



**SOUTH ATLANTIC
FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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Ben Hartig, Chair



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Doug Boyd, Chair

MEMORANDUM

006344 FEB 20 14

DATE: February 4, 2014

TO: Gordon Colvin (MRIP), Margo Shulze-Haugen (HMS), Roy Crabtree (SERO), Bonnie Ponwith (SEFSC), Bob Beal (ASFMC), Mike Cahall (ACCSP) and Dave Donaldson (GSMFC)

FROM: Ben Hartig, Chairman South Atlantic Council and Doug Boyd, Chairman Gulf Council

SUBJECT: Establishing a Technical Subcommittee to work on an Electronic Reporting System for Charter Vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic waters.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council discussed charter vessel reporting at their December 2013 meeting and approved two motions addressing modifications to the reporting system.

The first motion expressed the South Atlantic Council's desire to remove charter vessels from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) reporting system and ultimately require charter vessels to report catch and effort electronically, at minimum, on a weekly basis. The intention is to use the same reporting system that is currently being implemented for headboats (including catch, effort, and validation protocols) in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Council's waters. It is also the Councils' intent that charter vessel information collected electronically be updated and posted on the Southeast Regional Office's website.

To accomplish this modification to data collection and reporting system for charter vessels, both Council's would like to form a subcommittee of appropriate staff from all impacted agencies to work on the technical aspects of separating charter vessels reporting from the MRIP sampling program.

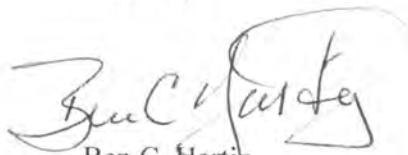
In the second motion, the South Atlantic Council directed staff to prepare correspondence to the agencies/partners (MRIP, HMS, SEFSC, SERO, ACCSP, ASMFC, and GSMFC) that would be involved in this effort, requesting that they appoint representatives to the Technical Subcommittee prior to the South Atlantic Council's March 2014 meeting. To initiate the formation of this Technical Subcommittee, the South Atlantic Council appointed John Carmichael at their September 2013 meeting

(with Mike Errigo as a backup staff member). At their October 2013 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council appointed Dr. John Froeschke to the Technical Subcommittee.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request that you appoint a representative to serve on the Technical Subcommittee to develop an electronic data collection system for charter vessels in the Gulf and South Atlantic waters. If you agree to do so, we would appreciate having your staff appointments prior to March 1, 2014 so that the South Atlantic Council may further discuss the purpose of the Technical Subcommittee at their March 3-7, 2014 meeting. The intent of the Councils is to have the Technical Subcommittee meet during 2014, on an as needed basis, and provide recommendations to the Councils on how best achieve an electronic reporting system for charter vessels by December 1, 2014.

Thanks for your assistance and if you have any questions, please contact Bob Mahood or Doug Gregory.

Sincerely,



Ben C. Hartig
SAFMC Chair



Doug Boyd
GMFMC Chair

cc: SAFMC and GMFMC Members
SAFMC and GMFMC Staff
Monica Smit-Brunello and Shepherd Grimes
Theo Brainerd and Tom Jamir
Phil Steele and Jack McGovern