



New England  
Fishery Management  
Council



**MID-ATLANTIC**  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# Preparing for Commercial eVTR

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<http://www.mafmc.org/actions/commercial-evtr-framework>

# Webinar Schedule

- Brief overview of action – *Karson Coutre*
- Things to consider before starting eVTR – *Andy Loftus*
  - Questions
- Demo of eVTR app: eTrips Mobile 2 – *Fran Karp*
  - Questions about eTrips
- Demo of eVTR app: Fish Online – *Jay Hermsen*
  - Questions about Fish Online
- Wrap-up

# Public Meeting Webinar Reminders

- Please mute your line when not speaking
- Wait to be called on or for person to finish before speaking
- Raise hand feature in upper left corner of the webinar



- Please say your name/affiliation when adding to the conversation

# Commercial eVTR Joint Action

- **Proposed action:** require commercial vessels with federal permits issued by GARFO to submit VTRs electronically, unify commercial VTR submission timelines
  - Councils are considering changing to 24 hour, 48 hour, 72 hour, or weekly reporting deadline with eVTR
- **Goal:** Reduce reporting burden/redundancies of paper VTR, improve reporting efficiency, decrease error
- **Note: No changes are proposed for the data being collected.**

# Fisheries Covered

Mid-Atlantic FMPs	New England FMPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Atlantic Bluefish</li><li>• Black Sea Bass</li><li>• Scup</li><li>• Summer Flounder</li><li>• Spiny Dogfish</li><li>• Tilefish</li><li>• Squid</li><li>• Atlantic Mackerel</li><li>• Butterfish</li><li>• Surfclam</li><li>• Ocean Quahog</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northeast Multispecies (groundfish)</li><li>• Monkfish</li><li>• Atlantic Herring</li><li>• Skates</li><li>• Small-Mesh Multispecies (whiting/hake)</li><li>• Red Crab</li><li>• Sea Scallop</li></ul>

# Joint Action Next Steps

## Upcoming Council Meetings:

- MAFMC: December 11, The Westin, Annapolis, MD  
& NEFMC: January 28-30, Portsmouth, NH Event Center
  - Decide on eVTR requirement and reporting deadline

## Workshops:

- Throughout 2020 in New England and Mid-Atlantic

# Things to Consider Before Starting Electronic Reporting

- 1. If you are participating in the Study Fleet (and using FLDRS) already or are already reporting electronically with another software:**
  - Continue what you are doing. You may need to change when you submit your reports (otherwise, you are all set).
- 2. If you are currently submitting paper VTRs:**
  - You will need to choose one of the approved systems to submit them electronically;
  - If you have a smartphone or tablet that can connect via wi-fi or cellular then you probably have the equipment that you need.

# How Do I Get Started?

You can start submitting electronic VTRs right now if you want. You do not need to wait for a workshop or the Council action to get started.

1. Choose a system.
2. Follow the system vendor's instructions to get started, typically:
  - For a mobile device, download the app from the app store.
  - Have your NOAA permits ready.
  - Watch the vendor's videos and contact them if you have questions/problems.
3. **<http://www.mafmc.org/actions/commercial-evtr-framework>**



# What type of device do I need?

## Systems are available for:

- Smart Phones
- Tablets (e.g., iPads)
- Laptops/personal computers (most useful for vessels with wheelhouses)

# What if I Don't Have Cellular Service or wi-fi While on the Water?

## All approved systems must

- Allow data entry without internet connection;
- Store and retrieve reports;
- Have a reporting function and a "summary report" listing dates, times, confirmation numbers, etc. for reports that are submitted.

# What if I lose my device or it stops working while on the water?

Law enforcement will treat it just as they currently do any lost or destroyed paper form.

# Answers to Some Common Questions

- FLDRS is designed to collect valuable, detailed research data and can be used to submit eVTRs if you are participating in Study Fleet but is not designed to be a stand-alone eVTR system.
- eVTR-only platforms such as GARFO Fish Online and ACCSP eTrips do not track location (as FLDRS might for research purposes).
- NOAA still runs and manages the VTR program and data bases.
- All systems must abide by data confidentiality procedures.
- Not all systems involve a “3<sup>rd</sup> party” (if that is a concern). FishOnline is a NOAA application and eTrips is a cooperative federal/state application.

# Questions About the Proposed Action or Electronic Reporting?

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Public Comments:

[www.mafmc.org/public-comment](http://www.mafmc.org/public-comment)