



NOAA
FISHERIES

Northeast Fisheries
Science Center

Scallop Vessels Required to Use the Pre-Trip Notification System

Changes to Scallop Call-In Requirements

When does it start?

Beginning April 1, 2024, owners and/or operators taking Atlantic sea scallop trips will be required to notify NOAA Fisheries prior to each trip using the Pre-Trip Notification System (PTNS). The PTNS will replace the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system.

Why are we moving from IVR to PTNS?

The IVR system relies on aging technological infrastructure. The PTNS provides a more sophisticated and automated way to do the following: collect trip notifications; randomly and equitably select trips for coverage based on the appropriate target coverage rate for their fishing activity; offer selected trips to providers with individual vessel preference considered; inform providers and vessels when coverage is assigned.

What are some of the changes that vessels will see?

- Vessels will enter their own notifications online via the PTNS. Vessels will log into the PTNS website with their individual Fish Online username and password. This will be the primary means of trip notification and trip changes. As a backup means of notification, vessels may call 855-FISHES1 (855-347-4371) or email nefsc.ptns@noaa.gov.
- Notifications and observer assignments will now be trip-based instead of weekly for Limited Access General Category scallop trips. Vessels will be able to submit blocks of notifications on a rolling basis.
- Vessels can submit a notification anytime prior to 48 hours before the intended trip.
- Provider companies will be offered trips through the PTNS website based on vessel indicated provider preferences. Provider preferences will be randomized for all vessels at the start of the fishing year, but these can be changed at any time through the PTNS website. Vessels will not need to call each provider to check observer availability. Details on observer status and assigned provider will be available on the PTNS website.
- Scallop Research Set Aside (RSA) trips will be required to notify but will be exempt from observer coverage for fishing year 2024.

Questions?

For PTNS information, including questions about observer notification and selection, contact the PTNS Team at 855-347-4371.

For Industry-Funded Scallop (IFS) information, contact the IFS help line at 508-560-3550.

PTNS Website: <https://apps-nefsc.fisheries.noaa.gov/PTNS/>



For more details visit our Scallop PTNS webpage linked here:

