



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

National Marine Fisheries Service Announces Alternate Procedures to Address Reporting Problems with VMS Units in Atlantic HMS Fisheries

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule on December 2, 2011 (76 FR 75492) that modified vessel monitoring system (VMS) requirements for Atlantic highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries. That rule requires that all vessels participating in Atlantic HMS fisheries that are subject to VMS requirements have an Enhanced Mobile Transmitting Unit (E-MTU) VMS unit installed by a qualified marine electrician. The rule also implements declaration requirements (i.e., hail in/out) that are effective March 1, 2012.

Each E-MTU VMS unit is supposed to have electronic forms available for download that simplify the declaration requirements; however, electronic forms for some VMS units have not yet been finalized. The Agency is working with VMS manufacturers to address this issue and will notify the public when updated forms are available. Until then, and anytime that the electronic forms are not functioning properly, alternate reporting procedures have been established that will allow all vessels to meet the reporting requirements that become effective on March 1, 2012. These alternate procedures are outlined on page 2 of this listserv notice. The alternate reporting procedures will not result in any additional costs incurred by vessel operators.

For information about the NMFS VMS program or questions regarding these reporting requirements, please contact:

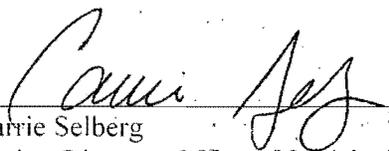
NMFS Southeast Office of Law Enforcement
VMS Program - Southeast Division
263 13th Avenue South, Suite 109
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-824-5358
1-800-758-4833
888-219-9228

This notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register.

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/newslist/>


Carrie Selberg
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

2/23/12
Date



Starting March 1, 2012, all Atlantic HMS vessel operators that do not have access to the appropriate electronic forms must use their VMS units to send an email to NMFS, following the procedures outlined below.

Hail Out

For departure (hail out) declarations that are required *at least* two hours prior to departure from port, vessel operators must use the VMS unit to send an e-mail to NMFS.OLE.SE@NOAA.GOV in the following format:

To: NMFS.OLE.SE@NOAA.GOV

Email Subject: Hail Out

Body of Email:

Vessel Name/United States Coast Guard (USCG) or State Vessel Registration ID /Targeted Species/Gear Type

Example:

Tuna Hunter/123456/TUNA/PELAGIC LONGLINE

Hail In

For hail in (pre-landing) notices that are required *at least* three hours prior to returning to port, vessel operators must use the VMS unit to send an e-mail to NMFS.OLE.SE@NOAA.GOV in the following format:

To: NMFS.OLE.SE@NOAA.GOV

Email Subject: Hail In

Body of Email:

Vessel Name/United States Coast Guard (USCG) or State Vessel Registration ID /City/State/Date/Estimated Time of Arrival

Example:

Tuna Hunter/123456/WANCHESE/NC/MAR 1/9AM

Combined Hail In/Hail Out

For trips that will be made the same day, vessels may make one declaration to simplify the reporting requirements:

To: NMFS.OLE.SE@NOAA.GOV

Email Subject: Hail Out/Hail In

Body of Email:

Vessel Name/USCG or State Vessel Registration ID /Targeted Species/Gear Type
Vessel Name/United States Coast Guard (USCG) or State Vessel Registration ID
/City/State/Date/Estimated Time of Arrival

Example:

Tuna Hunter/123456/TUNA/PELAGIC LONGLINE
Tuna Hunter/123456/WANCHESE/NC/MAR 1/9AM