



### Pre-Trip Notification Requirements for Sector Vessels

The Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS) was designed by the NOAA Fisheries Service to provide a fast, simple, and effective way to ensure fair and adequate observer coverage of vessels fishing for northeast groundfish.

Once a vessel owner or operator enters trip information into PTNS, a series of mathematical calculations are done to determine if the vessel is selected for coverage for that particular trip. An email notification will be sent to the vessel operator to let him/her know if the vessel will be assigned an observer at least 40 hours before the vessel's sail date/time.

There are 3 different methods available for 48-hour pre-trip notification:

1. **Internet** (preferred method): Ultimately, this should be the primary means of trip notification and trip changes. The PTNS website will soon be available at the following

address:  
<http://fish.nefsc.noaa.gov/PTNS/>.

Vessels should log-in using the same user name (Permit Number) and password -personal identification number (PIN) that they use to access the Fish-On-Line data base, and fill-in all of the required information.

2. **Email:** Until the internet system is operational, you should continue to submit trip notification via this method. The email address to submit trip notifications, trip changes, questions, or problems is [NEFSC.PTNS@noaa.gov](mailto:NEFSC.PTNS@noaa.gov). All required notification information should be included in the body of the email.

3. **Telephone:** This is the backup means of notification. The office phone number to submit trip notifications and changes and to ask questions is 508-495-2309 (M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.).

The emergency cell phone number for afterhours late trip notifications, late changes, and problems is 508-681-9104. All required notification information should be relayed to the respondent or left in a clear voicemail.

Once the notification is entered into the system (there may be a delay if using email or telephone notification), the vessel will receive a trip confirmation number.

The vessel will receive notification of selection status at least 40 hours before the trip's planned sail date and time via VMS, email, and the PTNS website. If selected, an observer or provider will contact you within 24 hours.

A trip may not sail without an observer unless it has been issued a waiver.

For more information, go to:  
<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sectordocs/PTNSInstructions.pdf>

### New Regulations for CPH permits

Permits held in confirmation of permit history (CPH) are now eligible to participate in the days-at-sea (DAS) Leasing and Transfer Programs, and the Northeast multispecies sector program. You can find a list of all permits eligible to lease DAS on our DAS Multispecies Vessel Baseline Information website. Many of the owners of permits in CPH have not maintained current contact information with us. If your contact information is not up to date,

potential lessors may not be able to get in contact with you to initiate a DAS lease or transfer. Therefore, if you have a NE multispecies permit in CPH, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 to verify your current contact information.

**DAS Multispecies Vessel Baseline Information Website:**

[http://www.nero.noaa.gov/amend13/das\\_baseline.htm](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/amend13/das_baseline.htm)



## Sector and A16 Public Outreach Meetings

During March and April, we held five Amendment 16 public meetings, three sector meetings, three sector managers meetings and a telephone townhall conference call. The goal was to explain the new management measures and to prepare fishermen and sector managers for the implementation

of sector management on May 1st. Excluding the sector managers meetings, a total of approximately 365 people, including 240 fishermen, participated in the meetings. Answers to many of the questions raised at these meetings can be found on our sector website <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>



Photo credit: Caleb Gilbert, NOAA

## How to Get Your VMS Software

New vessel-side vessel monitoring system (VMS) software has been sent to all NE VMS vessels by the vendors SkyMate, Boatracs and GMPCS (for Thrane units).

We approved SkyMate's new VMS software version 3.934, which SkyMate mailed on April 21-22 from their Toronto, Canada office. If you have not received this software, it is also available for downloading directly from the Skymate website at <http://skymate.com/downloads.html>.

GMPCS (Thrane) software was sent out on April 30, but can also be

downloaded from the GMPCS website.

Boatracs macros was sent over the air on April 30.

Questions on VMS should be directed to Bill Semrau at 978-281-9151 (direct) or 978-281-9213 (office), or Linda Galvin, VMS Specialist, at (978) 281-9230.

## Addition of Sector Vessel Landing Ports Possible

For the landing ports listed within the 17 sector operations plans that were approved for fishing year 2010, Cape May, NJ was the most southerly port identified for sector vessels.

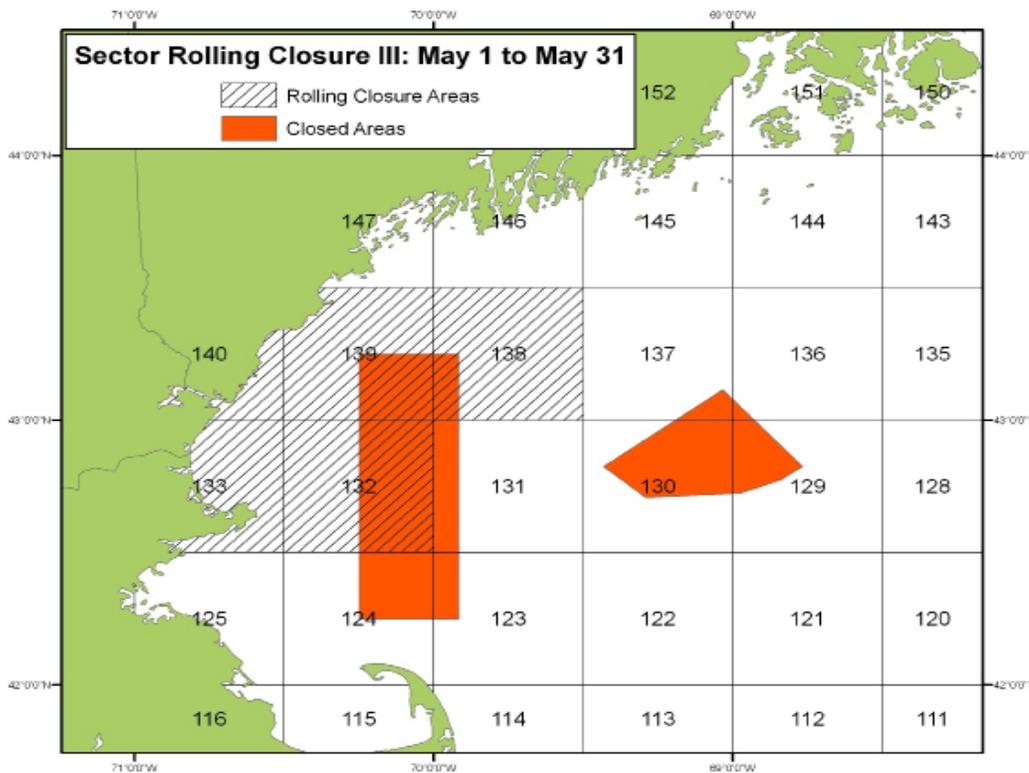
Several sectors have recently noted that some of their vessels fish farther south at certain times of the year and, therefore, will require inclusion of additional ports for landing and dockside monitoring within their operations plans.

In particular, the seasonal monkfish fishery in Virginia calls for the approval of additional landing ports south of Cape May.

To request new landing sites, a sector manager may submit for NOAA Fisheries Service approval an addendum to the sector's operations plan that identifies any additional ports, whether they are primary or secondary ports, and provides confirmation that the sector's dockside monitoring provider can service these ports.



## Sector Rolling Closure Area III: May 1 - May 31, 2010



Point	N. Latitude	W. Longitude
1	42° 30'	(1)
2	42° 30'	70° 00'
3	43° 00'	70° 00'
4	43° 00'	69° 30'
5	43° 30'	69° 30'
6	43° 30'	(2)

(1) MA shoreline  
(2) ME shoreline

CA III is the area bound by straight lines connecting the points noted above in the order stated.

The Amendment 16/Framework 44 permit holder letter dated March 30, 2010, and the sector-specific permit holder letter dated April 21, 2010, contained an error in the description of the universal sector exemptions. The letters stated that sector vessels must only comply with Blocks 132, 133, and 138 of the Gulf of Maine Rolling Closure Area (GOM RCA) III in May. This is incorrect. Sector vessels must still comply with Blocks 132, 133, 138, 139, and 140 of the May GOM RCA III. Figure 44 on page 66 of the March 30, 2010, permit holder letter contains the correct chart and coordinates, respectively.

### To Obtain a Vessel Trip Reporting Logbook

Currently, more than 1,600 VTR logbooks have been distributed to the northeast commercial fishing fleet. If you have not already received a logbook, you can 1) request a new logbook from NOAA Fisheries Service's Fisheries Statistics Office at 978-281-9148 or 2) simply use your old logbook and supply the dockside monitor with the blue "STATE" copy of your VTR provided you don't have a state reporting requirement of your Federal VTR. Local port offices also carry a supply of VTR logbooks. Addresses and phone numbers for local port agents can be found at:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/fso/portoff.pdf>

#### REMINDER

Effective **May 1**, with the implementation of new groundfish regulations

**Vessel Trip Reports (VTR)** will be due **weekly** rather than monthly.

To learn more about sectors, please visit our website: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmultisector.html>

**Multispecies Fishery Bulletin** (formerly Sector News) is a monthly publication providing updates on groundfish management in the Northeast. Suggestions for how we can make it better? Contact: [Olivia.Rugo@noaa.gov](mailto:Olivia.Rugo@noaa.gov) or call 978-675-2167.