

**Summary of the Data Collection Committee  
April 9, 2014  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Baton Rouge, LA**

**Data Collection Committee**

**members present:**

Harlon Pearce, *Chair*  
Kevin Anson, *V. Chair*  
Roy Crabtree  
Johnny Greene  
Camp Matens  
Myron Fischer  
Lance Robinson  
John Sanchez  
Martha Bademan

The agenda (**Tab F, No. 1**) was modified to include discussion of the ELB headboat program and approved. Dr. Ponwith provided an update on the commercial logbook pilot project. She stated that data standards are being developed, pilot-program participants are being solicited and the electronic reporting pilot program will initiate soon after.

Mr. Strelcheck gave a presentation outlining objectives, challenges, and opportunities for electronic reporting for for-hire vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. south Atlantic. The presentation accompanied the white paper on electronic reporting (**Tab F, No. 2**) and gave an overview of the regional implementation plan for electronic monitoring. He stated that his objective was to get input for the direction of the technical subcommittee for implementing electronic monitoring the for-hire fishery. He emphasized the need to shift focus from electronic monitoring tools toward refining management goals for recreational fisheries management. Council stated a preference for daily reporting that supports increased accuracy, precision, and timeliness of fisheries data to improve science and management. Council also stated the desire for fishermen to develop individual catch histories and use validation protocols that are effective but minimally burdensome. The technical subcommittee will use this input to develop recommendations for Council.

Mr. Strelcheck gave an update on the ELB headboat program. He stated that compliance has been excellent, approximately 35% of the trips are validated through dockside validation and a significant proportion of the catch is being sampled for biological data.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.