

OVERVIEW

Data Collection Committee Meeting

March 10, 2016

Westin Jekyll Island
110 Ocean Way
Jekyll Island, Georgia

The Data Collection Committee will: (A) receive updates on bycatch monitoring, the commercial logbook pilot study, and commercial logbook electronic reporting; (B) review the For-Hire Reporting Amendment; and (D) receive an update on the Citizen Science Workshop and review the program blueprint.

1) Approval of Agenda

2) Approval of Minutes: December 2015

3) Bycatch Monitoring Report

Jack McGovern, SERO, will provide an update on bycatch reporting (**Attachment 1**).

Background (Attachment 2)

CE-BA 3 initially included actions addressing VMS, for-hire reporting, and commercial reporting. These were removed in December 2012, leaving only actions related to bycatch reporting. Since then this amendment has faced many challenges. First, questions arose in March 2013 regarding how Council actions up to that time met bycatch reporting requirements of MSA. A detailed analysis planned by NOAA GC, initially scheduled for presentation in September 2013, was rescheduled several times due to workload issues and government shutdown and finally provided to the Council in March 2014. Next, by this time, similar amendments in the Northeast region had been disapproved, largely due to funding issues, and it seemed likely that CEBA3 would face a similar fate so the Council delayed further action. The Council has since received several presentations on efforts in other regions, from NMFS and MAFMC staff. In September 2014, SEFSC and SERO agreed to draft a comprehensive bycatch reporting system for the Southeast. The Council requested regular updates on this effort.

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

4) Commercial Logbook Pilot Study Update

In December 2015 the Committee was informed that field work was complete and data evaluation was underway. At this meeting, Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, will provide an update on the pilot study (**Attachment 3**).

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

5) Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting Progress

Mike Cahall of ACCSP will provide the committee with an update on electronic reporting efforts (**Attachment 4**).

Background (Attachment 5)

The Council has directed that electronic reporting should be an option for commercial fishermen currently required to file paper logbooks. Systems to accommodate electronic reporting by commercial fishermen are in place in a number of other regions and states. The ACCSP is involved in many of these efforts on the Atlantic coast, by serving as recipient of data reported by electronic means as well as supporting research and development of reporting tools and applications. ACCSP is currently working on the final stages of implementation in the Northeast, with the system accepted by NMFS GARFO this month. Progress is also being made in the Southeast, consistent with the June 2014 motion of the Council to develop an electronic reporting system. So far, ACCSP has secured access to the permits database through SERO and is working with SEFSC on data elements. The NMFS SEFSC should accept the data feeds from this system in the very near future.

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

6) For-Hire Reporting Amendment

This amendment addresses reporting in the for-hire segment, including actions for mandatory, trip level reporting in the charter segment, modification of the timing of reporting in the headboat segment, and location reporting requirements for the charter segment. Progress and background on amendment development is provided in **attachment 6**.

The for-hire reporting amendment was taken to public hearing January 25-February 5, 2016. The Committee will be provided a summary of the public hearing comments (**Attachment 7**), and is asked to consider revisions of actions in response to public comment and IPT review (**Attachment 8**). The current complete text of the amendment, including IPT edits, is provided as **Attachment 9**.

ACTION

- Review public comments and IPT suggestions
- Modify the amendment as necessary, approve all actions, and provide guidance for next steps.

6) Citizen Science Program

The Council expressed interest in a Citizen Science program to address the many outstanding data needs and take advantage of repeated offers by constituents to contribute to data collection efforts. An organizing committee of Council members, staff and interested parties was assembled to address the challenge of starting such a program. As a first major step, to judge interest and obtain broad feedback on a possible citizen science program, a workshop was held January 19-22 in Charleston, SC. Following the workshop, and relying heavily upon the discussion and recommendations provided, the Organizing Committee developed a program blueprint (**Attachment 10**) for Council to consider. The Committee will be presented with the blueprint at this meeting and asked to provide guidance on how to proceed.

ACTION

- Review citizen science blueprint
- Provide guidance on how to proceed with the program