

## TRIP DATA RELEASE FORM

**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT:** The information provided on this form will be used to ensure that the data for a specific trip is not provided to a person who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Meeting those confidentiality requirements is critical for collecting information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the MSA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-2266. Providing the requested information is required to deliver the copy of the trip to the requested location and to release the trip data. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. This is an approved information collection under OMB Control No. 0648-xxx through xx/xx/2012.

### **POLICY FOR DATA REQUESTS OF NMFS OBSERVER-OBTAINED INFORMATION**

- 1) The only individuals who may request and receive data include: the owner(s), or the captain acting as an authorized representative for the owner(s), or a vessel participating in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Observer Program. No other individuals may be issued any data under this policy.
- 2) Any data request must be submitted in writing on a form letter which may be obtained from a NMFS Observer, or the address below. Two signatures are required on this letter: that of the individual requesting the data, and that of the individual releasing the data. All letters must then be returned to the following address:

Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097

Any questions or other requests relating to data release should also be directed to the above address.

- 3) It should be understood that upon release of the requested data, the recipient then becomes responsible for it.
- 4) The individual signing the letter as the “releasor” must issue the information in compliance with this policy.

- 5) Data may not be released upon an oral request, or without first completing and signing the authorized release letter mentioned above.
- 6) Field diaries do not meet the specifications of releasable data under the policy. No field diaries may be copied for, or reviewed by, vessel owners or captains.
- 7) Release of data for trips in which more than 1 vessel participated (i.e. pair trawl trips) may only occur if both vessel owners or captains complete and sign data release letters.
- 8) Any requests for historical data (i.e. data that an observer has already mailed in) should be forwarded to the address above.
- 9) All letters should be completed in pen, not pencil.



**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

OMB Control No.: 0648-xxxx  
 Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

**Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Confidentiality Waiver Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, owner or authorized representative of the  
 fishing vessel, \_\_\_\_\_, CG Documentation # \_\_\_\_\_,

submit this form under Section 402(b) (1) (F) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1881a(b) (1) (F), to authorize the release of observer information collected for fishery conservation and management purposes aboard the aforementioned vessel to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Observer Data Waiver Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner/Authorized Representative Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Signed

**Please return to:**  
 Amy Van Atten, Branch Chief  
 Fisheries Sampling Branch  
 NOAA Fisheries  
 166 Water Street  
 Woods Hole, MA 02543