



Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries

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Notice to Horseshoe Crab Permit Holders: Reporting Requirements

As of May 1, 2025, **electronic reporting is required for all commercial horseshoe crab harvest** (250-RICR-90-00-5.7(2)(b.)). All trips must be documented electronically and submitted to the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Reporting System (SAFIS) within 48 hours of the end of the trip. Weekly phone reporting and monthly paper reports are no longer required. Permit holders must be in compliance with commercial fishing data reporting requirements pursuant to Part 2 of the RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries regulations (250-RICR-90-00-2). The following additional data elements are required:

- Area and sub area fished.
- Sex of horseshoe crabs taken (Market Code).
- Number of horseshoe crabs taken (Units = Count).

If you do not have an account for electronic reporting, you must set one up. For more information on how to sign up for an account please refer to the attached document or on the internet visit <https://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/safis/etrrips-mobile-instructions/>.

Getting Up and Running with SAFIS eTrips to Submit Electronic Trip Reports

Starting in 2025, all commercial horseshoe crab harvesters are required to submit electronic logbook reports. There are several options available to submit reports. Any software applications accepted by NOAA Fisheries meet the requirements and can be found here: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/resources-fishing/electronic-vessel-trip-reporting-software-options>. While there are multiple options available for reporting, many are likely to choose the free SAFIS eTrips platform offered by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP). **Note that it is the responsibility of the developer of each system and not RIDEM, to provide support and instruction for their system!**

There are two versions of eTrips. **eTrips/Mobile** allows users to enter fishing reports directly into a mobile device (cell phone or tablet computer) while on the water or transcribe paper reports (completed on the water) once on land. **eTrips Online** is designed for users to transcribe paper reports (completed on the water) into a web-based form using a personal computer once they return to the dock. The following sections provide instructions for getting started with both versions of eTrips.

eTrips/Mobile

eTrips/Mobile is the mobile-based version of ACCSP's eTrips application that allows captains to capture their catch and effort data while at sea, independent of a full-time internet connection. This application is available on tablets on Apple, Android, and Windows platforms. There is no need for an internet connection at sea.

eTrips Online

eTrips is a web-based application that compiles catch and effort data from fishermen. This application allows fishermen to create trip reports after entering in the required fields in the trip, effort, and catch categories.

User Instructions

1. Obtain a SAFIS User Name and Password.

You will need to provide RIDEM with some information for us to set up an account. Please fill out the form on our website with the requested information. To find the form on our website:

1. Go to www.dem.ri.gov
2. On the upper navigation bar under "Natural Resources Bureau" Click on "Marine Fisheries"
3. On the left, click on "Commercial Fishing/Dealer Resources"

4. Click “Commercial Licensing & Logbooks”
5. Below the chart under “Electronic Reporting for Fishermen,” click “Sign Up for Online Harvester Catch and Effort Reporting (eTRIPS and eTRIPS Mobile)”

You will be emailed your account information once processed. If you already have a SAFIS account and have forgotten your SAFIS username and/or password, contact the helpdesk at **1-800-984-0810** or mobile_support@accsp.org.

2. Access eTrips

For eTrip -Mobile: The application is available in the iOS, Google Play, and Windows app stores for free. Download the application to your iPhone or iPad in the App Store (iOS), to your Android device in the Google Play store, or Windows store for windows tablets/computers.

Note: There are two versions of eTrips/Mobile: an evaluation and a production version. Be sure to download the **production** version or your reports will not be submitted!

For eTrips Online: The eTrips online system can be found on the SAFIS web site here: https://safis.accsp.org:8443/safis_prod/f?p=SAFIS:101. It is recommended that you bookmark the site (Ctrl-D) for ease of access in the future.

3. Learn to use the application

For eTrips-Mobile: Watch the user tutorials provided at <http://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/safis/etrips-mobile-instructions> to learn how to use the application. An informative video about the application is available here: <http://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/safis/etrips>. For help with reporting issues contact Harborlight Software: <https://www.harborlightsoftware.com/etrips-support>.

For eTrips Online: A presentation of step by step instructions is provided here: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/shelp.pdf>. Additional support can be found here: <https://www.accsp.org/what-we-do/safis/etrips-mobile-instructions/>

4. Login to eTrips and set up favorites

Using your SAFIS username and password, login to either eTrips – Mobile or eTrips Online and set up “favorites” for your account. You can set up favorites for your vessel(s), species, ports, etc. This creates a short list of commonly used choices which will speed up data entry. They can be changed or added to at any time.

5. Start reporting your trips

For eTrips-Mobile: Start documenting your trips on the tablet/cell phone while aboard your vessel. When finished, you upload the reports when you are back on shore and connected to Wi-Fi. You may also complete paper reports at sea for transcribing into eTRIPS Mobile on land. If

you have any questions or technical issues, contact the SAFIS helpdesk at 1-800-984-0810 or email support@harborlightsoftware.com.

For eTrips Online: Start documenting your trips in your captain's logbook while on board your vessel. When back at home you have 48 hours to enter the data and report your trip using a home computer and internet connection. If you have any questions or technical issues, contact Coly Ares (401) 423-1926 Nichole.Ares@dem.ri.gov, Tom Rosa at (401) 423-1923 Thomas.Rosa@dem.ri.gov, or the SAFIS helpdesk at 1-800-984-0810 or email mobile_support@accsp.org.