



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## **Measures to Address Slippage in the Atlantic Herring Fishery**

*Effective Date: May 4, 2016*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service partially approved Framework Adjustment 4 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan. This action clarifies slippage requirements, requires slippage to be reported via the vessel monitoring system, and establishes slippage consequences.

### **Clarifications to Slippage Requirements**

When a vessel issued a limited access herring permit is carrying an observer:

- Slippage (catch discarded before being brought on board for sampling by an observer) due to safety, mechanical failure, and excess catch of spiny dogfish is categorized as an *allowable slippage event*.
- Slippage for any other reason is categorized as a *non-allowable slippage event* and is prohibited.
- Fish not brought on board the vessel and made available to the observer because of gear damage is categorized as an allowable slippage event and triggers a slippage consequence measure.
- Fish not brought on board the vessel and made available to the observer because fish fell out of and off the gear is categorized as a discard event (not slippage) and does not trigger a slippage consequence measure.
- Operational discards (small amounts of fish left in the net after pumping) are allowed on board purse seine and small mesh bottom trawl vessels and on board midwater trawl vessels fishing outside of the Groundfish Closed Areas.

When a midwater trawl vessel issued a herring permit is fishing in the Groundfish Closed Areas:

- Vessels must leave the Groundfish Closed Areas following an allowable slippage event and remain outside of the Groundfish Closed Areas for the remainder of that fishing trip.
- Operational discards are prohibited.

### **Slippage Reporting Requirement**

The operators of vessels issued a limited access herring permit must report all slippage events via the vessel monitoring system when the vessel is carrying an observer. An example of the herring daily catch report used to report slippage is on the next page of this letter.

*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, Greater Atlantic Region.*

## Slippage Consequence Measures

When a vessel issued a Category A or B limited access herring permit is carrying an observer:

- Vessels must move and remain at least 15 nautical miles away from an allowable slippage event for the remainder of that fishing trip.
- Vessels must terminate the trip and return to port following a non-allowable slippage event.

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 (MMDDYY): \_\_\_\_\_
4. 

Herring (lbs)	AREA 1A	AREA 1B	AREA 2	AREA 3
Kept	_____	_____	_____	_____
Discarded	_____	_____	_____	_____
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kept (lbs) \_\_\_\_\_