



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Update on modification to commercial coastal logbook program





Background

- The commercial coastal logbook program collects data from commercial vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Atlantic
- In the South Atlantic, commercial fishermen holding Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, or Coastal Migratory Pelagic permits are required to fill out a paper logbook within 7 days of completing a trip and mail it to the SEFSC
- A subset (20%) of commercial coastal logbook participants are selected to also fill out an economic or discard survey for a year
 - Mailed out separately from coastal logbook
 - Mandatory to complete if selected



Background

This amendment would modify the FMPs for:

- South Atlantic Snapper Grouper,
- Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo,
- Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics,
- Gulf Reef Fish

to require commercial logbooks be submitted via electronic reporting forms instead of the currently used paper-based forms.



Benefits of electronic logbook

- Accommodates vessels with multiple permits (one-stop reporting)
- Better compliance and timeliness for permit renewal
- More accurate information



What will change?

Commercial logbook data fields have already been integrated into eTRIPS to be compatible with Atlantic standards through the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)

- See Spreadsheet
- The data will then be made available to NMFS from ACCSP
- Timing for reporting will be unchanged (7 days)

Voluntary (unless selected by NMFS) portions of the commercial electronic program (economic and discard surveys)

- The economic survey will have some additional data fields to be compatible with ACCSP's database
- Discards will be reported when completing the commercial logbook
- These two surveys will remain voluntary unless selected



Why are there more data fields in the electronic logbook?

- To streamline data collection across federal and state agencies
- To accommodate vessels with multiple permits so the correct information is collected
- In general, the additional fields either collect the same information, but in a different way than on paper (gutted vs whole weight) or ask for a better estimate of the trip duration or characteristic (end/start port or trip end time).
- Changing existing data fields would require the ACCSP committee agreeing to changes.



Timing of development

Oct 2022	Gulf Council approves for public hearings
Dec 2022	SA Council approves for public hearings
Winter 2022	Councils conduct public hearings
Jan 2023	Gulf Council approves for formal review
March 2023	SA Council approves for formal review
Late 2023	Final rule published
Early 2024	Regulations effective



Next Steps

- Draft amendment document being developed
- Obtain input from APs this fall
- Consider approval for public hearings in December 2022



Extra slides

- Demo of eVTR using eTRIPS:

<https://youtu.be/spbGZiu7xqA?t=610>