

# For-Hire Electronic Vessel Trip Reports (eVTRs)

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**New England  
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# New England For-Hire eVTRs

## Goals for today:

- Overview of relevant eVTR actions
- Description of for-hire vessels not subject to eVTR requirement
- Review options to address eVTR requirement in New England for-hire fleet

*Decision point: Determine which option should be pursued to extend eVTR requirement to NE for-hire vessels.*

# MAFMC For-Hire FW (2018)

- Implemented eVTR requirement for all vessels with for-hire (party/charter) permits under MAFMC-managed species
  - eVTR submission deadline: 48-hours after trip
  - Covered majority of NE for-hire vessels (due to overlap in NE/Mid-Atl. for-hire permits)

# Joint Commercial eVTR FW (2019)

- Proposing eVTR requirement for all commercially permitted vessels in Greater Atlantic region (i.e. NE, Mid-Atl.)
  - eVTR submission deadline: 48-hours after trip
  - Under review at GARFO now, extended rulemaking anticipated

*Note:* Council initially moved to include NE for-hire vessels in this action—decision to handle it as 2020 priority instead

# For-Hire eVTRs in New England

- There are fewer than 15 for-hire vessels in New England that are not covered under requirement of previous eVTR actions
- Majority homeported in Massachusetts; others spread across region
- In 2019, 10 were active (i.e. submitted at least one VTR)
  - 6 of the 10 submitted VTRs electronically

*Represent less than 1% of all vessels with permits for species managed by New England/Mid-Atlantic Councils*

# Moving Forward With eVTRs

- Goals for transition to eVTR:
  - reporting efficiency, timeliness of data
  - reducing administrative burden of paper VTR
  - creating parity in reporting requirements across region
- Extending consistent eVTR requirement to remaining for-hire vessels with permits for NEFMC managed species is needed to meet above goals
- Two options on table to move this forward (see next slides)

# Option 1: Extend Requirement Via 305(d)

*See Doc.2—Letter from GARFO to NEFMC re: for-hire eVTR*

- NMFS recommendation: use M-S Act 305(d) authority to extend eVTR requirement to for-hire vessels through rulemaking for commercial eVTR FW
- Streamlined approach for bringing for-hire vessels in-line with existing/anticipated eVTR requirements
  - Avoids need for separate Council action
  - Ensures parity in eVTR requirement for all species managed by New England/Mid-Atlantic Councils, including 48-hour submission deadline
  - Consider administrative burden/inefficiency of maintaining paper-VTR for a handful of vessels

# Option 2: Address Through Separate FW

- Council initiates framework to extend eVTR requirement to for-hire vessels
- Approach would follow typical process:
  - Approve range of alternatives today, vote on preferred at June meeting
  - Majority of FW would be the same as joint commercial eVTR action (i.e. information on eVTR apps, cost of transitioning to eVTR, etc.), but with scope narrowed down to < 15 for-hire vessels
  - Review, approval, and rulemaking process would be done independently of commercial eVTR FW



# Decision point

- The Council may wish to identify the method to address for-hire eVTRs:
  1. Request that NMFS use 305(d) authority to extend the eVTR requirement to for-hire vessels issued permits for NEFMC managed species
  2. Address for-hire eVTR through Council FW

- For other information on eVTRs, please refer to GARFO site at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/vessel-trip-reporting-greater-atlantic-region#electronic-vessel-trip-reporting>
- Joint Commercial eVTR FW: <https://www.nefmc.org/library/omnibus-commercial-evtr-framework>

# Questions?