



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 15, 2016

CONTACT: Ali Schwaab  
info@accsp.org

## **NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Authorizes eTrips/Mobile for Use in Electronic Trip Reporting**

Arlington, VA– NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) announced today that the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program’s (ACCSP) eTrips/Mobile (eTrips/M), a mobile electronic vessel trip reporting (eVTR) application, has now been authorized for the purpose of eVTR submission in the Greater Atlantic Region (Maine through North Carolina).

Trip reports provide catch and effort data to state and federal agencies for use in fisheries management and stock assessments. eVTR allows fishermen to fulfill these reporting requirements electronically, expediting the reporting process, improving reporting accuracy, and producing near real-time landings and catch data that can be accessed by multiple state and federal agencies immediately.

ACCSP’s eTrips/M takes eVTR a step further, enabling harvesters to work on and complete trip reports on a portable device that is capable of operating independently of a full-time internet connection, meaning fishermen can complete and submit reports while still at sea. Rick Bellavance, Captain of Priority Too and President of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association, describes the advantages of a mobile eVTR application, “Designed by fishermen and utilizing the latest technology, eTrips/M dramatically reduces our reporting burden while providing more accurate and timely industry data to the states, the ACCSP, and now GARFO. The eTrips/M application will increase data accuracy and make data available immediately to fisheries managers, improving their ability to respond to changes in the fishery in a more timely way.”

eTrips/M is designed to work in both commercial and charter/headboat fisheries, and is free for anyone who wishes to use it in jurisdictions that have adopted electronic trip reporting through the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). The app can be downloaded from the Apple, Android, and Microsoft app stores. eTrips/M training videos are available on the ACCSP website.

### **About the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program**

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org).