



### Trip Reporting for Set-only Trips

A vessel that leaves port only to set fixed gear (ie. not to haul any gear) is **NOT** required to submit a vessel trip report (VTR) for that trip. Although these trips have zero catch and do not have to undertake dock-side and at-sea monitoring, these vessels must still follow the notification requirements for both programs.

Therefore, sector vessels on set-only trips should contact their sector managers or dock-side monitoring (DSM) providers to determine the best way for the vessel to submit a Trip Start Hail that will enable the DSM provider to issue a waiver for the trip. These vessels should also submit a Trip End Hail, reporting zero pounds of both groundfish and non-groundfish.

All vessels declared into the groundfish fishery must submit a vessel monitoring system (VMS) catch report that includes the VTR serial number for each trip. Because set-only trips do not require a VTR, these vessels should substitute their vessel permit number followed by 99999999 (a total of eight 9's). For example, if a vessel with a permit number of 654321 only sets gear on a trip, the following number would be submitted as the VTR serial number in the VMS catch report: 65432199999999.

Trips may be designated as set-only in the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS). If a vessel operator intending only to set gear does not make this declaration in the PTNS and is selected for at-sea monitoring, the vessel owner should inform the monitoring service provid-

er that the trip will be set-only. The vessel owner may also contact NOAA Fisheries at NEFSC.PTNS@noaa.gov or at 508-495-2309 during business hours and at 508-681-9104 (after hours cell phone) to specify that the trip is set-only.



Photo credit: Caleb Gilbert

For trips that set fixed gear, but also engage in other fishing activities such as jigging or handlining, captains must complete all reporting requirements.

For additional information, contact NOAA Fisheries' Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

### What To Do if an Observer is Late

Once a vessel is selected for at-sea observer coverage, it may not sail without an observer unless it has been issued a written **OR** verbal waiver from NOAA Fisheries Service. If an observer or an at-sea monitor fails to arrive prior to the scheduled sail time and cannot be reached, the vessel owner/operator should:

- 1) Contact their at-sea monitoring service provider's program manager to ensure that the observer or at-sea monitor has received the proper trip information; and
- 2) Contact the PTNS Coordinator at 508-495-2309 during business hours or at 508-681-9104 (after hours cell phone) to obtain a waiver prior to sailing.

When calling the PTNS Coordinator, the vessel owner/operator should identify the vessel name, permit number, the PTNS confirmation number (if known), and the reason for calling. If the call is unanswered, the owner/operator may leave a message with the information above and the vessel may then sail.

Vessel captains and owners who have been selected for observer coverage should supply accurate departure information to avoid unnecessary delays. Observers with unacceptable reasons for being late will be put on probation and may be decertified.



## More On-line Data Resources Available

### Electronic Days-at-Sea Leasing

NOAA Fisheries' Fish-on-Line website now enables federal multispecies fishery permit holders fishing under the Days-at-Sea (DAS) Program to lease their allocated fishing days to other fishing vessels electronically. This update makes it easier and faster for captains to lease DAS, as most leases will be processed instantly.

To access this new feature, go to our Fish-on-Line homepage and click on "Days at Sea Leasing":

<https://www.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin/>

For more information about the Leasing Program, please contact our Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315.

### Multispecies Catch Data

Cumulative total catch data on multispecies groundfish has been added to NOAA Fisheries' multispecies monitoring website. These data include total catches within the sector fishery, the common pool fishery, and the combined total of both fisheries. This information can be found at:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/MultiMonReports.htm>

### Updated Common Pool Groundfish Possession Limits

The common pool fishery is managed through a number of area closures, trip limits, and special access programs. Since May 1, 2010, several in-season regulatory changes to the common pool fishery have altered these limits.

For the most current information on minimum sizes and landing limits for each groundfish stock, copy the following link into your browser:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/infodocs/MultiPossessionLimits.pdf>.

When an in-season adjustment is made to trip or catch limits, all federally registered permit holders are notified via letter, radio and web/email announcements. To view past permit holder letters please visit our website:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/nr/>



Photo credit: Caleb Gilbert

### Updated Potential Sector Contributions

In August, potential sector contributions (PSC) for fishing year (FY) 2011 were updated for all limited access multispecies vessel owners. The updated PSCs included corrections to the data used to calculate each permit's contribution to a sector's ACE.

These updates were completed primarily in response to data review requests from the fishing industry. The FY 2011 ACEs are estimates for the year that begins on May 1, 2011. They do not include anticipated adjustments in PSCs for species such as pollock and winter flounder. These changes will require action by the New England Fishery Management Council to become effective.

To access your updated PSC information, go to our Fish-on-Line homepage: <https://www.nero.noaa.gov/NMFSlogin/>

For more information, contact Greg Power at [greg.power@noaa.gov](mailto:greg.power@noaa.gov) or 978-281-6304 or Stefanie Dukes at [stefanie.dukes@noaa.gov](mailto:stefanie.dukes@noaa.gov) or 978-281-6414.

## 2011 Sector Enrollment

On September 1, 2010, NOAA Fisheries received operations plan proposals from 19 sectors for fishing year (FY) 2011, which runs from May 1, 2011 until April 30, 2012. Based on the roster submissions associated with these proposals, a total of 821 NE multispecies permits enrolled in sectors for FY 2011. This number does not reflect potential permits that may be bought by the Maine Permit Bank Sector.

The total number of permits currently enrolled in a FY 2011 sector could be reduced since the permit holders have the option, unless otherwise specified in a sector's operations plan, to drop out of a sector by April 30, 2011, and to fish in the common pool for FY 2011. Given that 821 vessels have enrolled in a FY 2011 sector, 654 of the remaining eligible permits would fish in the common pool.