

**CHARTER/HEADBOAT REPORTING AMENDMENT
DECISION DOCUMENT
September 8, 2015**

**FINAL JOINT COUNCIL MOTIONS
Gulf and South Atlantic
Data Collection Motions**

Purpose and Need

South Atlantic Council

MOTION #1: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AS MODIFIED:

The *purpose* of the generic modifications to charter vessel and headboat reporting requirements amendment is to increase the accuracy and timeliness of landings, discards, effort and socio-economic data of federally permitted for-hire vessels participating in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic managed fisheries.

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

MOTION #2: APPROVE THE NEED AS MODIFIED:

The *need* for this action is to improve charter vessel and headboat fishery data used for management and to improve monitoring and compliance of federally permitted for-hire vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic managed fisheries.

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

Gulf Council

The Gulf Council did not review the purpose and need during committee and will provide review and comment during the joint meeting.

**MOTION: APPROVE THE SAFMC LANGUAGE FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED
APPROVED BY GMFMC**

The Gulf Staff revised the wording of the Purpose & Need as follows (Attachment 5, page 3):

The *purpose* of the generic modifications to charter vessel and headboat reporting requirements amendment is to increase the accuracy and timeliness of landings, discards, effort and socio-economic data of federally permitted for-hire vessels participating in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic managed fisheries.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE REVISED WORDING FOR THE PURPOSE.

OPTION 2. RETAIN THE CURRENT WORDING FOR THE PURPOSE.

OPTION 3. OTHERS???

Action 1: Charter vessel reporting requirements

South Atlantic Council

MOTION #3: ACCEPT THE IPT RECOMMENDED WORDING FOR ACTION 1 AND THE ALTERNATIVES

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

South Atlantic Council Direction to Staff/IPT:

- **Add sample forms of minimum data elements based on the current requirements in the SC and Headboat logbook programs and the proposed requirements for the NC logbook program.**
- **Add sample data forms for additional data elements (e.g., discards at specific sites, socio-economic data, etc.).**
- **Under Compliance Measure indicate that the timing would be Sunday or Tuesday based on the alternative chosen.**

Action 1: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting Requirements for Charter Vessel Data Reporting Requirements for Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing permits and data reporting systems for charter vessels. Currently, the owner or operator of a charter vessel for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf or South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such coastal migratory pelagic fish, reef fish, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable Gulf, South Atlantic, or Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and who is selected to report by the Science and Research Director (SRD) must maintain a fishing record for each trip, or a portion of such trips as specified by the SRD, on forms provided by the SRD. Completed fishing records must be submitted to the SRD weekly, postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

For South Atlantic snapper grouper, charter vessels selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring program as directed by the SRD. Completed fishing records may be required weekly or daily, as directed by the SRD.

Alternative 2. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

Alternative 3. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) daily via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Alternative 4. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

GMFMC WORDING

2.1 Action 1: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Charter Vessels Harvesting Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, or Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Alternative 1 (No Action). The owner or operator of a charter vessel for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) or South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such CMP species, reef fish, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable Gulf, South Atlantic, or Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and who is selected to report by the Science and Research Director (SRD) must maintain a fishing record for each trip, or a portion of such trips as specified by the SRD, on forms provided by the SRD. Completed fishing records must be submitted to the SRD weekly, postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

For South Atlantic snapper grouper, charter vessels selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring program as directed by the SRD. Completed fishing records may be required weekly or daily, as directed by the SRD.

Alternative 2. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

Alternative 3. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD daily via electronic reporting via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Alternative 4. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

Gulf Council Motion

The Gulf Committee selected **Action 1, Alternative 4** as the **preferred alternative for the Gulf of Mexico**.

Alternative 4 requires that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

APPROVED BY GMFMC

The Gulf Staff revised the Gulf Council's wording of the Action 1 as follows (Attachment 5, page 9):

Action 1: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Charter Vessels ~~Harvesting Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, or Coastal Migratory Pelagies~~

Alternative 1 (No Action). The owner or operator of a charter vessel for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) or South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such CMP species, reef fish, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable Gulf, South Atlantic, or Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and who is selected to report by the Science and Research Director (SRD) must maintain a fishing record for each trip, or a portion of such trips as specified by the SRD, on forms provided by the SRD. Completed fishing records must be submitted to the SRD weekly, postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

For South Atlantic snapper grouper, charter vessels selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring program as directed by the SRD. Completed fishing records may be required weekly or daily, as directed by the SRD.

Note: The requirement to participate in a video monitoring program if selected is not changed by any of the alternatives in this amendment.

Alternative 2. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

Alternative 3. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD daily via electronic reporting via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Gulf Preferred Alternative 4. Require that federally permitted charter vessels submit fishing records to the SRD for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

Note: It is likely that the South Atlantic Council will choose Alternative 2 as preferred to match the current requirements for headboats. The IPT pointed out that it will be difficult to analyze these two alternatives given the two different timeframes for reporting.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE REVISED WORDING FOR ACTION 1 AND THE ALTERNATIVES.

OPTION 2. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X AS PREFERRED FOR THE ATLANTIC.

OPTION 3. OTHERS???

Action 2: Headboat reporting requirements

South Atlantic Council

MOTION #4: APPROVE IPT RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION 2 AND THE ALTERNATIVES WITH DELETING “SOUTH” AND APPROVE FOR DETAILED ANALYSES

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

Action 2: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Headboat Data Reporting Requirements for Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and South Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing permits and data reporting systems for headboats. Currently, the owner or operator of a headboat for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf or South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such coastal migratory pelagic fish, reef fish, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable Gulf, South Atlantic, or Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and who is selected to report by the Science and Research Director (SRD) must submit an electronic fishing record for each trip of all fish harvested via the Southeast Region Headboat Survey. Electronic fishing records must be submitted at weekly intervals (or intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD) by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week. If no fishing activity occurred during a reporting week, an electronic report so stating must be submitted for that reporting week by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week.

During catastrophic conditions the use of paper forms for basic required functions may be authorized by the RA by publication of timely notice. During catastrophic conditions, the RA also has the authority to waive or modify reporting time requirements.

An electronic report not received within the time specified is delinquent. A delinquent report automatically results in a prohibition on harvesting or possessing the applicable species, regardless of any additional notification to the delinquent owner and operator by NMFS. This prohibition is applicable until all required and delinquent reports have been submitted and received by NMFS according to the reporting requirements.

For South Atlantic snapper grouper, headboats selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring program as directed by the SRD. Completed fishing records may be required weekly or daily, as directed by the SRD.

Alternative 2. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

Alternative 3. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) daily via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Alternative 4. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

GMFMC WORDING

Action 2: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Headboats Harvesting Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, or Coastal Migratory Pelagics

Alternative 1 (No Action). The owner or operator of a headboat for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf or South Atlantic CMP species, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such CMP species, reef fish, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable Gulf, South Atlantic, or Atlantic EEZ, and who is selected to report by the SRD must submit an electronic fishing record for each trip of all fish harvested via the SRHS. Electronic fishing records must be submitted at weekly intervals (or intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD) by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week. If no fishing activity occurred during a reporting week, an electronic report stating so must be submitted for that reporting week by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week.

During catastrophic conditions, the use of paper forms for basic required functions may be authorized by the RA by publication of timely notice. During catastrophic conditions, the RA also has the authority to waive or modify reporting time requirements.

When an electronic report is not received within the time specified, it is delinquent. A delinquent report automatically results in a prohibition on harvesting or possessing the applicable species, regardless of any additional notification to the delinquent owner and operator by NMFS. This prohibition is applicable until all required and delinquent reports have been submitted and received by NMFS according to the reporting requirements.

For South Atlantic snapper grouper, headboats selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring program, as directed by the SRD. Completed fishing records may be required weekly or daily, as directed by the SRD.

Alternative 2. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

Alternative 3. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD daily via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Alternative 4. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

Gulf Council Motion

The Gulf Committee selected **Action 2, Alternative 4** as the **preferred alternative for the Gulf of Mexico**.

Alternative 4 requires that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock
APPROVED BY GMFMC

The Gulf Staff revised the Gulf Council's wording of the **Action 2** as follows (**Attachment 5, page 12**):

Action 2: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Headboats Harvesting ~~Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, or Coastal Migratory Pelagies~~

Alternative 1 (No Action). The owner or operator of a headboat for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf or South Atlantic CMP species, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such CMP species, reef fish, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable Gulf, South Atlantic, or Atlantic EEZ, and who is selected to report by the SRD must submit an electronic fishing record for each trip of all fish harvested via the **Southeast Region Headboat Survey SRHS**. Electronic fishing records must be submitted at weekly intervals (or intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD) by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week. If no fishing activity occurred during a reporting week, an electronic report stating so must be submitted for that reporting week by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week.

During catastrophic conditions, the use of paper forms for basic required functions may be authorized by the **Regional Administrator (RA)** ~~RA~~ by publication of timely notice. During catastrophic conditions, the RA also has the authority to waive or modify reporting time requirements.

When an electronic report is not received within the time specified, it is delinquent. A delinquent report automatically results in a prohibition on harvesting or possessing the applicable species, regardless of any additional notification to the delinquent owner and operator by NMFS. This prohibition is applicable until all required and delinquent reports have been submitted and received by NMFS according to the reporting requirements.

For South Atlantic snapper grouper, headboats selected to report by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook and/or video monitoring program, as directed by the SRD. Completed fishing records may be required weekly or daily, as directed by the SRD.

Note: The requirement to participate in a video monitoring program if selected is not changed by any of the alternatives in this amendment.

Alternative 2. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

Alternative 3. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD daily via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Gulf Preferred Alternative 4. Require that headboats submit fishing records to the SRD for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to arriving at the dock.

Note: It is likely that the South Atlantic Council will choose Alternative 2 as preferred to match the current requirements for headboats. The IPT pointed out that it will be difficult to analyze these two alternatives given the two different timeframes for reporting.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE REVISED WORDING FOR ACTION 2 AND THE ALTERNATIVES.

OPTION 2. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X AS PREFERRED FOR THE ATLANTIC.

OPTION 3. OTHERS???

Action 3: For-hire location reporting requirements

South Atlantic Council

MOTION #5: DIRECT STAFF TO ADD AN ALTERNATIVE TO ACTION 3 THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR CHARTER VESSELS TO REPORT LOCATION MANUALLY BY LATITUDE/LONGITUDE IN DEGREES AND MINUTES OR BY CLICKING ON A HEADBOAT GRID

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

MOTION: APPROVE ADDING NEW ALTERNATIVE 4 TO ACTION 3 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT ONLY APPLY IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

APPROVED BY GMFMC

Note: Draft Alternative 4 has been added (below) to address this motion.

MOTION #6: APPROVE ACTION 3 AND THE ALTERNATIVES AS MODIFIED WITH THE PROPOSED GULF STAFF CHANGES TO THE WORDING

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

Action 3: Modify Electronic Reporting Requirements Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans to Require Vessel or Catch Location Reporting

Alternative 1 (No Action). Charter vessels participating in the For-Hire survey are required to report area fished (inshore, state, or federal waters), if selected as part of the survey. Headboats participating in the SRHS are required to report latitude and longitude of area fished (degrees and minutes only; within 1 nm² area).

Alternative 2. Require federally permitted for-hire vessels to use a NMFS approved electronic device that automatically records vessel location at specified time intervals for later transmission:

Sub-Alternative 3a. In the Gulf (headboat)

Sub-Alternative 3b. In the Gulf (charter vessel)

Sub-Alternative 3c. In the South Atlantic (headboat)

Sub-Alternative 3d. In the South Atlantic (charter vessel)

Alternative 3. Require federally permitted for-hire vessels to use a NMFS approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to record vessel location at specified time intervals:

Sub-Alternative 3a. In the Gulf of Mexico (headboat)

Sub-Alternative 3b. In the Gulf of Mexico (charter vessel)

Note: This draft alternative addresses Motion #5 from the South Atlantic committee

Alternative 4. Require federally permitted charter vessels to report location manually by

latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on a headboat grid:

Sub-Alternative 4a. In the Gulf (charter vessel)

Sub-Alternative 4b. In the South Atlantic (charter vessel)

Note: Based on the Motion approved by the GMFMC, the wording for Alternative 4 is modified to read as follows:

Revised Alternative 4. Require federally permitted charter vessels in the South Atlantic to report location manually by latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on a headboat grid.

Gulf Council

The Gulf Committee discussed Action 3 pertaining to catch location reporting requirements for Gulf and South Atlantic for-hire vessels but did not select a preferred Alternative at this time.

The Gulf Staff revised the Gulf Council's wording of the Action 3 as follows (Attachment 5, page 15) and their preferred alternative from the August Gulf Council meeting has been added:

Action 3: Modify Electronic Reporting Requirements ~~Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo~~ Fishery Management Plans to Require Vessel or Catch Location Reporting

Alternative 1 (No Action). Charter vessels participating in the For-Hire survey are required to report area fished (inshore, state, or federal waters), if selected as part of the survey. Headboats participating in the SRHS are required to report latitude and longitude of area fished (degrees and minutes only; within 1 nm² area).

Gulf Preferred Alternative 2. Require federally permitted for-hire vessels to use a NMFS approved electronic device that automatically records vessel location at specified time intervals for later transmission:

Gulf Preferred Sub-Alternative 3a. In the Gulf (headboat)

Gulf Preferred Sub-Alternative 3b. In the Gulf (charter vessel)

Sub-Alternative 3c. In the South Atlantic (headboat)

Sub-Alternative 3d. In the South Atlantic (charter vessel)

Alternative 3. Require federally permitted for-hire vessels **in the Gulf** to use a NMFS approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to record vessel location at specified time intervals:

Sub-Alternative 3a. In the Gulf of Mexico (headboat)

Sub-Alternative 3b. In the Gulf of Mexico (charter vessel)

Alternative 4. Require federally permitted charter vessels in the South Atlantic to report location manually by latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on a **geographic grid in the software of a NMFS-approved device or program** headboat grid.

Note: It is likely that the South Atlantic Council will choose Alternative 4 as preferred to match the current requirements for headboats. The IPT pointed out that it will be difficult to analyze these two alternatives given the two different requirements for reporting catch location.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE REVISED WORDING FOR ACTION 3 AND THE ALTERNATIVES.

OPTION 2. SELECT ALTERNATIVE X AS PREFERRED FOR THE ATLANTIC.

OPTION 3. OTHERS???

Action 4: For-hire data reporting mechanism and procedure

South Atlantic Council

MOTION #7: MOVE ACTION 4 AND THE ALTERNATIVES INTO THE DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT AMENDMENT

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

Gulf Council Motion

For **Action 4**, the Gulf Committee recommends, and I so move to move all of **Action 4** to considered but rejected.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: MOVE ACTION 4 AND THE ALTERNATIVES INTO THE DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT AMENDMENT

SUBSTITUTE MOTION APPROVED BY GMFMC

MAFMC AND NEFMC FOR-HIRE VESSEL REPORTING

South Atlantic Council Direction to Staff/IPT:

- **Add wording to clarify that we are extending the reporting requirements of this amendment through the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils' areas for federally permitted for-hire vessels harvesting species managed in our FMPs (Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, and Gulf Reef Fish).**
- **Add wording to clarify that we don't want to duplicate reporting by individual vessels; one report submitted to, for example, ACCSP would then be available to each agency needing the data.**

Joint Councils Direction to Staff/IPT:

- Explain the differences between VMS and a device with a GPS in Action 3, Alternative 3.
- Modify the wording of the actions to not include which FMPs are being amended given it is shown in the title of the document.
- Staffs/IPT to work on the wording differences for the Actions/Alternatives and develop common wording using track changes for the two Councils to review.
- Add a discussion describing the steps involved with implementation (concurrent programs for 2-3 years, verification, comparison of estimates, etc.)
- Revise the document, add analyses, and bring the document back to the Gulf in August and the South Atlantic Council in September.

MOTION #8: INCLUDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DATA ELEMENTS, CLARIFICATION ON HOW NE VESSELS WOULD REPORT WITHOUT DUPLICATE REPORTING AND APPROVE THE JOINT FOR-HIRE REPORTING AMENDMENT, AS MODIFIED, FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

APPROVED BY SAFMC COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY SAFMC

The Gulf Council was not ready to approve the amendment for public hearings. They will review/revise the document at their August meeting with the intent to approve for public hearings if the document is ready at that time. The South Atlantic Council will review/revise the document at their September meeting and approve for public hearings.

Note: The Gulf Council did not approve the amendment for public hearings and raised concerns about the “NMFS-approved electronic device” such as cost, what this would actually constitute, lack of economic analyses given the lack of cost data, and lack of specific details of implementation. The Gulf Council approved the following motion at their August 2015 Council meeting:

Substitute Motion: To request that the Technical Subcommittee of the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils on Electronic Logbook Reporting Guidelines in coordination with GulfFIN, ACCSP, SEFSC and Council staff, develop a standalone reference document that describes specific catch and effort reporting elements, data standards and protocols that can be used to standardize implementation of Southeast region-wide electronic monitoring initiatives.

The data standards and program protocols that should be developed include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- Electronic tools and devices
- Process and flow
- Data integrity
- Data integration
- Minimum reporting elements
- Effort validation
- Catch validation
- Compliance tracking
- Non-reporting (expansion of estimates)

Gulf Council: Substitute motion carried with no opposition.

During the last August 24, 2015 IPT meeting, the following cost information was provided by South Atlantic Council staff based on cost estimates in the Charterboat Logbook Proposal currently under consideration by ACCSP:

- i. Fieldbook E1 Ruggedized Android Tablet = \$1700
- ii. iPad and/or Windows 8.1 Tablet = \$600
- iii. Ruggedized case for non-ruggedized tablets = \$50
- iv. On-board AC/DC chargers = \$10
- v. Mounting system on boats = \$75

Much of the details requested in the Gulf Council’s motion are contained in “Old Action 4” that has now been moved into the discussion. Also, the Technical Sub-Committee Report is included as Appendix E to the Amendment (**Attachment 5**). The Southeast Fisheries Science Center (Dr. Bonnie Ponwith) has initiated discussions with Dave Van Voorhees and others in the MRIP program to plan for implementation of the charter vessel logbook and calibration to the existing

MRIP charter vessel catch methodology. There is a technical group working with the SC For-hire Logbook to test, review, and certify the data; Dr. Mike Errigo, South Atlantic Council Staff, represents the Council on this working group.

Initial discussions are based on a federal charter vessel requirement being in place beginning January 1, 2017. Funding will need to be identified for the side by side comparison and validation of the SC Logbook Program's data will assist with this comparison. The resulting charter vessel logbook program will be a "MRIP-Certified Program" and should not be thought of as being outside of MRIP.

South Atlantic Council staff sent the following request to the Dr. Ponwith and Dr. Crabtree to obtain some of the requested policy level information and the Committee will receive a report during the meeting (August 26, 2015 memo from Robert Mahood):

During our September 2015 Data Collection Committee meeting, the Committee will review the For-Hire Logbook Amendment and approve the document for public hearings to be held in November 2015. To complete the economic analyses, we need to know whether the charter vessel owners would be responsible for purchasing a tablet and having it installed on the vessel to meet the anticipated reporting requirements OR would NMFS have funding to reimburse charter vessel owners similar to what has been done in the past with VMS.

Based on our understanding of the Southeast Electronic Reporting/Monitoring Program, NMFS is expecting industry cost-sharing in data collection. Moving the charter vessels to an electronic logbook program would result in significant costs to NMFS as outlined in the Technical Sub-Committee's final report. It seems reasonable, in the face of the need for industry cost-sharing, that the charter vessel owners would be responsible for the cost of purchasing a tablet with GPS capability (\$650-\$1700 depending on how ruggedized the unit is), installation (\$85), and ongoing service. The Committee/Council needs to know who will be responsible for these tablet costs and we would appreciate NMFS being able to answer this during the upcoming Data Collection Committee meeting in September.

COMMITTEE ACTION: RECEIVE REPORT AND TAKE ACTION AS MAY BE NECESSARY

TIMING – Based on timing approved by both Councils in June 2015

- A. ✓ Technical Sub-Committee finalized report – November 2014.
- B. ✓ Council reviews final report
 - a. ✓ SAFMC – December 2014
 - b. ✓ GMFMC – January 2015
- C. ✓ Council reviews options and provide guidance to Staff/IPT
 - a. ✓ SAFMC – March 2015
 - b. ✓ GMFMC – March 30 – April 2, 2015
- D. Council reviews and provides guidance on actions/alternatives
 - a. ✓ SAFMC – June 2015
 - b. ✓ GMFMC – June 2015

- E. Councils review and approve for public hearings
 - a. SAFMC – September 14-18, 2015 in Hilton Head, SC
 - b. GMFMC – August 10-14, 2015 in New Orleans, LA – Gulf Council did not approve for public hearings given the lack of information, cost data, and analyses.
 - F. Public hearings – November (GMFMC)/November (SAFMC) 2015
 - G. Councils review public hearing input and approve all actions
 - a. SAFMC – December 7-11, 2015 in Atlantic Beach, NC
 - b. GMFMC – January 25-29, 2016 in Orange Beach, FL
 - H. Councils approves for final review
 - a. SAFMC – March 7-11, 2016 in Jekyll Island, GA
 - b. GMFMC – April 4-8, 2016 in Austin, TX
 - I. Send document for final review – by May 31, 2016
- Note: If additional action is needed by each Council, this would occur during both Council’s June 13-17, 2016 meetings. This would delay sending the document for formal review to mid-July 2016.

COMMITTEE GUIDANCE:

OPTION 1. DELAY WORK ON THE AMENDMENT UNTIL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION IS GATHERED AND ANALYZED AND PUT INTO THE AMENDMENT.

OPTION 2. DEVELOP A SEPARATE CHARTER VESSEL/HEADBOAT REPORTING AMENDMENT FOR THE SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL’S AREA OF JURISDICTION.

1. Separate Gulf and South Atlantic Amendments were prepared for the Headboat Logbook Program. Certain components of the programs would have to meet common requirements as was done for the headboat amendment.
2. Separate amendments would address the IPT’s concerns about analyzing the different timing for reporting in Actions 1 and 2.
3. Separate amendments would remove the consideration of VMS in the amendment even if noted for Gulf Council area only.
4. Separate amendments would allow the South Atlantic Council to move forward with approval for public hearings and to hold public hearings in November. This would keep the South Atlantic Council on schedule to have requirements in place beginning January 1, 2017.
5. Separate amendments would reduce the significant South Atlantic Council and staff workload given the additional work necessary with a Joint Amendment.

OPTION 3. OTHERS???