

NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRONIC VESSEL TRIP REPORTING IN FOR-HIRE FISHERIES

Starting March 12, 2018, vessels issued a federal charter/party permit for a Mid-Atlantic managed fishery will be required to submit electronic vessel trip reports for all trips carrying passengers for hire. These new requirements stem from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Omnibus Electronic Vessel Trip Reporting (eVTR) Framework.

What are the new reporting requirements?

Affected vessels must submit vessel trip reports:

1. Electronically through a NOAA-approved application
2. Within 48 hours of completing the fishing trip

Which vessels must use eVTR for reporting?

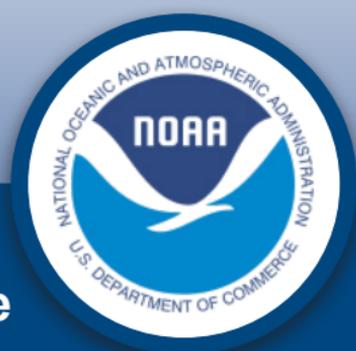
This change applies to all vessels with federal charter or party permits for any of the following species:

- ↳ Atlantic Mackerel
- ↳ Summer Flounder
- ↳ Squid
- ↳ Scup
- ↳ Butterfish
- ↳ Black Sea Bass
- ↳ Bluefish
- ↳ Tilefish

Are fishermen in other regions, such as New England, affected by this regulation?

Yes, if they possess a charter or party permit for the species listed above. This regulation applies to all vessels, regardless of where they are fishing when carrying passengers for hire.

**Greater Atlantic
Regional Fisheries Office**



If I have a federal charter or party permit for a Mid-Atlantic species, but I am fishing on a trip without taking passengers for hire, do I still have to submit an eVTR?

When you are not carrying paying passengers, you may submit an electronic or paper vessel trip report. This applies to commercial trips, as well as to recreational trips with no paying passengers.

How will these changes benefit fishermen?

Electronic reporting will:

- Make the collection of important data on fishing vessel activity more efficient, convenient, and timely for fishery managers and other data users
- Minimize delays between the time when fishing activity occurs and when the data is available to fishery managers
- Ease the reporting associated with fishing in multiple areas or creating duplicate reports
- Easily save three years' worth of VTRs as required

For more information, contact Daniel Luers, Sustainable Fisheries Division, at (978) 282-8457 or at Daniel.Luers@noaa.gov. You may also contact your local GARFO port agent by searching for "GARFO port agent" in your search engine.

More information about eVTRs, recreational fisheries regulations, and other related material is on our recreational fisheries web page at www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/recfishing/.



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