

On Tue, Apr 16, 2024 at 9:14 AM <noreply@fisheryfacts.com> emailed (system pop-up message:

FACTS Charter Pilot: Modified 2024 Permit Agreement - Updated Special Harvest Flexibility

Dear Charter Pilot Program Participant,

The purpose of this message is to provide an update regarding the recent change to the E-Reporting with FACTS Charter Pilot Program special harvest flexibility.

The current Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) fisheries management plan for striped bass does not support the two-fish-per-angler option previously offered to program participants. DNR Fishing and Boating Services sought and received approval from ASMFC to offer a modified special harvest flexibility for the upcoming for-hire season. As a result, captains participating in the FACTS Charter Pilot Program will be able to land up to two additional striped bass (one for the captain and one for a mate, if present, per day) in addition to their client's 1 fish per person limit.

Do I need a new Charter Permit Agreement? No, your permit has already been updated in FACTS to reflect the modified special harvester flexibility.

- * Learn more with the [2024 FACTS Charter Pilot Program - Special Harvest Flexibility FAQ](#)
- * View the updated [2024 Charter Pilot Permit Agreement](#)
- * Crew Count and Angler Count - Since the new flexibility is dependent on the number of people on the vessel, it is very important that both the Crew Count and Angler Count are accurate in the Start and End Hails for each trip.
- * Helpful Program Materials:
 - [Charter Pilot Quick Start Guide](#)
 - [Starting and Ending a Charter Trip in FACTS video](#)
 - [Best Reporting Practices flyer](#) Reminder - Start your trip *before* you leave the dock and send your End Hail *at least 30 minutes before* returning with your catch.

What do I need to do if I want to return to using paper reports? Contact the E-Reporting Team and request to Opt Out of the Charter Pilot Program. This includes signing and submitting an Opt Out form, which authorizes the deactivation of your account for charter trip reporting. Please allow at least 4-5 business days for the processing of the request.

- * Until an Opt Out request is finalized, you should continue to submit your trip reports using FACTS.
- * Once switched back to paper reports, you will need to submit your trip reports *weekly*. FACTS takes care of the "no trips" reporting requirement, but a paper report is required even when no trips were taken that week.

Questions?

Contact the E-Reporting Team at 410-260-8314 or fisheriesereporting.dnr@maryland.gov

Text Message Sent:

FACTS Charter Pilot: Modified 2024 Permit Agreement – Updated Special Harvest Flexibility *
https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/FACTS_CharterPilotFlexibility_FAQ.pdf