Generic For Hire Reporting Amendment Development and History

At their December 2012 meeting, the South Atlantic Council reviewed the Gulf Council's actions related to charterboat reporting (shown below), and directed staff to keep the Council informed of progress on the Gulf Council's Generic Amendment addressing Charter Reporting.

The Gulf Council approved the following motions at their October 2012 meeting:

a. Motion#1: To create a subcommittee with a member of the South Atlantic, HMS, Gulf Council, SEFSC, and MRIP to coordinate and bring back a complementary document to deal with headboat data collection system.

Motion carried with no opposition.

- b. Motion#4: To begin work on an amendment for electronic reporting for charterboats and to make the South Atlantic Council aware that we are developing the amendment.

 Motion carried with no opposition.
- c. Motion: That the charge of the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection AP be as follows:
- Work with different experts to evaluate the merit of using offshore fishing permits, vessel registration information, and satellite imaging to gauge fishing effort.
- Work with staff from the Southeast Science Center to evaluate the utility of self-reported angler data. (i.e., electronic web based/phone apps)
- Suggest possible "citizen scientists" projects that can be used to supplement current recreational data.
- Critique the MRIP Strategic Communications Plan for recreational data collection, provide feedback on clarity and effectiveness of the message, and advise the Council on which pathways should be used to connect with anglers.
 Motion carried with no opposition.

The South Atlantic Council discussed this issue during the September 2013 meeting and approved the following motion:

MOTION #2: APPOINT JOHN CARMICHAEL/MIKE ERRIGO (BACKUP) AS THE SAFMC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SEPARATING CHARTERBOATS FROM THE MRIP SAMPLING PROGRAM.

The Gulf Council appointed John Froeschke as the Gulf staff representative at their October 2013 meeting.

The next step was to request the involved agencies appoint individuals to represent MRIP, HMS, SEFSC, ACCSP, SERO, and ASMFC. The South Atlantic Council added Doug Mumford (NC DMF) and Eric Hiltz (SC DNR) to the technical committee. South Carolina has a charterboat logbook program that has been in place for a number of years, and North Carolina is developing a charterboat logbook.

The Technical Committee met May 28-29, 2014, and a final report is available; portions have been included in the Decision Document. Mike Errigo, Council staff, reviewed the final report at the December 2015 meeting. The Committee discussed the recommendations and cost estimates and provided guidance for Council staff to begin work on a joint amendment during 2015, incorporating the previous guidance to pattern the amendment after the Headboat Amendment and the recommendations received from the Joint Charterboat Technical Committee.

The Gulf Council discussed the amendment at their August 2015 meeting, and a report on their determinations was included in the September 2015 Briefing Book. Gregg Waugh reviewed the Decision Document for the Joint Charterboat Reporting Amendment and the Council approved the following motion:

MOTION #2: DEVELOP A SEPARATE CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT REPORTING AMENDMENT FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S AREA OF JURISDICTION