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FISHERIES**

Findings of the Commercial Electronic Logbook Pilot Project

Southeast Fisheries Science Center



NOAA FISHERIES

E-log Project Update: Vendor Participation

- Vendors Participating
 - Electricedge
 - Off-shore lobster
 - ACCSP



- More vendors are expected to produce operational versions once data collection standards are finalized.



E-log Project Findings: Pilot Participants



- 8 laptops and 3 iPads were deployed on a total of 12 vessels, with one utilizing existing on-board PC.
- Of the 12 vessels, nine submitted data in some capacity totaling 58 trips.
 - Of the three non-reporting vessels, two did not fish and the remaining vessel's device experienced a software problem
- Gears used included bandit, hand line, longline (reef and pelagic), buoy, and trap (fish). 3 of the vessels were mixed gear.
 - 6 South Atlantic
 - 5 from North Carolina
 - 1 From Florida
 - 2 HMS
 - 1 South Florida (buoy, trolling)
 - 1 North Carolina/Mass. (longline)
 - 4 Gulf
 - 2 Florida (reef longline/hand line)
 - 2 TX (bandit)

E-log Project Update: Progress and Timeline

- ✓ Vendors finalized **pilot** software and delivered to SEFSC late April, early May (2015).
- ✓ SEFSC finalized infrastructure to receive electronic logbooks for the pilot.
 - ✓ Receipt of e-logbooks based on Secure FTP server set-up by ACCSP
- ✓ 1st Recruitment of volunteer fishers for Pilot Fleet completed
 - ✓ 10 Fishers/vessel owners (ranging from Galveston to North Carolina)
 - ✓ 12 Vessels testing a variety of gears (e.g., handline, bandit reel, reef LL, pelagic LL, and trap gear in NC sea bass fishery)
- ✓ Jan/Feb 2016- **Data collection completed/feedback from fishermen provided to vendors.**
 - ✓ **Fishermen submitted eReports in several capacities.**
 - ✓ Reports submitted via at-dock wi-fi , home wi-fi, and through a vendor's web portal
 - ✓ Hardware has been reclaimed
 - Some fishermen will retain hardware for some additional testing
 - Reporting via cellular/4G LTE network
 - Data Collection standards being finalized



Participant Feedback

- Fishermen have provided regular feedback on eLog use.
 - Including feedback on hardware use, software use, and the overall experience in collecting and submitting data.
- Feedback provided to the vendors and is currently being incorporated into the operational version.
 - **Perception and use of eLog varies**
 - Feedback suggests that perception varies depending on gear use and species targeted.
 - Gear use determines how many sets are logged/amount of interaction with eLog
 - More species targeted also increases amount of time spent on eLog
 - Perceptions further dependent upon previous experience with computers, space available in the cabin, and the software version being used.

Pilot Findings

- Results showed some changes to data collection standards were needed
 - Many data points could be obtained from other sources (i.e., dealer reports), eliminating need for fishermen to enter on eLog.
 - Most Gear types can facilitate set-based reporting. Hand line and cast net scaled back to sub-trip reporting (24 hours).
- Hardware issues were a major concern for fleet
 - Small and/or exposed cabins and relatively small crews create the need for smaller laptops and tablets that can be weatherized and integrated into current fishing methods.
- Large increase in quantity and quality of catch/effort data above current logbook methods
 - Catch/effort data logged over multiple days likely with multiple sets each day
 - Reports contained finer spatial and temporal data generated automatically by eLog.

Feasibility of eLogs for Southeast and HMS Fisheries

- eLogs are a feasible option for SE and HMS fisheries
 - Range of technological options to fit into specific fisheries and vessels
- Data collection at finer scales
- Reports can be submitted more timely and contain fewer errors
- eLogs retain catch history and notes on conditions for specific trips for fishermen to access later
- Improving technology allows flexibility in hardware choices