



New England  
Fishery Management  
Council



**MID-ATLANTIC**  
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# Commercial Electronic VTR (eVTR) Omnibus Framework

**NEFMC Staff**

**New England Fishery Management Council  
Advisory Panels & Committees  
August/September 2019**

# Commercial eVTR Framework

- **Proposed action:** require commercial vessels with federal permits issued by GARFO to submit VTRs electronically, unify VTR submission timelines
- **Goal:** Reduce reporting burden/redundancies of paper VTR, improve reporting efficiency, decrease error
- **Note:** No changes are proposed for the data types being collected.

# Affected Permit Holders

- Vessels with Federal commercial permits for species managed by the MAFMC and NEFMC (see Table 1).

- Total of 2,929 permits holders

## Does NOT apply to:

- American lobster-only permit holders (i.e. no VTR requirement)
- NEFMC party/charter—will be addressed in future action (TBD)

Table 1. Permits for species managed by the MAFMC/NEFMC being considered in the Commercial eVTR FW.

MAFMC	NEFMC
Atlantic bluefish	Atlantic deep-sea red crab
Atlantic mackerel	Atlantic herring
black sea bass	Atlantic sea scallop
butterfish	monkfish <sup>1</sup>
ocean quahog	northeast multispecies
scup	skate
spiny dogfish <sup>1</sup>	
squid	
summer flounder	
surfclam	
tilefish	
<sup>1</sup> Jointly managed by MAFMC and NEFMC	

**If you are not already required to submit VTRs, this action does not apply to you.**

# Recent/Upcoming Activity

- **Dec 2018:** MAFMC initiated action
- **Apr 2019:** MAFMC FW meeting I
- **Jun 2019:** NEFMC initiated joint action
- **Sep 2019:** NEFMC FW meeting I, approve range of alternatives
  - Consider alternatives to change the VTR submission deadline (24hrs, 48hrs, 72hrs, weekly)

# Timeline

## After Sep '19 Council mtg:

- Dec 2019 – Jan 2020: MAFMC/NEFMC final action
- Spring 2020 – Summer 2020: outreach & training workshops
- Extended implementation following final rule (up to ~1 yr.)
- Summer 2021: eVTR requirement effective

Task Description	Date (subject to change)
Initiation	December 2018
Formation of FMAT	January/February 2019
FMAT meeting to develop initial draft alternatives/discuss analyses	March 19, 2019
Joint AP meeting	March 25, 2019
MAFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1	April 10, 2019
NEFMC Council meeting—update to NEFMC	April 16, 2019
Follow up FMAT meeting	May 10, 2019
NEFMC Council meeting—initiate Framework action	June 13, 2019
AP/industry webinar	July 23, 2019
<b>NEFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 1</b>	<b>September 2019</b>
FMAT meeting	TBD
MAFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 2 (final action)	December 2019
<b>NEFMC Council meeting—Framework meeting 2 (final action)</b>	<b>December 2019 or January 2020</b>
Finalization of Framework document; submission to NMFS	February 2020
Workshops	Spring 2020-Summer 2020
Proposed rule	March 2020
Final rule	Summer 2020
eVTR requirement implemented*	Summer 2021

\* NMFS has indicated that they would extend the implementation deadline up to a year after the final rule for adequate preparation and training for software developers, managers, and affected users.

# Additional Information

- Frequently Asked Questions Related to eVTR in Commercial Fisheries (June 2019):  
[http://www.mafmc.org/s/Q-and-A-for-commercial-evTRs\\_7\\_8\\_19.pdf](http://www.mafmc.org/s/Q-and-A-for-commercial-evTRs_7_8_19.pdf)
- eVTR Framework Discussion Document (July 2019):  
[http://www.mafmc.org/s/JointFrameworkDiscussionDocument\\_July\\_2019.pdf](http://www.mafmc.org/s/JointFrameworkDiscussionDocument_July_2019.pdf)
- GARFO Overview of Approved eVTR Software:  
<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/evtr/electronic/index.html>
- For more, see MAFMC Commercial eVTR Framework Page: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/commercial-evtr-framework>

# Questions?

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Other slides



# Current VTR Requirements

- A VTR is required for any trip on a GARFO permitted vessel when you catch fish or when your operations include activities that would support fishing
- A separate VTR page is needed each time a vessels changes gear type, mesh size or chart area
- Vessels with multiple permits are held to the most restrictive requirements
- eVTR has been authorized for all Northeast Region federally permitted vessels since 2013