



The NOAA FISHERIES NAVIGATOR

Tips for completing a for-hire eVTR

Using the GARFO Fish Online App

Our VTR instructions describe what is required in each field so be sure to keep a copy onboard for reference. You can search for "GARFO VTR Guidance" online to view them.

How do I fill in these fields and complete my report?

Report a trip with catch and discards:

1. Begin a trip by tapping the + sign.
2. Enter your vessel and trip information, and then tap Save.
3. Under the Effort tab, enter your gear, soak time and area information.
4. When prompted to Add Catch, enter and select species from the search field.
5. Enter the number of fish in the Kept and Discarded fields. If no fish were discarded, 0 must be entered into the Discarded field. Tap Done and Save.
6. Continue to add your catch until all of it is reported, and then tap Done or Trip Report in the upper part of the screen.
7. Enter your trip information under the Landed and Sales tabs.
8. Use the Sign tab to submit your report.

Catch: If all fish are taken home by customers:

1. Follow steps 1-6 above.
2. Enter landing information under the Landed tab and then tap Save.
3. Tap the Sales tab and select the fish species taken home by customers.
4. Enter the quantity of fish taken home and enter 99998 or Home Consumption as the dealer.
5. Enter the offloading port and Save.
6. Tap either Done to finish reporting species offloads or use the Select Catch for Sale option at the bottom of the screen to enter additional species offloads.
7. Once completed, use the Sign tab to sign and submit your report.

Sales: The sale of fish on For-Hire trips is generally not allowed; however, under certain circumstances, the sale of Atlantic tunas is permissible. Please check current regulations. If you are selling fish to a dealer on a for-hire trip:

1. Follow steps 1-6 in the first section above.
2. Enter landing information under the Landed tab and then tap Save.
3. Tap on the Sales tab and select the fish species you sold to a dealer
4. Enter the quantity of fish sold and the dealer who bought it.
5. Enter the offloading port and date sold.
6. Save and tap either Done to finish reporting sales or use the Select Catch for Sale option at the bottom of the screen to enter additional sales.
7. Once completed, use the Sign tab to sign and submit your report.

Did not catch: You must report your trip if:

You began a fishing trip, but returned to port before fishing occurs because of issues like bad weather, mechanical problems or illness.

1. Begin a trip by tapping the + sign.
2. Enter your vessel and trip information, and then tap Save.
3. Enter landing information under the Landed tab and then tap Save.
4. Tap the Sign tab to review your sail and land information and then tap Next.
5. Select the proper trip activity and tap Next.
6. Submit your report.

You didn't catch any fish:

1. Begin a trip by tapping the + sign.
2. Enter your vessel and trip information, and then tap Save.
3. Under the Effort tab, enter your gear, soak and area information.
4. When prompted to Add Catch, enter No Catch or NC in the species field and then tap 1) Save, 2) Done and 3) Trip Report in the upper left corner.

5. Enter landing information under the Landed tab and then tap Save.
6. Tap the Sign tab to sign and submit your report.

Did not fish: There is not a federal Did-Not-Fish reporting requirement. Check with your state for Did-Not-Fish reporting requirements and guidelines.

Effort: The Gear Quantity field is very specific. For example, Gear Quantity for Hand Lines and Rod & Reels should be reported as the average number of hooks per line, not the total number of hooks in the water. Refer to the Fishing Effort Information by Gear Type Table (See pages 10-11 in our VTR Instructions) for further instructions.

Which fields must be completed at sea, or prior to entering port?

Before entering port at the end of a trip, you must complete all fields with the exception of dealer name, dealer permit number, and date sold if any fish were sold, and must do so as soon as the information becomes available.

When do I have to submit my electronic report?

Your electronic vessel trip reports must be submitted within 48 hours after entering port at the end of a trip.

For assistance

Contact our Help Desk at 978-281-9188 or nmfs.gar.helpdesk@noaa.gov, or your local Port Agent.

Using the eTrips/ mobile v.2 App

For eTRIPS/mobile user instructions, go to: <https://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/safis/etrips-mobile-instructions/>

How do I fill in these fields and complete my report?

Note: eTRIPS enables you to set up Favorites to make reporting easy. You can set up favorites under the Menu tab in the upper left hand corner before completing your first trip. If you have any questions, call our 24x7 Support Desk at 800-984-0810 or you can view short video tutorials at <https://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/safis/etrips-mobile-instructions/>

Report a trip with catch and discards:

1. Select Enter Completed Trip.
2. Enter Trip Type, Vessel, Crew, Trip Activity, Port, Area, Gear and Trip Information from your Favorites.
3. Enter all kept and discards on the Catches screen using your Favorites, or use the Search bar to find a new species. When entering discarded species information on the Catches screen, select the most appropriate disposition to show what you did with your catch.
4. Enter sales and offload information using the Offloads screen. If the trip had only discarded fish, bypass the Offloads screen by tapping Trip Report.
5. Read certification statement, tap to agree and submit.

Catch: if all fish are taken home by customers:

1. Select Enter Completed Trip.
2. Enter Trip Type, Vessel, Crew, Trip Activity, Port, Area, Gear and Trip Info.
3. Choosing from your Favorites, or using the Search function, enter all kept and discards on the Catches screen.
4. Tap Offloads, then bypass the Offloads screen by tapping Trip Report. By bypassing the offload screen, all species are automatically listed as Home Consumption or being taken home by customers.
5. Read certification statement, tap to agree and submit.

THIS SUPPLEMENT PROVIDED BY NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE'S GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE

See eVTRs, page 4

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Proposed Deep-Sea Coral Protection Areas

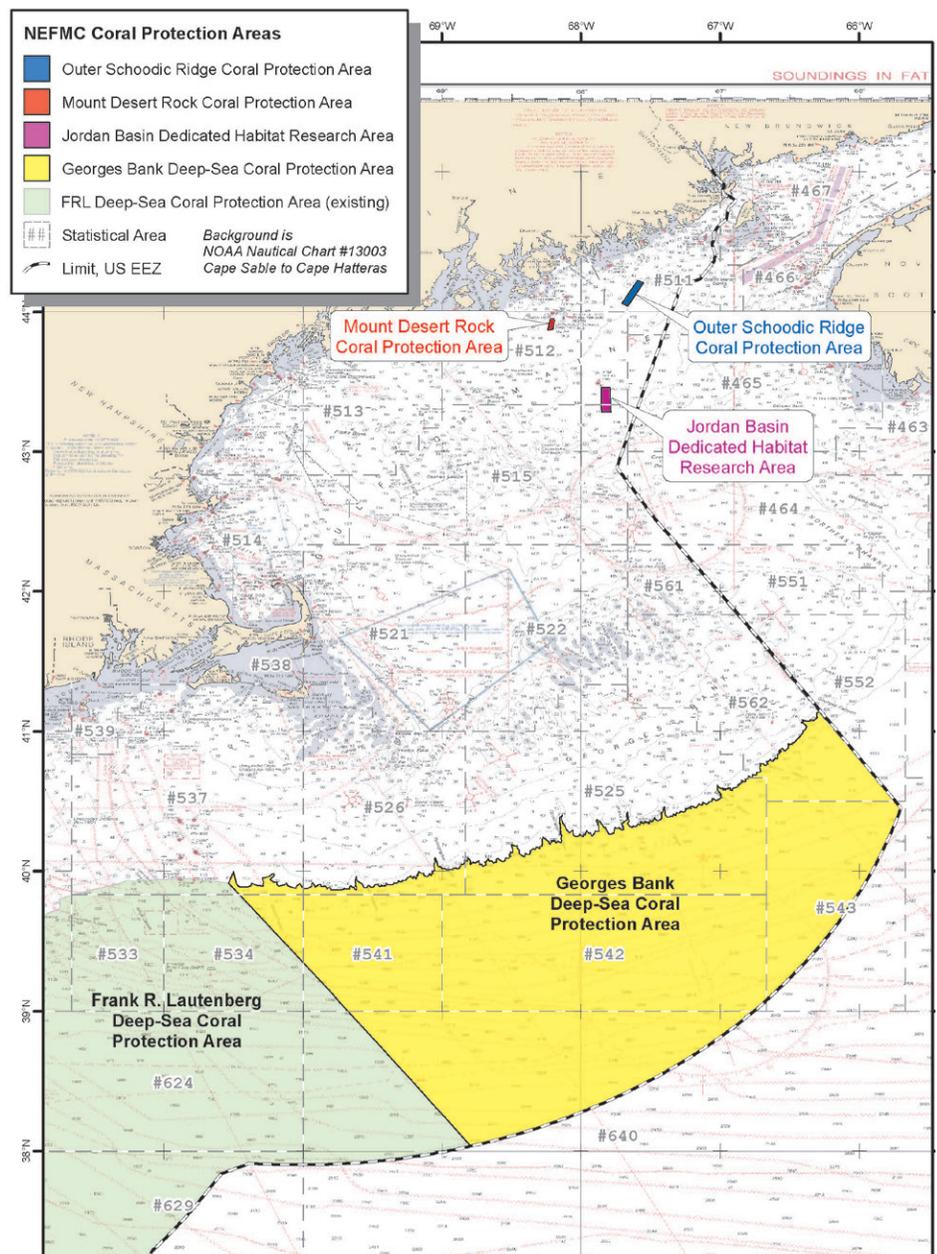
Deep-sea corals live on continental shelves, canyons, and seamounts in waters at least 50 meters deep, and provide habitat for many species of fish and invertebrates, including commercially important fish species. To protect these corals, we recently proposed the New England Fishery Management Council's Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment.

The Council developed this action under the discretionary provisions for deep-sea coral protection in the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act to reduce the impacts of fishing gear on deep-sea corals. If enacted, this rule would designate coral protection areas on Georges Bank and in the Gulf of Maine.

The proposed area on Georges Bank would run along the outer continental shelf in waters no shallower than 600 meters and extend to the outer limit of U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone boundary to the east and north. The area would extend south to the Franklin R. Lautenberg Deep Sea Coral Protection Area, which was established by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in 2016. Within this area, vessels would be prohibited from fishing with bottom-tending commercial fishing gear, including bottom-tending otter trawls, bottom-tending beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, bottom-tending seines, bottom longlines, pots, traps, and sink or anchored gillnets. The prohibition on these gears would protect deep-sea corals from interaction with and damage from bottom-tending fishing gear. Red crab pot gear would be exempt from the prohibition.

In the Gulf of Maine, vessels would be prohibited from fishing with bottom-tending mobile gear within the Mount Desert Rock and Outer Schoodic Ridge Coral Protection Areas. Bottom-tending mobile gear includes, but is not limited to, bottom-tending otter trawls, bottom-tending beam trawls, hydraulic dredges, non-hydraulic dredges, and seines (with the exception of a purse seine). Vessels would still be able to fish for lobster in these areas using trap gear. Jordan Basin would be designated as a dedicated habitat research area, but this action would not impose any additional restrictions on fishing in this area.

We will be accepting comments on this action until October 25, 2019. For more information, contact Travis Ford, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at 978-281-9233 or Travis.Ford@noaa.gov.



How to Leave Vessel Trip Report and Days At Sea Voicemail Messages for Better Responses

We maintain two 24-hour telephone lines for fishermen who need information or have questions regarding Vessel Trip Report (VTR) submissions and/or Days At Sea (DAS) status:
VTR line: 978-281-9246
DAS line: 978-281-9234

Leave a message at these numbers and someone will call you back. Here are some tips on how to leave a voicemail message that

contains the information we need to quickly process your request:

State your **name** and **phone number** clearly so we can return your call.

State your **vessel permit number** clearly. We use this number to access your boat's information and data.

If you are requesting a new logbook, state your **name** and **the address to which you would like us to mail the log book**.

If you are calling about a specific VTR, state the **VTR serial number and date of the report**.

Sometimes when we return a call, we cannot leave a message. This may be due to an unclear phone number left on the voicemail message, or to a full or inactive mailbox. In your voicemail message, clearly leave a **call back number**.

For more information, contact Richard Van Hoosen, Analysis and Program Support Division, at 978-281-2159 or Richard.VanHoosen@noaa.gov

Meet Zach Fyke, NEFSC Observer Compliance Liaison

Working with commercial fishing vessels and federal fisheries observers assigned to them to resolve any issues can be a challenge, but one that Zachary Fyke is prepared to address. Fyke is the new Observer Compliance Liaison in the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Fisheries Sampling Branch. A former observer himself, he has been there and done that, as they say, and is up to the task.

What does he actually do? As the job title suggests, he deals with issues arising between observers assigned to fishing vessels and the vessels compliance with established procedures. That includes adequate observer notification about trips and taking observers when scheduled, and providing safe and suitable accommodations for them on the vessel. It also means allowing observers to do their job and not interfere with their duties, and complying with safety and other environmental regulations.

"Observers can spend days or weeks aboard commercial fishing vessels, and the work is intense," Fyke said. "Conditions may be uncomfortable. Long trips in close quarters, and the observer's role in monitoring compliance, can sometimes lead to tensions on a vessel. That is where I come in."

Building relationships with the fishing community

Born and raised in Pinkney, Michigan, Fyke attended Michigan State University and majored in fisheries and wildlife, with a concentration in water sciences. He doubled minored in geography and conservation for marine resources. During his undergraduate years he studied abroad, living in Fiji and New Zealand, where his attention was focused on working with a marine protected area in a coastal village. His studies focused on coral reef species and habitats. Back in the U.S., he worked as a contractor for the U.S. Geological Survey studying sturgeon in the Detroit River.

Anxious to try something different, he moved east to focus on marine species at the suggestion of his college biology professor, Dr. Daniel Hayes, who told him about the observer program. Although he didn't know anyone in this part of the country, he decided to take that advice and moved to Narragansett, Rhode Island to work as an observer, building relationships in the Point Judith fishing community and learning about the Northwest Atlantic fisheries.

"I enjoy being in the field and working with the vessel captains and the observers," Fyke said. "Sometime I am following up on incidents that occur at sea, such as issues with accommodations, safety concerns, discard violations, trash disposal or derelict fishing gear. Other times I get to do port outreach and talk to the fishermen about the observer program. It varies, and that makes it interesting."

Observers Undergo Intense Training, Certification

The work keeps him busy, and sometimes requires dealing with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, observer providers, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Observers are provided by companies under contract with NOAA Fisheries and typically enter the program with a bachelor's degree in the biological sciences or a related field, course work in math or statistics, and experience with computer data entry.

In the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region, they spend three weeks in intense training at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's observer training facility in Falmouth, Massachusetts. Training includes species



NOAA photo

identification, data collection, fishing and safety regulations, and at-sea survival skills. After initial trips with trainers they head off on their first solo trip aboard a commercial vessel. Regular safety training and certifications are required for each fishery and various gear types to keep their knowledge current.

Positive Interactions the Norm

"Despite the challenges, 95 percent or more of the trips go on without a problem and the interactions are positive," Fyke said. "The issues occur on less than 5 percent of the vessels. Most fishermen understand we have a job to do, just as they do."

The data collected by observers are used to monitor fisheries, assess fish populations, set fishing

the job. Fishing communities are very close knit, and have a wealth of knowledge about local historical fishing.

"I am taking what I've learned and helping observers work through issues that may arise at sea. I can usually resolve the problem, and that is rewarding. In the end, observers and the commercial fishermen are both working for the same thing: more fish for the future, earning a reasonable living, and the thrill of being hundreds of miles offshore. Once the saltwater is in your blood it is hard to get rid of it."

For further information contact Zachary Fyke at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center at 508-495-2146 or via email at zachary.fyke@noaa.gov

Mako Sharks Given Additional Protections Under CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement that regulates the global trade in endangered plants and wildlife. The goal of the agreement is to protect and regulate species of animals and plants to ensure that commercial demand does not threaten their survival in the wild. The Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP18) met this August, and adopted additional trade protections for shortfin and longfin mako sharks by adding them to the list of species on Appendix II.

Countries cooperate through a system of permits and certificates that confirm that the trade of specific species is legal. Species listed on Appendix I of CITES are considered to be at risk of extinction and are prohibited from international commercial trade, except in special circumstances. Species listed on Appendix II are those that are vulnerable to overexploitation but not at risk of extinction. In every case of an import or export of an Appendix II species, an export/import permit may only be issued if the export/import will not be detrimental to the survival of the species, the specimen was legally acquired in accordance with national wildlife protection laws, and any live specimen will be shipped in a manner which will not cause it any damage. Appendix III includes

species for which a country has asked other CITES parties to help in controlling international trade. The three appendices of CITES can be found at <https://cites.org/>.

Trade in Appendix II species is regulated using CITES export permits issued by the country that listed the species in Appendix II and certificates of origin issued by all other countries. Changes to the lists of species in Appendix I and II and to agreement resolutions and decisions are made at meetings of the Conference of Parties, which are convened every 2-3 years. Countries may list species for which they have domestic regulation in Appendix III at any time.

During CoP 17 (2016), silky and thresher sharks were added to Appendix II. During CoP16, three species of hammerhead shark (scalloped, smooth, and great), porbeagle shark, and oceanic whitetip sharks were added to Appendix II. Whale, basking, and white sharks have been listed on Appendix II since the early 2000s. Any dealer who intends to import or export shark species listed on a CITES appendix or any fisherman who lands these species from the high seas, must have the appropriate permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. More information is available at <https://www.fws.gov/international/permits/by-species/sharks-and-rays.html>.



Electronic Monitoring Can Provide Better Data: A Fisherman's Perspective

Massachusetts commercial groundfish fisherman Jim Ford believes electronic monitoring could provide better and more complete data to a fishery that needs it.

Jim Ford has been fishing in the Gulf of Maine since he was in sixth grade. Ford's first job was working as a deckhand on party boats. Later, he began operating a small gillnet vessel and a small trawler, in addition to longlining. He currently owns and operates the Lisa Ann III, a 50-foot dragger. He targets groundfish from his home port of Newburyport, Massachusetts.

In 2018, we issued an exempted fishing permit to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute to create a [pilot project](#) to test electronic monitoring in the Northeast. Ford signed up as one of the first project participants, and currently uses electronic monitoring on 100 percent of his trips. When I met Ford on his boat on a foggy May morning, he showed me the equipment he uses. In the wheelhouse, there's a monitor with a four-way split screen that shows him the feed from the four cameras on his boat. In order to record all of the catch coming onboard, two cameras are positioned above the trawl net off the back of his boat. Two are above the deck to give a bird's eye perspective.

Ford participates in what is called a "maximized retention program." This means that Ford is required to keep all of his groundfish catch, with a few exceptions, regardless of whether it is undersized or has no value. This provides complete catch information for scientists, since Ford brings in the fish he would normally have thrown back to sea.

As part of this program, a dockside monitor meets Ford at the dock to witness his offload, verify his catch information, and confirm that the fish hold is empty. Ford likes that cameras discourage people from trying to cheat the system, which creates a level playing field. Ford believes cameras could eventually meet monitoring requirements, reducing the need for human dockside monitoring.

When using EM, Ford has his cameras turned on for the duration of his trip, which means that his catch is fully counted. If not using EM, groundfish vessels are required to carry observers on approximately 30 percent of all groundfish trips in 2019. Ford likes that electronic monitoring gives him more privacy than carrying a human observer—there are no cameras in the wheelhouse or the cabin. When they're not fishing, Ford and his crew are more relaxed. Having an extra person on board changes the dynamic on the boat.

"I like the cameras because they show what's out there. You can't dispute what the camera sees," says Ford. For years, fishermen have been telling our scientists that there are more Atlantic cod than our surveys show and than our models predict. Ford hopes that the footage of his catches will prove that the Atlantic cod stock is in better shape than we think.

"Getting good quality data is key, because the fishery is on a downward spiral, especially inshore," says Ford. "NOAA should listen to fishermen more. And cameras don't lie."

Ford also sees that electronic monitoring is the way the industry is trending. Unlike the West Coast and Europe, New England has been slow to adopt the technology.

"The rest of the world uses electronic monitoring," he says. "New England is just getting up to speed."

For more information on electronic monitoring in our region, contact Claire Fitz-Gerald, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at (978) 281-9255.



NOAA photos

eVTRs *Continued from page 1*

Did not catch: You must report your trip if:

You didn't catch any fish.

1. Select Enter Completed Trip.
2. Enter Trip Type, Vessel, Crew, Trip Activity, Port, Area, Gear and Trip Information.
3. Bypass the Catches screen by tapping Offloads.
4. Bypass the Offloads screen by tapping Trip Report. This will automatically report your trip as No Catch.
5. Read the certification statement, tap to agree and submit.

You began a fishing trip, but returned to port before fishing occurs because of issues like bad weather, mechanical problems or illness.

1. Select Enter Completed Trip.
2. Enter Trip Type, Vessel and Crew information.
3. From the Trip Activity drop down menu, select your reason for returning to port.
4. Enter Port and Trip Information.
5. Tap Trip Report, read the certification statement, tap to agree and submit.

Sales: The sale of fish on For-Hire trips is generally not allowed; however, under certain circumstances, the sale of Atlantic tunas is permissible. Please check current regulations. If you are selling fish to a dealer on a for-hire trip:

1. Select Enter Completed Trip.
2. Enter Trip Type, Vessel, Crew, Trip Activity, Port, Area, Gear and Trip Information.
3. Choosing from your Favorites, or using the Search function, enter all kept and discards on the Catches screen.
4. Enter all sales information on the Offloads screen.
5. Tap Trip Report, read certification statement, tap to agree and submit.

Did not fish: There is not a federal Did-Not-Fish reporting requirement. Check with your state for Did-Not-Fish reporting requirements and guidelines.

Which fields must be completed at sea, or prior to entering port?

Before entering port at the end of a trip, you must complete all fields with the exception of dealer name, dealer permit number, and date sold if any fish were sold, and must do so as soon as the information becomes available.

When do I have to submit my electronic report?

Your electronic vessel trip reports must be submitted within 48 hours after entering port at the end of a trip.

For assistance

Contact the eTrips/mobile Help Desk at 1-800-984-0810 or support@harborlightsoftware.com. You may also contact the GARFO Help Desk at 978-281-9188 or nmfs.gar.helpdesk@noaa.gov, or your local Port Agent.