



# Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
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## **ATLANTIC HERRING FISHERY**

### Notification and Reporting Requirements

#### Reminder for Owners and Operators of Limited Access Vessels

Last September new catch monitoring measures were established for the Atlantic herring fishery (76 FR 54385, September 1, 2011 and 76 FR 56985, September 15, 2011). These measures include Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) trip notifications, VMS catch reports, and Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs).

It is important for you and your employees to report this information as instructed, so that the herring catch can be applied to the correct Atlantic herring management area, and the haddock catch can be applied correctly toward the Georges Bank (GB) or Gulf of Maine (GOM) haddock caps.

Please share this bulletin with any vessel employee who is responsible for vessel notifications or reports. We suggest there should be a copy of this bulletin on each of your vessels, and note that the online copy can easily be distributed electronically [<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdher.html>].

#### **The following measures apply to any vessel issued a Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit on every trip that fishes for Atlantic herring:**

- Declare that your vessel is participating in the herring fishery (HER) via the VMS prior to leaving port. If your vessel is declared out of the herring fishery (DOF) prior to leaving port, it may not harvest, possess, or land herring on that trip.
- For each day that your vessel is on a declared herring trip, you must submit a VMS catch report for each herring management area by 9 a.m. of the following day.
- Your VMS catch report must include all herring caught (kept and discarded) during any part of the previous day (0000-2400 hr) for each herring management area.
- If no herring were caught (kept or discarded) for the day in a specific herring management area, you should report zero catch for that area.

*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.*

- Submit a VTR for each week (Sunday–Saturday) by midnight on Tuesday of the following week. If no fish are caught during that week, you should submit a VTR reporting zero catch. If you did not fish during the week, you should submit a VTR indicating that you did not fish.
- The vessel must be issued a Midwater Trawl Gear Letter of Authorization (LOA) to use mesh smaller than required by the Northeast multispecies regulations if midwater trawl gear will be used in the Gulf of Maine or Georges Bank regulated mesh areas. These areas include some or all of Herring Management Area 1A, 1B, and 3. Therefore, the LOA must be on board when fishing with midwater trawl gear in those areas.
- The vessel must be issued a Purse Seine Gear LOA to use mesh smaller than required by the Northeast multispecies regulations if purse seine gear will be used in the Gulf of Maine or Georges Bank regulated mesh areas. These areas include some or all of Herring Management Area 1A, 1B, and 3. Therefore, the LOA must be on board when fishing with purse seine gear in those areas.

**The following additional measures apply to any vessel issued an All Areas (Category A) or Areas 2/3 (Category B) Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit on every declared herring trip that is using midwater trawl gear:**

- Provide notice and contact information (e.g., contact name and phone number; vessel name; date, time, and port of departure) to the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (774-392-2735) at least 72 hr prior to beginning any trip.
- Carry an observer on board if intending to fish with midwater trawl gear in Northeast multispecies Closed Area I.
- Complete and sign a released codend affidavit if fish are released from a codend in Closed Area I without being sampled by an observer.
- Report all fish kept by haddock stock area on the VMS catch report for each day (0000-2400 hr) by 9 a.m. of the following day. If no fish are kept during that day, you should report zero kept catch.
- Notify the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement (via VMS) of the time and place of offloading at least 6 hr prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on your return trip to port, or, for vessels that have not fished seaward of the VMS demarcation line, at least 6 hr prior to landing.

**The following measures apply to any vessels issued an Incidental Catch (Category C) Limited Access Atlantic Herring Permit on every declared herring trip that is using midwater trawl gear in Herring Management Areas 1A, 1B, or 3:**

- Provide notice and contact information (e.g., contact name and phone number; vessel name; date, time, and port of departure) to the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (774-392-2735) at least 72 hr prior to beginning any trip.
- Carry an observer on board if intending to fish with midwater trawl gear in Northeast multispecies Closed Area I.
- Complete and sign a released codend affidavit if fish are released from a codend in Closed Area I without being sampled by an observer.
- Report all fish kept by haddock stock area on the VMS catch report for each day (0000-2400 hr) by 9 a.m. of the following day. If no fish are kept during that day, you should report zero kept catch.
- Notify the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement (via VMS) of the time and place of offloading at least 6 hr prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on your return trip to port, or, for vessels that have not fished seaward of the VMS demarcation line, at least 6 hr prior to landing.

**These following measures apply to any vessels issued an All Areas (Category A) or Areas 2/3 (Category B) Limited Access Permit on every declared herring trip that is using purse seine gear:**

- Provide notice and contact information (e.g., contact name and phone number; vessel name; date, time, and port of departure) to the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (774-392-2735) at least 72 hr prior to beginning any trip.
- Notify the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement (via VMS) of the time and place of offloading at least 6 hr prior to crossing the VMS demarcation line on your return trip to port, or, for vessels that have not fished seaward of the VMS demarcation line, at least 6 hr prior to landing.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR QUESTIONS**

VMS Instructions: [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov), under “Fishing Industry & Seafood Dealers.”  
VMS Reporting – 978-281-9213;  
VTR Reporting – 978-281-9246;  
Regulations – 978-281-9315;  
Permits and LOAs – 978-282-8438

## REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR DAILY VMS CATCH REPORT

The new VMS herring catch report is shown below. The layout of the report will vary depending on the VMS vendor you use, but the information should be the same. If the information on your catch report is different than below, you must update your VMS software.

Enter VTR serial number, date fish caught, and herring catch (kept and discarded) for each Herring Management Area. If no herring were caught in an area, please enter 0 lb for that area.

If you are fishing with midwater trawl gear in Herring Management Areas 1A, 1B, and/or 3, you must also report all fish kept (all species) by haddock stock area. If no fish were kept from an area, please enter 0 pound for that area.

**THIS IS A DAILY REPORT  
DO NOT REPORT CATCH FROM DAY 1 ON YOUR REPORT FOR DAY 2**

For each day of a declared trip, this report must be submitted by 9 AM the following day. Negative reports (0 lb) must be submitted when no fish were caught in a management area.

Note: VTR serial number must be the same number reported to the seafood dealer receiving the landings at the end of the trip. If you use multiple pages of the VTR on the trip, record the serial number from the first VTR page used.

Vessel Trip Report (VTR) Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date fish caught:           Month (01-12) \_\_\_\_\_

  Day (01-31)       \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES	AREA 1A	AREA 1B	AREA 2	AREA 3
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Herring Kept (lb)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Herring Discarded (lb)	_____	_____	_____	_____
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All Fish Kept (lb)	GOM Haddock Area	GB Haddock Area
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Note: Reporting by haddock area is only required for vessels using midwater trawl gear in Areas 1A, 1B, and/or 3. Include total lb of all herring PLUS all non-herring.

GOM Haddock Area includes Stat Areas 464, 465, and 511 through 515.

GB Haddock Area includes Stat Areas 521, 522, 525, 526, 561, and 562.