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NE VMS Team - (978) 281-9213

http://www.nero.noaa.gov
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New Vessel Monitoring System Software
SkyMate Users
Effective Date: November 1, 2012

The software that runs on your vessel monitoring system (VMS) unit is being updated to comply with recent Northeast regulatory changes. SkyMate mailed you the new software on or about October 12, 2012, along with installation instructions. The new software is also available at www.skymate.com (under 'Downloads'). Immediately after loading the new software, the top left corner of your screen should state "SkyMate 3.944 Client Software." We recommend that you send a 'Declare out of Fishery (transit)' declaration for the sole purpose of alerting us that your SkyMate VMS is compliant with the software upgrade.

Please be sure that your vessel's VMS unit has the new software loaded, and please begin using the new software for trips on or after **November 1, 2012,** using the appropriate activity declaration.

Summary of Software Changes

1. Multispecies & Monkfish Trips: We separated the declaration into two separate screens, one for sectors and one for the common pool, and simplified the format and menu to make it easier to declare your trip.

2. Scallop Trips: The declaration screen looks the same, but we have added new access area choices.

3. Declare Out of Fishery (DOF): 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.

4. Trip Start Hail and Trip End Hail: 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.

5. Restricted Gear Area Notification: We removed this form because these 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 **prior** to powering off your VMS. The Power Down declaration is found at 'Activity NE' > 'More' > 'Other.'
NOTE: You may not power off your VMS if you have other NE permits requiring continuous reporting.

VMS Operator Instructions: The reference document summarizing instructions for vessel operators has been revised and is available on the Northeast (NE) 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.

Contacting the VMS Team: Phone - (978) 281-9213   Email – NMFS.OLE.NE@noaa.gov

New VMS Declaration Screens

These are the new declaration screens for multispecies sector and common pool trips, and monkfish trips.

SECTOR VESSEL DECLARATION FOR A MULTISPECIES TRIP

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 1 note: 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. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?
☐ TRAWL
☐ HOOK
☐ GILLNET

Step 2 note: You no longer need to distinguish Trip and Day 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 3 note: The skate fishery still requires you to use a groundfish DAS, so declare a groundfish DAS if necessary.

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

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 VESSEL DECLARATION FOR A MULTISPECIES TRIP

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 1 note: 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. (REQUIRED) WHAT GEAR WILL YOU BE FISHING?

☐ TRAWL
☐ HOOK
☐ GILLNET

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

STEP 3. (REQUIRED) WHAT DAS WILL YOU BE USING?

(NOTE: CHECK <u>ALL</u> 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 <u>ALL</u> 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 <u>ONCE</u> 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 4 note: The area selection menu has changed to display area names <u>only</u>. 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, and/or Eastern US/CA SAP. If you need help determining which areas to add to your declaration, please contact the VMS Team.

STEP 5. (REQUIRED) WHAT BSA(S) WILL YOU FISH IN?

(NOTE: CHECK <u>ALL</u> THAT APPLY BASED ON THE PROGRAM AREA(S) SELECTED ABOVE))

☐ GULF OF MAINE
☐ INSHORE GEORGES BANK
☐ OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK
☐ SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

MONKFISH DECLARATION

If you declared the Monkfish Option under Multispecies, use this screen to change your declaration to Monkfish.

Declaration for Monkfish

Change your Activity Declaration:

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

Step 1 note: You no longer need to distinguish Trip and Day 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 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 3. (REQUIRED) WHAT MANAGEMENT AREA WILL YOU FISH IN?
(NOTE: IF REDECLARING A MONKFISH TRIP FROM A MULTISPECIES TRIP, SELECT NFMA)
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ 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 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. 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 declaration, please contact the VMS Team

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 WITH ALLOCATED MULTS DAS REMAINING MUST MAKE BSA SELECTION(S) BELOW)
- ☐ MONKFISH-ONLY (NO BSA DECLARED)

- ☐ GULF OF MAINE
- ☐ INSHORE GEORGES BANK
- ☐ OFFSHORE GEORGES BANK
- ☐ SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

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