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# Proposed VMS Program Modifications for Atlantic HMS Fisheries

July 11, 2011

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## Enhanced Mobile Transmitting Unit (E-MTU) Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

- Mobile Transmitting VMS Units (MTUs) currently allowed in HMS fisheries provide automatic position reports only
- Newer E-MTU VMS units can send and receive information; E-MTUs are now required in all Council-managed VMS-monitored fisheries
- E-MTU VMS units are capable of reporting target fishery and gear on board
  - May reduce need for law enforcement action/boarding to determine actual activity/gears possessed



## Existing VMS Regulations in Atlantic HMS Fisheries (Status Quo)

- HMS vessels required to use VMS:
  - PLL (year round; all areas);
  - BLL (Jan. 1 – July 31; vicinity of Mid Atlantic Closed Area); and,
  - Shark Gillnet (Nov 15 – April 15; all areas)
- Automatic position reports every hour (starting 2 hours before leaving port and continuing until landing)
- Vessel owner submits installation and activation checklist (self-install permitted)



## Existing VMS Regulations in Atlantic HMS Fisheries (Status Quo) Cont.

- MTUs meet current HMS VMS requirements
- No requirement, or capability, to report HMS target fishery or gear type(s) on board with MTUs, which limits VMS Technician's ability to determine applicable HMS regulations
- If any existing MTU unit needs replacement, the replacement unit must be an E-MTU and must be installed according to 2008 type approval notice published by NOAA OLE (Jan. 31, 2008; 73 FR 5813)



## Proposed Modifications to VMS Requirements

- Require E-MTU VMS units
- Require that a qualified marine electrician install each unit
- Require fishermen to declare 2 hrs before trip:
  - Target fishery
  - Gear type(s) on board
- Require fishermen to hail-in for each fishing trip 3 hrs before landing:
  - Destination
- Currently, HMS fishermen are eligible for reimbursement for E-MTU VMS units (\$3,100.00/vessel)



## Compliance Costs of Requiring E-MTU VMS Units in Affected HMS Fisheries

<b>Per Vessel Estimated Costs</b>	<b>HMS PLL (~249 Vessels)</b>	<b>SHK BLL (~50 Vessels)</b>	<b>SHK Gillnet (~30 Vessels)</b>
E-MTU VMS Unit	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
Estimated Installation Cost	~ \$200.00	~ \$200.00	~\$200.00
Position Reports (per day)	\$1.44/day	\$1.44/day	\$1.44/day
Position Reports (per year)	\$466.56/year	\$305.28/year	\$218.88/year
Declaration Reports (per year)	\$4.32/year	\$25.44/year	\$18.24/year
Estimated Total Costs Year 1	\$3,770.88	\$3,630.72	\$3,537.12
Estimated Year 1 Compliance Costs	\$670.00	\$530.00	\$437.00
Estimated Year 2+ Compliance Costs	\$470.00	\$330.00	\$237.00



## Feedback Received on Potential Modifications to HMS VMS Requirements

- Concern about existing contracts with VMS service providers
- Maintenance costs of E-MTU VMS units
- If I have already received reimbursement for an EMTU VMS required in another fishery, am I eligible to receive an additional unit?



## For Additional Information....

- Questions about the Southeast VMS program...  
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- Questions about the Atlantic HMS VMS regulations...  
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## To Submit Comments:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, RIN: 0648-BA64
- Fax: 301-713-1917, Attn: Michael Clark
- Mail: Highly Migratory Species Management Division (SF1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910