

Fisheries Information System National Observer Program

FY 2017 Project Abstract

Project: SAFMC - Recreational Permit/Electronic Reporting for Private Recreational Anglers NMFS/Snook & Gamefish Foundation/ACCSP/SAFMC

Area of Interest: Electronic Reporting Development and Implementation

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Date: 10/14/2016

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Proposal must be approved by the Regional Administrator/Deputy, Science Center Director/Deputy, Headquarters Office Director/Deputy, or equivalent. Multiple submissions from one organization should be prioritized. The FIS Program Management Office will request approval and prioritization of proposals by the approvers prior to proposal review.

1. Public Description

The private recreational fishery is a significant component of the catch and harvest of snapper grouper species in the South Atlantic region; however, data are limited on the number of participants, catch and harvest, and the size distribution of discards. Of particular concern is red snapper, which has not had an open season since 2014. To gather additional data, an app would be modified by the Snook & Gamefish Foundation that would create a recreational snapper grouper permit for individual fishermen and provide a platform to report recreational catch and discard data electronically. The data would then flow through an application program interface to the SAFIS database, where the data can be accessed by the public and managing partners. The application would also be used to collect information on the size composition of discards and alert fishermen of managed areas. When fully implemented, the application will provide an improved estimate of landings and discards, potentially reduce bycatch of red snapper in closed areas, and provide additional data previously unavailable that can be incorporated into stock assessments.

2. Support FIS/NOP Vision

The proposal would support the FIS/NOP vision through emphasis on electronic means for reporting building on existing work or seek to develop new or upgraded technologies.

3. Organization

Southeast Regional Office