



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

March 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: A.I.S., Inc.,
East West Technical Services,
Fathoms Research LLC, and
MRAG Americas
At-Sea Monitors, Industry Funded Scallop Observers, and
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Observers

FROM: Amy S. Martins
Branch Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch (FSB)

SUBJECT:

This memo contains clarifications to the “trip definition” memo (15-017, sent December 2015). These updates are based on the 9 deployments so far in 2016 that spanned multiple trips (out of 612 deployments total).

As a reminder, the following definitions are unchanged from the previous memo:

Trip Begin: When a vessel leaves port with the intention of fishing and/or transiting to another port.

Trip End: When a vessel lands in a port after fishing and/or transiting; not necessarily the same port as trip begin.

Deployment: Period of time during which an observer is assigned to a single vessel with the intention of fishing. A single deployment may be comprised of one or more trips. A deployment begins when the observer boards a vessel with the intent to observe fishing activity and ends when the observer disembarks from the vessel.

Date/Time Boarded: When the observer arrives at the dock to begin a deployment. Only fill out for the first trip in a deployment.

Date/Time Disembark: When the observer departs the vessel at the end of a deployment. Only fill out for the last trip in a deployment.

To these definitions, we add the following amendments:

A deployment will end when the vessel either:

- Lands at the dock where they will complete their final offload (the observer does not need to be present for the offload),

- Lands at their destination port after completing the final offload (i.e., if homeport or port of origin differs from the port of final offload),
- Returns to dock without fishing and with no intent to resume fishing (i.e., aborted trip), or
- Returns to dock with the intent to resume fishing, but more than 48 hours elapse in port between trips.

Safety Checklists and gear measurements are only required once per deployment (as previously instructed) but we add the following:

If the observer leaves the boat for any reason between trips in a deployment, they must confirm with the captain that no changes were made to the safety equipment or fishing gear.

The observer should conduct a vessel orientation/walkthrough to verify that safety equipment is still in its original location, especially movable items such as flares. It is the observer's choice whether or not to fill out an additional Safety Checklist.

Any time the observer ends a trip during a deployment, there must be a comment on the Vessel and Trip Log explaining the reason why, and any time spent away from the vessel (e.g., "came in for weather, stayed in hotel from 2300 to 0400").

Thank you for your patience while we work through new situations and challenges from the trip definition change. If any other changes or clarifications are identified, we will send another memo. If you have any questions on defining a trip, please contact Debra Duarte at (508) 495-2304 or Debra.Duarte@noaa.gov.

Thank you.

Attachment: Trip Definition – Questions and Answers (updated)