OPTIONS PAPER COMMERCIAL LOGBOOK REPORTING

June 1, 2014

Introduction

At the March 2014 meeting, the committee expressed interest in future discussions about providing the opportunity for fishermen to report electronically, in addition to using paper. The Committee/Council directed staff to provide some options on how commercial fishermen could report electronically and via paper and provide at the June 2014 meeting.

Background

The South Atlantic Council worked extensively on options for commercial logbook reporting in CE-BA 3 during 2011 and 2012. This work included scoping, public hearings, committee meetings, public input at Council meetings, and Council meetings. CE-BA 3 was scheduled for final approval by the Gulf Council at their November 2012 meeting but it was not presented to the Gulf Council for their final review and approval because there were two actions with no preferred alternatives. The South Atlantic Council was scheduled to select preferred alternatives for the remaining actions and approve the amendment for formal review at their December 2012 meeting. The amendment would then be submitted for formal review in January 2013 and presented to the Gulf Council at their February 2013 meeting for their review and approval.

<u>At the December 2012 meeting</u>, the committee discussed Action 2. Commercial reporting and the following motion was made:

MOTION #3: REMOVE ACTION 2 FROM CEBA3 AND WORK WITH THE GULF COUNCIL ON A JOINT AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS COMMERCIAL LOGBOOK ISSUES (ADDRESS COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING TIME LINES, NO FISHING REPORTS, MANDATORY ELECTRONIC REPORTS WITH PROVISION FOR EXTREME EVENTS) **APPROVED BY COMMITTEE APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

<u>At the March 2013 meeting</u>, the following information was included in the Data Collection Committee Overview: At the December 2012 meeting, the South Atlantic Council moved the commercial logbook reporting action into a separate amendment, directed staff to work with the Gulf Council to determine if they would work with us on a joint amendment, and coordinate with the SEFSC on removal of several reporting items on the commercial logbook form. A summary of the issue with the action/alternatives as discussed by the South Atlantic Council was provided to the Gulf Council for their February 2013 meeting. The Gulf Council approved a motion agreeing to work cooperatively with the South Atlantic Council on development of the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Commercial Logbook Reporting Amendment. The South Atlantic Council made the following motion related to logbook reporting:

MOTION #9: APPROVE THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:

- 3. Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Logbook Reporting Amendment:
 - a. Continue working with the Gulf Council to develop this amendment

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b. Coordinate with the SEFSC on removal of several reporting items on the commercial logbook form and provide a status report at the June 2013 meeting

c. Work with the SEFSC to develop a schedule of meetings/workgroup with commercial fishermen in the Gulf and South Atlantic to work on developing the electronic logbook and bring back to the committee at the June 2013 meeting

d. Direct the IPT to work on the wording and structure of the action/alternatives and bring back to the committee at the June 2013 meeting

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

<u>At the June 2013 meeting</u>, the following information was included in the Data Collection Committee Overview: The IPT met on April 1, 2013 and their report was included. The Gulf participants viewed the process beginning at square one while the South Atlantic Council staff viewed the process as taking what the South Atlantic Council had approved and developing similar wording for the Gulf. In addition, the SEFSC will not be ready to implement changes across the fisheries with a commercial logbook until 2016. The IPT is requesting guidance on how to proceed. Council staff provided an update on staff/IPT work on the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Logbook Reporting Amendment. The Committee/Council discussed the need for this amendment and provided guidance to staff as reflected below in the Timing and Task Motion.

MOTION #5: APPROVE THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:

1. Schedule a NMFS SEFSC presentation on the details of the commercial electronic logbook pilot study at the September 2013 meeting and direct staff to work with Gulf staff and NMFS staff to plan for completion of the amendment incorporating results from year 1 of the pilot study and target regulations being effective on January 1, 2016.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

<u>At the September 2013 meeting</u>, the following information was included in the Data Collection Committee Overview: At their June meeting, the Council requested a presentation for the September 2013 meeting on details of the commercial electronic logbook pilot project. Council staff provided an overview of the NOAA Electronic Data Reporting Directive. The SEFSC gave presentations on the logbook pilot and changes to the current logbook form (**Attachment 1**). The Summary from the South Atlantic commercial logbook actions was included. Council staff provided a brief review of the NOAA Electronic Data Reporting Directive and the potential for cost sharing by the industry; George LaPointe will be giving a detailed presentation at the December Council meeting. Dr. Ponwith reviewed the status of the commercial electronic logbook pilot project that began in August 2013. The project will last 12-18 months and after the pilot, the SEFSC would be ready to implement this assuming funding is available. The Committee discussed the timing for this amendment and provided guidance to staff as reflected below in the Timing and Task Motion.

MOTION #3: APPROVE THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:

1. Request the SEFSC provide updates at each Council meeting on progress of the commercial electronic logbook pilot study and direct staff to defer work on the amendment until the pilot is completed.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

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At the December 2013 meeting, NMFS provided an update on the commercial logbook reporting pilot project (**Attachment 2**). Dr. Bonnie Ponwith updated the committee on the status of this project and delays resulting from the recent government closure. The SEFSC is still aiming for full implementation of the project during 2016 depending on funding.

At the March 2014 meeting, NMFS provided an update on the commercial logbook reporting pilot project (**Attachment 3**). Dr. Bonnie Ponwith updated the committee on the status of this project. The committee discussed the original intent to provide fishermen the option of filing their logbook form electronically or using the current paper logbook versus the current pilot study evaluating an on-vessel electronic logbook. Input from the Snapper Grouper visioning process thus far indicates support for reporting electronically rather than via paper. The committee expressed interest in future discussions about providing the opportunity for fishermen to report electronically, in addition to using paper. The following motion was approved:

MOTION: ACCEPT THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:

1. Direct staff to provide some options on how commercial fishermen could report electronically and via paper and provide at the June 2014 meeting.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

<u>At the June 2014 meeting</u>, NMFS will provide an update on the commercial logbook reporting pilot project (see Attachment 4 in the Data Collection Committee, June BB materials).

COMMITTEE ACTION: Review the options and provide guidance on how to proceed.

Option 1. Continue to wait for completion of the pilot project and hope NMFS has sufficient funding to implement the changes in 2016.

Option 2. Direct staff to work with ACCSP in developing a commercial logbook electronic data entry form. NMFS SEFSC would provide the data elements and participate in the development. NMFS SERO would also participate and provide the linkage to the permits database. Discussion

The program would basically track what the Council had previously approved in CE-BA 3 (see below). The Council could apply for ACCSP funding to develop this system. The fishermen would hit one button that would simultaneously send the data to ACCSP, NMFS, and the state as required.

Option 3. Others???

ATTACHMENT 3

Materials taken directly from CEBA 3 (11/26/12)

4.2 Action 2. Amend the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin and Wahoo, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources, and Golden Crab Fishery Management Plans to modify data reporting for commercial vessels

Alternative 1. (No Action) Retain existing data reporting systems for the commercial sector. Snapper grouper logbooks for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo are required to be submitted 7 days after the end of each trip. Golden crab logbooks must be submitted not later than 30 days after sale of the golden crab offloaded from a trip. If no fishing occurred during a calendar month for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, or golden crab, a report so stating must be submitted on one of the forms postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of that month. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper grouper has been issued, who is selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring reporting program as directed by the SRD.

Preferred Alternative 2. Require NMFS to develop a system for commercial permit holders to submit their logbook entries electronically via an electronic version of the logbook made available via computer or internet. Fishermen are encouraged to submit their logbook reports electronically but would be allowed to submit paper logbooks. Commercial landings and catch/effort data are to be submitted in accordance with ACCSP standards. Require that logbooks (landings/economic and bycatch) be submitted within 21 days after the end of each trip.

The IPT recommends the timing be considered separately and Council staff provided the following language for sub-alternatives.

Sub-alternative a. Require that logbooks (landings/economic and bycatch) be submitted within 7 days after the end of each trip.

Preferred Sub-alternative b. Require that logbooks (landings/economic and bycatch) be submitted within 21 days after the end of each trip.

Preferred Alternative 3. Require "No fishing forms" must be submitted at the same frequency [currently submitted monthly], via the same process, and for all species as is currently specified for snapper grouper species. A fisherman would only be authorized to sell commercially harvested species if the fisherman's previous reports have been submitted by the fisherman and received by NMFS in a timely manner. Any delinquent reports would need to be submitted by the fisherman and received by NMFS before a fisherman could sell commercially harvested species from a federally permitted U.S. vessel.

The SEFSC proposes the following alternative and Council staff have included the wording with the addition of sub-alternatives as discussed above.

New Proposed Alternative 4. Require NMFS to define file specifications and transmission methods for an output file from an electronic logbook, which will enable permit holders to enter

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logbook entries electronically via an electronic version of the logbook made available via computer or internet. Fishermen are required to submit their logbook reports electronically via a computer or via internet web-entry based on vessel attributes as defined by the SRD. Commercial catch and effort data are to be submitted in accordance with ACCSP standards. Require that catch and bycatch logbooks be completed before the vessel ties up at the end of the trip and are submitted by the reporting deadline specified below. Economic logbook information must be completed and sent by the deadline specified below, along with the catch/discard logbook.

Sub-alternative a. Require that logbooks (landings/economic and bycatch) be submitted within 7 days after the end of each trip.

Sub-alternative b. Require that logbooks (landings/economic and bycatch) be submitted within 21 days after the end of each trip.

Note: It is the Council's intent that Action 2 alternatives apply to all vessels with a king or Spanish mackerel commercial permit fishing for Atlantic migratory groups of king and/or Spanish mackerel or cobia.

Background

Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan and Amendments

The Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Snapper Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Snapper Grouper FMP; SAFMC 1983) was prepared by the South Atlantic Council and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on August 31, 1983 [48 Federal Register 39463]. Management Measure #18: Statistical Reporting and Data Collection: "Data will be collected from a sample of commercial and recreational catch for YPR analysis. Those fishermen and dealers selected must make their fish available for inspection (measurement) by statistical reporting agents. Dealers will continue voluntary reporting of landings and value by species for those species reported in Fishery Statistics of the United States."

Amendment 4 to the Snapper Grouper FMP (SAFMC 1991b) was prepared by the South Atlantic Council and approved by the Secretary of Commerce on August 26, 1991 and all regulations were effective on January 1, 1992, except the bottom longline prohibition for wreckfish was implemented on October 25, 1991 [56 Federal Register 56016]. Data measures included in Amendment 4 follow.

To exceed bag limits in the snapper grouper fishery, an owner or operator of a vessel that fishes in South Atlantic federal waters is required to obtain an annual vessel permit. For individuals to qualify for a permit they must have at least 50 percent of their earned income, or \$20,000 in gross sales, derived from commercial, charter, or headboat fishing. For a corporation to be eligible for a permit, the corporation or shareholder or officer of the corporation or the vessel operator would be required to have at least \$20,000 in gross sales derived from commercial fishing. For partnerships, the general partner or operator of the vessel is required to meet the same qualifications as a corporation. A permit, gear, and vessel and trap identifications are required to fish with black sea bass traps. Amendment 4 also established reporting requirements

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for dealers in item number 3 of Action 4 to track the Gulf Council's reef fish regulations as closely as is feasible.

Amendment 6 to the Snapper Grouper FMP (SAFMC 1993b) was prepared by the South Atlantic Council and submitted to the Secretary of Commerce in December 1993. Commercial trip limits for snowy grouper and golden tilefish became effective June 6, 1994, and the remainder of the regulations became effective June 27, 1994 [59 Federal Register 27242]. Amendment 6 indicated data would be collected to evaluate shifts in fishing effort (effort shifts) among fisheries and for future evaluation of an "Individual Transferable Quota" (ITQ) type of management approach. Action 12 proposed to track and monitor total quotas by species to ensure that the total allowable catch is not exceeded and to document production by species by individual fishermen. Amendment 6 required 100 percent logbook coverage and some form of verification with information from dealers. This in effect required the SRD to select and analyze mandatory logbooks for all snapper grouper permitted vessels. The catch by divers was to be separated by gear (powerheads, spearing, etc.). Amendment 6 was approved on May 5, 1994 with the exception of the 100 percent logbook coverage [Note: Rationale for rejection was "The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) believes that the methods employed to obtain necessary management data and the appropriate sampling strategy for such data are determinations properly made by the Science Director of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center." NMFS did and has to date continued the 100% logbook coverage.] and the anchoring prohibition within the Oculina Bank.

Golden Crab Fishery Management Plan

The FMP for the Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (SAFMC 1995) was prepared by the South Atlantic Council and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on August 27, 1996 [61 Federal Register 43952]. The FMP required vessel permits (Action 14), dealer permits (Action 15), vessel/fishermen reporting (Action 16), and dealer reporting (Action 17).

Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery Management Plan

The FMP for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic (SAFMC 2003) was prepared by the South Atlantic Council in cooperation with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. The FMP was implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on May 27, 2004 [69 Federal Register 30235]. The FMP required dealer permits (Action 3), for-hire and commercial vessel permits (Action 4) (Note: NOAA Fisheries disapproved the qualifying criteria proposed to obtain a commercial vessel permit.), and for-hire and commercial operator's permits (Action 5). The FMP also required reporting of vessel permit holders (commercial and for-hire) and included the reporting requirements as specified in the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) through Action 6.

Coastal Migratory Pelagics Fishery Management Plan and Amendments

The FMP for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerels) (GMFMC and SAFMC 1983) was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on February 4, 1983 [48 Federal Register 5270]. The FMP specified statistical reporting measures (Section 12.3.6).

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Amendment 1 (GMFMC and SAFMC 1985) was prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) and South Atlantic Council and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on August 28, 1985 [50 Federal Register 34840]. Amendment 1 required commercial king mackerel permits to fish under the commercial quota on the Gulf king mackerel group; these vessels are exempt from the recreational bag limit. The amendment also specified statistical reporting measures (Section 12.6.10).

Amendment 2 (GMFMC and SAFMC 1987) was prepared by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on June 30, 1987 and August 24, 1987 [52 Federal Register 23836]. Amendment 2 required commercial vessel permits to fish under the commercial quota on king or Spanish mackerel (Action 10, Section 12.6.4.1 A); these vessels are exempt from the recreational bag limit. The amendment also required charterboat permits for coastal migratory pelagic for-hire (Action 10, Section 12.6.4.1 B).

Amendment 8 (GMFMC and SAFMC 1996) was prepared by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils and implemented by the Secretary of Commerce on March 3, 1998 and April 3, 1998 [63 Federal Register 10561]. Amendment 8 required dealer permits and dealer record keeping (Section 2.5.1).

§ 622.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

Participants in fisheries governed in this part are required to keep records and report as follows.

(a) <u>Commercial vessel owners and operators</u>--(1) <u>Requirements by species</u>--(i) <u>Coastal migratory</u> <u>pelagic fish</u>. The owner or operator of a vessel that fishes for or lands coastal migratory pelagic fish for sale in or from the Gulf, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic EEZ or adjoining state waters, or whose vessel is issued a commercial permit for king or Spanish mackerel, as required under § 622.4(a)(2)(iii) or (iv), who is selected to report by the SRD, must maintain a fishing record on a form available from the SRD and must submit such record as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(B) <u>Electronic logbook reporting</u>. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp has been issued and who is selected by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook reporting program as directed by the SRD. In addition, such owner or operator must provide information regarding the size and number of shrimp trawls deployed and the type of BRD and turtle excluder device used, as directed by the SRD. Compliance with the reporting requirements of this paragraph (a)(1)(iii)(B) is required for permit renewal.

(iv) <u>South Atlantic snapper-grouper</u>--(A) <u>General reporting requirements</u>. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, as required under § 622.4(a)(2)(vi), or whose vessel fishes for or lands South Atlantic snapper-grouper in or from state waters adjoining the South Atlantic EEZ, who is selected to report by the SRD must maintain a fishing record on a form available from the SRD and must submit such

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record as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(B) <u>Electronic logbook/video monitoring reporting</u>. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued, as required under § 622.4(a)(2)(vi), who is selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring reporting program as directed by the SRD. Compliance with the reporting requirements of this paragraph (a)(1)(iv)(B) is required for permit renewal.

(v) <u>South Atlantic golden crab</u>. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial permit for golden crab has been issued, as required under 622.4(a)(2)(x), who is selected to report by the SRD must maintain a fishing record on a form available from the SRD.

(vi) <u>Atlantic dolphin and wahoo</u>. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a commercial permit for Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, as required under § 622.4 (a)(2)(xii), or whose vessel fishes for or lands Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the Atlantic EEZ, who is selected to report by the SRD must maintain a fishing record on a form available from the SRD and must submit such record as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(2) <u>Reporting deadlines</u>. (i) Completed fishing records required by paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (ii), (iv), (vi), and (vii) of this section must be submitted to the SRD postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of each fishing trip. If no fishing occurred during a calendar month, a report so stating must be submitted on one of the forms postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of that month. Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

(ii) Reporting forms required in paragraph (a)(1)(v) of this section must be submitted to the SRD postmarked not later than 30 days after sale of the golden crab offloaded from a trip. If no fishing occurred during a calendar month, a report so stating must be submitted on one of the forms postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of that month. Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

4.2.1 Biological Effects

Modifying data reporting for commercial vessels is an administrative process for providing a means of collecting data from the industry but does not directly affect the biological environment. There could be positive indirect biological effects associated with improving the quality of logbook data.

Alternative 1 (No Action) would retain existing data reporting systems for the commercial sector including new regulations implemented through Amendment 15B to the Snapper Grouper FMP, which require a vessel that fishes in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), if selected by NOAA Fisheries, to carry an observer and install an electronic logbook and/or video monitoring equipment provided by NOAA Fisheries. Current regulations (50CFR §622.5) require participants in the South Atlantic snapper grouper fishery who are selected by the SRD to

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maintain and submit a fishing record on forms provided by the SRD. As indicated in the background section of this action, fishermen in the golden crab, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo fisheries are also required to submit logbooks. Trip and effort information are included in the same logbook for snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo (**Appendix M**). Trip and effort logbooks are also completed for the golden crab fishery (Harper et al. 2000). Fishermen are also required to complete economic information for a trip. In addition, 20 percent of permitted fishermen from each fishery are asked to complete forms to discarded species (**Appendix N**).

Logbook data have a number of uses. Logbook data allows fishers to track their catch over time for the planning of future fishing activity. In the event of a dispute, logbook data provide verification of the information that was previously submitted to regulatory bodies. Logbook data can provide increased spatial resolution using the vessel's GPS or if tied to VMS. Logbook data are also important for analyzing effects of proposed management measures, and catch per unit effort estimates in stock assessments. Logbook data are not used to monitor ACLs.

At their June 2012 meeting, the SEFSC provided an update on the timeliness of logbook reporting (**Appendix L**). The SEFSC indicated between 20 and 40 percent of logbooks from fisheries for coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, and snapper grouper are submitted on time. However, a large percentage of the logbook reports are submitted 1-49 days late, and a small percentage are greater than 50 days late with logbook reports (**Figures 4-1 and 4-2**). Late reporting of logbook data makes the data less reliable and diminishes the utility of those data. The long-term positive effect of better reporting quality defined as accuracy and timeliness of the reports would be to provide better information for scientific advice used in stock assessments and management decisions.

Electronic reporting of commercial logbook data has the potential to provide more timely, complete logbook data, and make it easier to verify dealer reported landings in a timely manner. With electronic reporting, hail weights can be reported before the vessel hits the dock; thereby reducing error associated with filling out the effort and trip information a month later. Improvements expected from electronic vessel logbooks would include improved quality control using drop down lists, capturing effort information during the trip, and increased spatial resolution using the vessel's global positioning system. Another positive effect would be to reconcile vessel and dealer reports at weekly intervals or even daily depending on the flexibility of the SEFSC. However, electronic logbooks would not be expected to replace to dealer reporting as landings are more accurately recorded at the dealer level.

ATTACHMENT 3

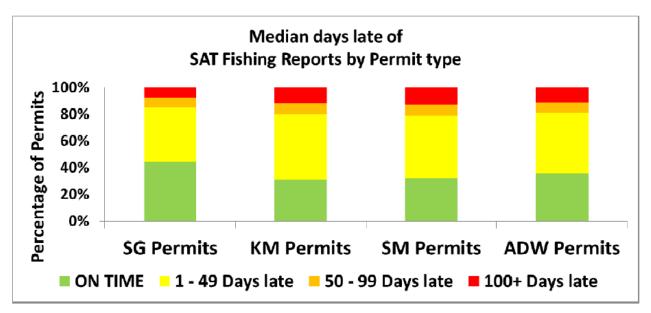


Figure 4-1. Percentage of snapper grouper (SG), king mackerel (KM), Spanish mackerel (SM), and Atlantic dolphin/wahoo (ADW) permits that submit logbook reports, on time, 1-49 days late, 50-99 days late, and greater than 100 days late. Source: SEFSC, June 2012 South Atlantic Council briefing book, Appendix L.

Currently, commercial landings are monitored through the commercial landings monitoring (CLM) system, which was recently implemented in June 2012. The CLM system was described by the SEFSC at the March 2012 South Atlantic Council meeting (Appendix K). The CLM takes into account: Different boundaries for each stock based on fishing area where available; variable quota periods; overlapping years; multiple periods per year; and overlapping species groups (single species, aggregated species). The CLM draws from multiple data sources including the dealer trip reports submitted to the Standard Atlantic Information System (SAFIS) in Georgia and South Carolina, and Florida and North Carolina dealer trip ticket reports via Bluefin Data's file upload system. One system is used for all stocks managed by the South Atlantic Council. Compliance monitoring, as well as projections and expansions for nonreporting dealers is built into CLM. There is built-in quality control, which checks the landings reports against ACCSP and GulfFIN master code lists. The SEFSC identifies which dealers with reporting requirements have not reported and expands landings for non-reporting and compiles compliance monitoring reports. The SEFSC provides reports to NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office (SERO) every two weeks, and landings are posted on SERO's Web site. In addition, timing of possible closures are estimated through CLM.

There are two applications available for submitting electronic reports: (1) electronic reporting of landings through the Windows based electronic trip ticket program or (2) online reporting through the SAFIS web interface available to South Carolina and Georgia dealers. To enter and use the online system, the dealer uses a valid user login ID and password. This system is secure and only users with valid user IDs and passwords can access it. Furthermore, the user ID and password is unique for each dealer and will only allow access to the data entered by an individual using that password. All entries are logged on a tracking database and each time a South Atlantic Council OPTIONS PAPER Commercial Logbook Reporting

user enters the system and makes a change to the data, that entry, and the changes are recorded, along with the date and time the changes were made. Instructions are provided to the dealers on how to use the online system. The electronic trip ticket program, maintained by Bluefin Data LLC, allows the owner of the seafood dealership to set up user accounts and passwords during installation at their business. This limits access to the trip ticket program to just those users with valid accounts and passwords. User instructions are provided as part of the trip ticket software installation.

Alternative 1 (No Action) would continue current reporting requirements for the snapper grouper, golden crab, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin/wahoo fisheries but would not require that commercial vessels with a snapper grouper permit use vessel monitoring systems (VMS). Alternative 1 (No Action) would also not make any improvements to the accountability of fishermen to submit logbooks in a timely manner or provide fishermen a means to report their information electronically using a NOAA Fisheries-developed electronic version of the logbook.

Preferred Alternative 2 would provide fishermen the option to submit their logbooks electronically via an online form developed by NOAA Fisheries and would change the deadline for submission of logbooks from 7 days after the trip to 21 days after the trip. For all fisheries, except for golden crab, this would allow for a longer time period to return logbooks. For golden crab, this would result in a shortened time within which to return logbooks. This period of time would allow for fishermen to receive all the necessary information from the fishhouse to complete the trip and effort/economic and discard logbooks. Requiring logbook data to be submitted electronically would be expected to result in positive indirect biological effects as it has the potential to: Provide more timely, complete data; make it easier to verify landings in a timely manner; allow for weights to be reported before the vessel arrives at the dock; reduces error associated with filling out the effort and trip information; increase spatial resolution of fish caught by linking landings with vessel's GPS; and improve the quality of dealer reports by comparing logbook landings with dealer reports at regular intervals.

Preferred Alternative 2 would also require landings and catch/effort data to be submitted according to ACCSP catch and effort standards (**Appendix J**). The ACCSP standards for commercial catch and effort statistics include mandatory, trip level reporting of all commercially harvested marine species, with fishermen and/or dealers required to report standardized data elements for each trip by the tenth of the following month. These ACCSP required data elements (Tables 1 and 2, **Appendix J**) are very similar to the data elements currently collected by the SEFSC logbook program (**Appendix M**).

Preferred Alternative 3 would require "no fishing forms" when fishermen do not fish at the same frequency and same process for golden crab, coastal migratory pelagic, and dolphin wahoo as is currently required for snapper grouper species. Currently, a fisherman cannot renew a permit if they are delinquent in submitting logbooks. As there is one year grace period to renew a permit, logbooks could be submitted a long time after a fishing trip occurred and negatively affect the quality of the data. Under **Preferred Alternative 3**, a fisherman would only be authorized to sell commercially-harvested species if the fisherman's previous reports had been

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submitted by the fisherman and received by NOAA Fisheries in a timely manner. This could help address the extensive late reporting of logbooks (**Figure 4-1**). Relative to the **Alternative 1** (**No Action**), **Preferred Alternative 3** would be expected to result in positive indirect biological effects.

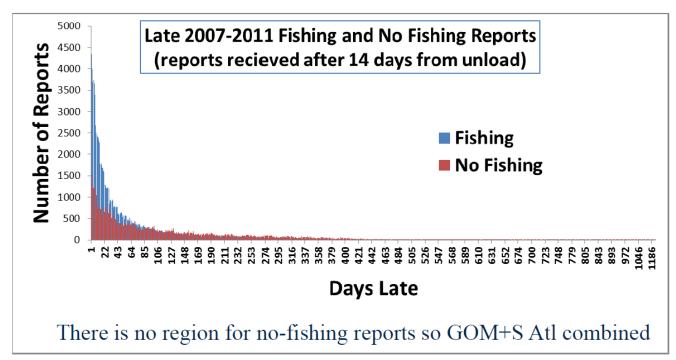


Figure 4-2. Dates fishing and no fishing reports received by SEFSC. Source: SEFSC, June 2012 South Atlantic Council briefing book, Appendix L.

For **Preferred Alternatives 2** and **3**, NOAA Fisheries could work with ACCSP and have fishermen use the online eTRIPS capability of the SAFIS system or they could develop a separate electronic version of the existing logbooks.

SAFIS is a real-time, web-based reporting system for commercial landings on the Atlantic coast. It is comprised of three applications:

- Electronic Dealer Reports (eDR) A forms based application collecting from the dealers (landings) including condition and price.
- Electronic Trip Reports (eTRIPS) A Web-based application collecting data from fisherman (catch and effort) including gears used, fishing areas, and catch disposition.
- SAFIS Management System (SMS) A Web-based application providing administrative tools to SAFIS administrators for management of user accounts, participants, permits etc.

4.2.2 Economic Effects

Alternative 1 (No Action) would maintain the current reporting requirements for commercial vessels. Alternative 1 (No Action) uses less efficient methods of data collection than the other alternatives in this action. While the status quo would not change the economic effects, Alternative 1 (No Action) would not necessarily maximize economic returns for these businesses because of the AM consequences that could be implemented as a result of exceeding an ACL. The commercial AMs for these species involve stopping harvest when the commercial ACL is met, or projected to be met. ACL overages are to be taken off the next season's ACL if the overall ACL was exceeded. Alternative 1 (No Action) would be expected to continue to result in these indirect economic effects.

Preferred Alternative 2 would reduce the potential negative impacts compared to **Alternative 1** (No Action) by leading to timelier reporting of their catch, thus reducing the possibility of exceeding an ACL. Not exceeding an ACL has the potential to increase economic return for these businesses. Electronic reporting is efficient because the information provided is directly integrated into an electronic system that allows combination of records and tabulation of harvests. With electronic reporting, data does not have to be manually input from paper forms, faxes, or scanned documents. However, **Preferred Alternative 2** has the potential to have the same economic effects as **Alternative 1** (No Action) if only a small percent of commercial vessels use electronic reporting because under **Preferred Alternative 2**, electronic reporting would be voluntary, not mandatory.

The specification of ACLs and AMs has increased the need for more timely collection of harvest data. The current frequency of data reporting would be expected to increase the likelihood of harvest overages. Only in the most extreme situations would potential overages be expected to be so severe that the status of a stock or a recovery plan be jeopardized under the current reporting schedule. However, overages have the potential, depending on the AMs, to result in significant disruption in fishing behavior the following year and reduce revenue and profit for commercial vessels and associated businesses, increase prices to consumers, and reduce their product options. In addition to the costs to permit holders, the costs of data processing should be considered. Requirements for electronic reporting eliminate the need for costly manual data input. Electronic reporting also potentially reduces the time required to acquire the data, process it, compute regional (or other subdivisions of) harvest totals, and take management action, when appropriate.

Commercial fishermen who choose to use electronic reporting could experience negative economic effects as a result of **Preferred Alternative 2**. However, the use of computers, the internet, and other forms of electronic connections and communication is commonplace in the business environment, so the differences in the costs associated with the use of electronic versus paper reporting method may be minimal. This assessment makes no attempt to estimate an average cost of equipment or connection fees per entity, nor total expected costs to for-hire permit holders, because of the range of options and prices available and an inability to estimate the number of entities that may not already use these tools and services in their current business.

South Atlantic Council Commercial Logbook Reporting

Electronic reporting would be expected to be part of the routine business practices of many commercial fishing businesses/operations that would be encompassed by these proposed alternatives. However, **Preferred Alternative 2** does not make electronic submission mandatory, therefore, individual permit holders could choose not to adopt this method of submission and avoid any additional associated costs.

The economic impacts of complying with **Preferred Alternative 3** would be minimal. Fishermen would be required to report to NMFS when they are not fishing so that it would be known whether or not they are delinquent in turning in landings reports. Additionally, requiring fishermen to submit "no fishing" reports would assist NMFS in projecting when ACLs would be met by having more complete data. Currently, NMFS does not know if a permit holder is not fishing or whether they are delinquent in reporting. Aside from the costs associated with reporting they are not fishing, other potential economic impacts to a fisherman from **Preferred Alternative 3** would come if the fisherman was out of compliance and could not sell fish until delinquent reports were filed. It is highly unlikely that any fishing business/operation would jeopardize their livelihood for very long by not filing their required reports. It is expected that fishermen would submit any missing or overlooked reports in order to resume fishing.

4.2.3 Social Effects

Similar to effects on for-hire permit holders (Action 1), changes in frequency of reporting requirements for commercial vessels may also have some negative effects on commercial vessel owners and captains by imposing additional time and money requirements. Alternative 1 (No Action) would be expected to not result in impacts on commercial fishermen but would reduce long-term social benefits associated with more accurate and timely data that would be expected under Preferred Alternatives 2 and 3, such as improved monitoring and more accurate forecast of potential in-season closures when landings are approaching an ACL. Because accountability measures (AMs) such as early closures, lowered trip limits, or pay-backs in the subsequent year can have significant impacts on the commercial fleet, it is imperative that landings are tracked in real-time to minimize unexpected implementation of AMs. Although reporting requirements and the resulting improved quota monitoring does not mean AMs will not be triggered at all, at minimum a better system to track and forecast AMs will help commercial fishermen and fish houses plan for closures and other regulations. Preferred Alternatives 2 and 3 would extend reporting requirements for snapper grouper permit holders to all commercial permit holders. which will increase the burden on fishermen who do not currently hold snapper grouper permits. The option for paper or electronic reporting under Preferred Alternative 2 would provide flexibility to fishermen who currently do not own the equipment necessary for electronic reporting or are not familiar with electronic reporting.

ATTACHMENT 3

4.2.4 Administrative Effects

Under Alternative 1 (No Action) no administrative impacts would be incurred outside of the status-quo. Reporting mechanisms would continue unchanged and impacts associated with them would also remain unchanged. The design and implementation of electronic logbooks under **Preferred Alternative 2** would result in increased administrative impacts to the agency. However, there would be no administrative burden on fishermen as the program would be voluntary and fishermen would likely only chose that option if it would relieve the burden they are currently faced with. **Preferred Alternative 2** would also reduce the administrative burden may be diminished slightly by increasing the reporting time from 7 to 21 days. However, for the golden crab fishermen, their reporting times would decrease from 30 days to 21 days. Under **Preferred Alternative 3** would require fishermen in fisheries for coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, and golden crab to submit a "no fishing form" which is postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of that month. Currently these forms are required for the snapper-grouper fishery only and serve to keep track of periods of time in which fishing does not occur. Preferred Alternative 3 would prohibit fishermen from selling snapper grouper, coastal migratory pelagic, dolphin/wahoo, or golden crab species if they do not submit logbooks in a timely manner. This would result in moderate to extreme administrative impacts to both the agency and the fishery participants related to compliance and processing.



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SOUTHEAST REGION GENERIC COMMERCIAL LOGBOOK REPORTING

Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting Pilot Project Initial Project Stage: Prototype Pilot Testing and Feasibility Study

Southeast Fisheries Science Center 75 Virginia Beach Drive Miami, Florida 33149

Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

Pilot Project Description and Timeline

- Initial project stage (pilot testing) will involve:
 - Working with vendors on equipment specifications & systems requirements,
 - Testing & modifying the system originally built for the NEFSC for use in the SEFSC region,
 - Testing the prototype system on coastal (Gulf & South Atlantic) & pelagic (Atlantic) fisheries
- Estimated duration of initial project stage is 12-18 months which started last August 2013

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Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

NOAA Pilot Project Description and Timeline FISHERIES • Update on Pilot Project Activities:

- Started working with four vendors (*Electronic Edge, Olrac, EcoTrust and NEFSC*) on identifying system requirements and modifications
- Project staff is also in touch with iSnapper Apps
- Ten laptop PCs & 5 iPads were already purchased for testing e-logbook system prototypes
- Selection criteria for participating boats in this pilot project is currently being developed

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Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

A Pilot Project Description and Timeline

 Once feasibility of prototype is established, fullscale implementation of Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting Project would commence depending on future budget allocation & priorities



Changes to SE Coastal Fisheries Trip Report Form

Southeast Fisheries Science Center 75 Virginia Beach Drive Miami, Florida 33149

South Atlantic Council Commercial Logbook Reporting

Attachment 1 - Sept 2013



Modifications to Existing Paper Logbook

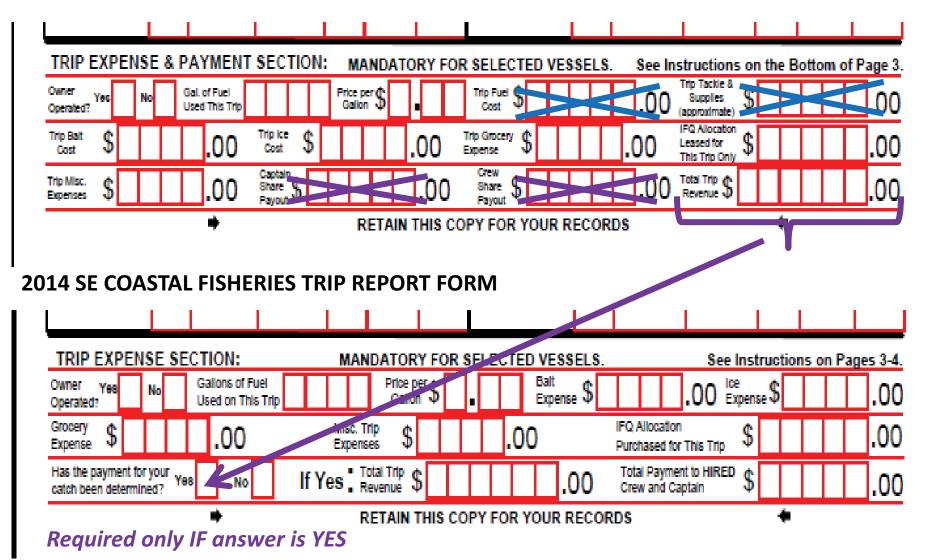
 Modifications were also made to support timely reporting (mainly to the economic section)

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See next slide for details

Modifications to Existing Paper Logbooks:

2013 SE COASTAL FISHERIES TRIP REPORT FORM



Comparison of Changes to the Southeast Region Commercial Logbook Reporting Forms 2013 and 2014

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	FO	RM	
DATA ELEMENTS	2013	2014	
		(old)	(new)
Owner operated		YES	YES
Gallons of fuel		YES	YES
Price of fuel		YES	YES
Fuel expense		YES	NO
Bait expense		YES	YES
Trip tackle & supplies		YES	NO
lce expense		YES	YES
Grocery expense		YES	YES
Miscellaneous expenses		YES	YES
IFQ purchase expense		YES	YES
Captain expense		YES	NO
Crew expense		YES	NO
Trip revenue		YES	NO
Hired captain & crew expense	If Available:		YES
Trip revenue	If Available:		YES



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Update on Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

David Gloeckner and Steve Turner

South Atlantic Council Commercial Logbook Reporting





Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study



Pilot Project Description and Timeline

- Initial project stage (pilot testing) will involve:
 - Hiring contractors to perform outreach and equipment installation
 - Working with vendors on equipment specifications & systems requirements
 - Testing & modifying the available software for use in the SEFSC region
 - Outreach effort to recruit fishermen to test system
 - Testing the prototype systems on coastal (Gulf & South Atlantic) & pelagic (Atlantic) fisheries
- Estimated duration of initial project stage is 12-18 months which started last August 2013 (estimate one month delay due to shutdown and contracting changes)

Attachment 2 - Dec 2013 **E-logbook Pilot**



FISHERIES

Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – **Pilot Study**

Pilot Project Description and Timeline

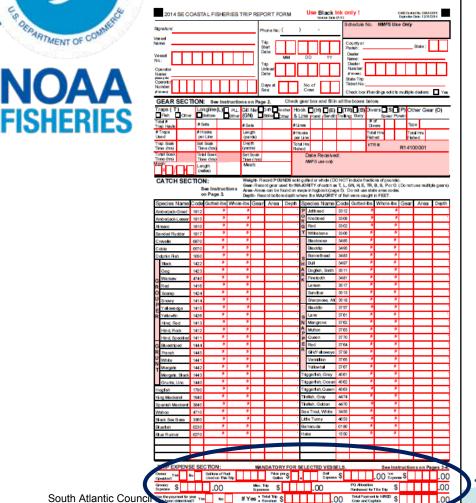
- Update on Pilot Project Activities:
 - SEFSC staff are developing data standards, which will have to be met by vendors (delayed due to government shutdown)
 - Outreach specialist and marine technician still need to be hired (negotiating with contract office)
 - Started working with four vendors to identify system requirements and modifications needed (delayed)
 - Ten PCs and Four tablets already purchased for testing elogbook system prototypes
 - Selection criteria for the 10 vessel participating in this pilot project is currently being developed (delayed)
- Once feasibility of prototype is established, full-scale implementation of Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting Project can commence in 2016 depending on future budget allocation & priorities **OPTIONS PAPER**

E-logbook Pilot



Commercial Logbook Report

Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

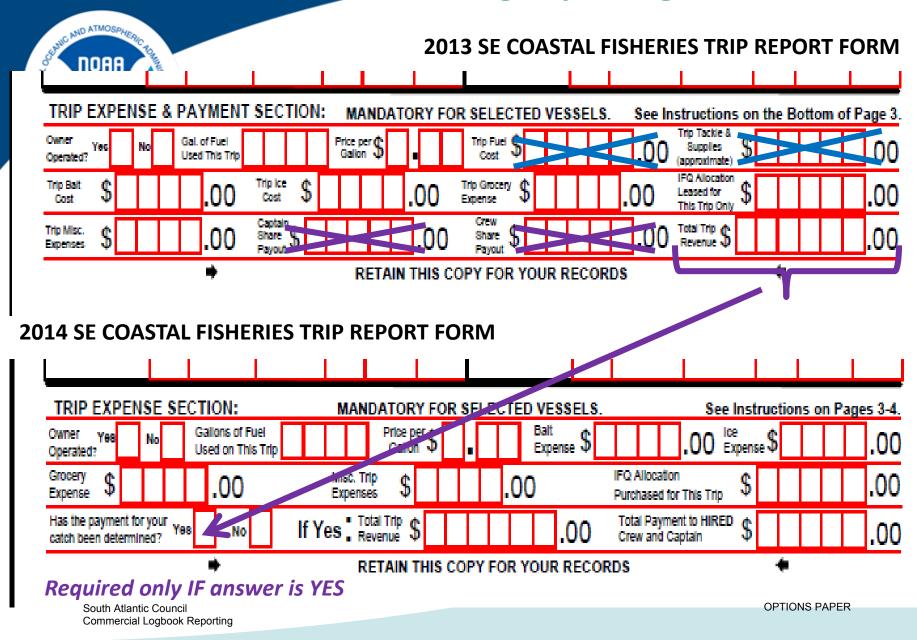


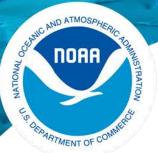
Modifications to Existing Paper Logbook

 Modifications were made (mainly to the economic section) to support timely reporting:

See next slide for details

Modifications to Existing Paper Logbooks:





NOAA Update on Southeast Region FISHERIES Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

David Gloeckner & Steve Turner



Southeast Region Commercial Electronic Logbook Reporting – Pilot Study

NOAA FISHERIES

Progress:

- Data standards in development based on NERO eVTR system for coastal compatibility, plus additional SE requirements
 - NEFSC modifying FLDRS (Fisheries Landings Data Reporting System) for Southeast region
 - Logbook staff compiling list of fishers interested in ereporting
 - Gulf Fishermen's Alliance planning on adopting FACTS systems for IFQ bank & e-log. Preliminary standards provided by project.



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FISHERIES

Current Activities:

- Continue development of support tables (vessel, owner, dealer, gear,...)
- Finalizing documentation of data standards
- Compiling list of fishers willing to test system

Future Tasks:

- Provide standards and documentation to vendors for their software solutions
- Build data tables and translation code for incoming data
- Contact pilot participants once data entry applications are available