- Estimated time of arrival;
- Landing port and state where the scallops will be offloaded; and
- VTR serial number recorded from that trip's VTR (the same VTR serial number as reported to the dealer).
- Whether any scallops were caught in the Northern Gulf of Maine area.

When must the form be submitted?

- Vessel operators on an access area trip must submit the report no less than 6 hours before arrival, or, if fishing ends less than 6 hours before arrival, immediately after fishing ends. Vessel operators must submit a report whether or not scallops are retained/landed.
- In order to end a declared Sea Scallop DAS trip and steam south of 39° N. lat., a vessel operator must submit the pre-landing notification form upon crossing shoreward of the VMS Demarcation Line at or south of 39° N. lat.

Scallop Daily Catch Reports:

Scallop catch reports are also still required for vessels that fish for, possess, or retain scallops on declared scallop trips. These reports must be submitted for each day (beginning at 0000 hr and ending at 2400 hr), and not later than 0900 hr of the following day. Each report must include the VTR serial number, the operator's permit number, the date fish were caught, the total pounds of scallop meats kept, and the total pounds of all fish kept.

The scallop catch report form instructions have been updated to reflect these requirements (Macro #41 for Boatracs vessels).

This daily catch report is NOT required for vessels fishing under a NE multispecies DAS or sector allocation and that are retaining scallops caught on those trips.