

Fisheries Information System National Observer Program

FY 2017 Project Abstract

Project: South Atlantic Council Outreach for Electronic Reporting Activities

Area of Interest: Electronic Reporting Development and Implementation

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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

Interest in programs to improve the timeliness and accuracy of data collected in all fishery sectors is increasing in the South Atlantic region. Electronic reporting has recently been implemented for federal dealers and headboats in the region and the South Atlantic Council is currently developing an amendment to require electronic reporting in the charter vessel sector. With the development of these new data collection mechanisms, fishermen need to understand the importance of the data they report, why they are being asked to report trip level data, how those data are being used, and how the reporting frequency plays a role in being able to more accurately track landings to better manage fisheries. Additionally, in order to encourage early adoption of reporting compliance once the requirement is made effective, fishermen need to be trained on the use of electronic reporting platforms and have access to customer service support to troubleshoot issues that may arise with using the reporting platform. Furthermore, law enforcement officers need training support outlining electronic reporting requirements in order to be able to effectively enforce reporting compliance regulations. To support the upcoming electronic reporting requirements in the South Atlantic charter vessel sector, the project will develop pre-implementation and implementation training and outreach programs about electronic reporting systems targeting charter captains and law enforcement officers throughout the region. The project will also develop a customer service support system to provide real-time troubleshooting guidance to charter captains and law enforcement officers on issues that may arise with the electronic reporting system.

2. Support FIS/NOP Vision

The proposed work supports the FIS/NOP vision associated with the collection of harvest data, i.e. fishery dependent data through electronic means. The project would emphasize ER outreach plans and communication efforts.

3. Organization

Southeast Regional Office