Sustainable Fisheries - (978) 281-9315   http://www.nero.noaa.gov
NE VMS Team - (978) 281-9213   Date Issued: October 24, 2012

New Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Software
Boatracs Users
Effective Date: November 1, 2012

On October 31st, Boatracs will automatically update the macros on your VMS unit to comply with recent Northeast regulatory changes. Make sure the new macros are installed on your VMS by following these steps: (1) Go to Macro #19 and make sure the top of the macro states "Vessel Activity Report V14.0"; and (2) Go to Macro #35 and make sure the top of the page shows "V9". If you do not receive the macro update, **please contact Boatracs at 1-800-262-8722.** Please be sure that your vessel's VMS unit has the new macros loaded, and begin using the new macros for trips on or after **November 1, 2012,** using the appropriate activity declaration.

Summary of Software Changes

NOTE: The numbering has changed for some macros (shown below); all other macro numbers remain the same.

1. Multispecies Trips: We separated the declaration into two separate screens, one for sectors (new **Macro 20**) and one for the common pool (new **Macro 21**). We also simplified the format and menu to make trip declarations easier. Lastly, the new **Macro 19** provides notes and information for macros 20 and 21.

2. Monkfish Trips (new **Macro 22**). As we did with the multispecies menus, we simplified the format and menu to make it easier to declare your trip. The 'Notes' macro 19 also has a reference in this macro.

3. Scallop Trips (new **Macro 23**): The macro looks similar, but we have added new access area choices.

4. Declare Out of Fishery (DOF)(**Macro 24**): To better identify trips that do not have specific VMS declaration requirements, we created the following five distinct DOF categories:
A.   Transiting
B.   Fishing commercially
C.   Fishing recreationally/charter
D.   Scientific research
E.   Participating in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) fishery.

5. Trip Start Hail and Trip End Hail (**Macro 36**): As requested by many sectors, we added an optional 'Comments' field to the 'Trip Start Hail' and 'Trip End Hail.' Currently, only the Trip End Hail is required by NMFS for groundfish trips. However, some individual sectors require their members to use the Trip Start Hail. Complete the Trip Start Hail, if necessary, as instructed by your sector manager.

6. Restricted Gear Area Notification (**Macro 37**): We removed this form because the areas were eliminated.

Reminder of VMS Requirements

Sector Vessel Owners/Operators: If your sector is exempt from continuous VMS reporting at the dock, you are required to send the Power Down declaration (Macro 24) **prior** to powering off your VMS.
NOTE: You may not power off your VMS if you have other NE permits requiring continuous reporting.

Operator Instructions: The reference document summarizing instructions for vessel operators has been revised and is available on the Northeast VMS web page at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/vms/ (under 'Instructions and Forms'). If you want a paper copy, please contact the VMS Team at **(978) 281-9213** or email at **NMFS.OLE.NE@noaa.gov**.

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

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VESSEL ACTIVITY REPORT V14.0
NE - NOTES

PLEASE REFER TO THIS DOCUMENT AS
DIRECTED BY MULTISPECIES AND MONKFISH
DECLARATION MACROS

#1. 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)

#2. 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 THE
MULTISPECIES COMMON POOL SCREEN

#3. MULTS FLEX OPTION: YOU MAY ADD
PROGRAM AREA(S) AND BSA(S) ONCE PER
TRIP BY REPEATING STEPS 1-5 ON THE
MONKFISH SCREEN
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Note #1: This note refers to Step 1 in Macros #20 and #21.

Note #2: This note refers to Step 4 in Macro #21.

Note #3: This note refers to Step 4 in Macro #22.

SECTION DECLARATION FOR A MULTISPECIES TRIP – NEW MACRO #20

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VESSEL ACTIVITY REPORT V14.1
NE - MULTISPECIES SECTOR
READ MACRO 19 NOTE #1
PRIOR TO FILLING OUT THIS FORM

STEP 1. (OPTIONAL) DO YOU WANT TO ADD
THE MONKFISH OPTION? _ YES (NOTE #1)

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
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Step 1 note: Read Note #1 on Macro 19 before you decide whether to answer 'yes'. If you select the Monkfish Option, your VMS code will display an 'M' in the next to last character. ('MNK' which was formerly part of the code, is no longer used.)

Step 2 note: You no longer need to distinguish Trip and Day gillnet.

Step 3 note: The skate fishery still requires you to use a groundfish DAS, so declare a groundfish DAS if necessary.

Step 4 note: The area selection menu has changed to display area names only. Select all areas you intend to fish in.

To add more areas to your initial declaration (FLEX) while at sea, check off those additional areas in this step. You may declare into other areas if your initial declaration included the Eastern US/CA, CA-2 SAP, Eastern US/CA SAP, and/or CA-1 Hook Gear Haddock SAP. If you need help determining which areas to add to your declaration, please contact the VMS Team.

COMMON POOL DECLARATION FOR A MULTISPECIES TRIP – NEW MACRO #21

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VESSEL ACTIVITY REPORT V14.2
NE - MULTISPECIES COMMON POOL
READ MACRO 19 NOTES #1 AND #2
PRIOR TO FILLING OUT THIS FORM

STEP 1. (OPTIONAL) DO YOU WANT TO ADD
THE MONKFISH OPTION? _ YES (NOTE #1)

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/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)(NOTE #2)
  _ 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
```

Step 1 note: Read Note #1 on Macro 19 before you decide whether to answer 'yes'. If you select the Monkfish Option, your VMS code will display an 'M' in the next to last character. ('MNK' which was formerly part of the code, is no longer used.)

Step 2 note: You no longer need to distinguish Trip and Day gillnet.

Step 3 note: The skate fishery still requires you to use a groundfish DAS, so declare a groundfish DAS if necessary.

Step 4 note: The area selection menu has changed to display area names only. Select all areas you intend to fish in.

Read Note #2 on Macro 19 about your flex options. To add more areas to your initial declaration (FLEX) while at sea, check off those additional areas in this step. You may declare into other areas if your initial declaration included the Eastern US/CA, CA-2 SAP, and/or Eastern US/CA SAP. If you need help determining which areas to add to your declaration, please contact the VMS Team.

MONKFISH DECLARATION – NEW MACRO #22

If you declared the Monkfish Option in Macro 20 or 21, use this macro to change your declaration to Monkfish.

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VESSEL ACTIVITY REPORT V14.3
NE - MONKFISH
READ MACRO 19 NOTE #3
PRIOR TO FILLING OUT THIS FORM

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

STEP 2. (REQUIRED) WHAT DAS WILL YOU
BE USING? (NOTE: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
 _ MONKFISH DAS
 _ 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?
 _ ENTIRE TRIP FISHED IN NFMA, OR IF
   TRIP STARTED AS MULTISPECIES TRIP
 _ 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)(NOTE #3)
 _ MONKFISH-ONLY (NO PROGRAM DECLARED)
 _ MONKFISH OFFSHORE AREA (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. MONK VESSELS WITH MULTS
DAS REMAINING MUST DECLARE BSA(S))
 _ MONKFISH-ONLY (NO BSA DECLARED)
 _ GULF OF MAINE
 _ INSHORE GEORGES BANK
 _ OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK
 _ SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
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Step 1 note: You no longer need to distinguish Trip and Day gillnet.

Step 2 note: There is now a separate DAS selection for each fishery. At a minimum, you must select 'Monkfish DAS' for all Monkfish trips. If you have Mults DAS, you must select both 'Monkfish DAS' and 'Mults DAS.'

Step 4 note: The area selection menu has changed to display area names only. Select all areas you intend to fish in.

Read Note #3 on Macro 19 about your flex options. To add more areas to your initial declaration (FLEX) while at sea, check off those additional areas in this step. Refer to the Sector or Common Pool declaration screens above for your FLEX rules. If you need help determining which areas to add to your

Step 5 note: If you're authorized to use only Monkfish DAS for your trip, you do not need to declare a groundfish BSA(s). However, if you're using Mults DAS and declaring Mults area(s), you must select the appropriate BSA(s).