

Summary of the Data Collection Committee
[Gulf Council Motions added from motions distributed after Gulf Council meeting]
August 20, 2012
Astor Crown Plaza
New Orleans, LA

Members:

Pearce, Chair
Anson
Abele
Crabtree
Dana
Riechers
Simpson
McCawley

The agenda was adopted as written and the minutes of the June 17, 2012 meeting were approved with no modifications.

The committee reviewed the Modifications to the Federally-Permitted Seafood Dealer Reporting Requirements document. Ms. Muehlstein provided a summary of public hearings that were held in nine cities but were sparsely attended. Much of the comment received was not specific to the seafood dealer reporting amendment but relevant comment stated that it would be very difficult to meet reporting compliance goals if shrimp is included in the permitting requirements. Council was also advised that weekly electronic reporting would not be a burden.

The committee discussed Action 1: What dealer permits would be required and for which species. The committee discussed that the Gulf Council and South Atlantic Council have selected different preferred alternatives for this Action but recognized that both Councils will have to agree on a preferred alternative prior to submission to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

Dr. Crabtree noted that the document does not address the Council's intent that permitted vessels can only sell to permitted dealers in those fisheries where a dealer's permit exist. Dr. Crabtree, was concerned that without clarification, ambiguity exists that could lead to incomplete reports of total purchased landings by dealers. The committee recommends and I so **move to request to clarify the document that it is the Council's intent that permitted vessels can only sell to permitted dealers in those fisheries where a dealer's permit exists.** *Approved by Gulf Council with no opposition.*

The committee discussed Action 2: Frequency and method by which dealers will be required to report. Currently, both the Gulf and South Atlantic Council's have selected Alternative 3, Option 3b as preferred specifying weekly reporting submitted *electronically* (via computer or internet). After discussion the committee was satisfied and did not recommend changing the preferred alternative.

After reviewing Action 3 – Requirements to Maintain a Dealer Permit, the committee recommends and I so **move** to request that the preferred alternative be **Alternative 2: “No purchase forms”** must be submitted at the same frequency, via the same process, and for the same species as specified for “purchased forms” in Actions 1 and 2. A dealer would only be authorized to receive commercially-harvested species if the dealer’s previous reports have been submitted by the dealer and received by NOAA Fisheries in a timely manner. Any delinquent reports would need to be submitted and received by NOAA Fisheries before a dealer could receive commercially harvested species from a federally-permitted U.S. vessel. *Approved by Gulf Council with no opposition.*

After review and discussion, the committee recommends and I so **move** to send the **Modifications to Federally-Permitted Seafood Dealer Reporting Requirements Amendment to full Council for approval.**

Substitute motion: To forward the Modifications to Federally-Permitted Seafood Dealer Reporting Requirements Amendment to the Secretary of Commerce, deem the regulations necessary and appropriate, allowing staff to make changes in the codified text, and giving the Chairman the authority to re-deem as required.

Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention.

Dr. Crabtree	Yes	Mr. Riechers	Yes	Dr. Dana	Yes
Mr. Matens	Yes	Mr. Sanchez	Yes	Mr. Fischer	Yes
Dr. Shipp	Yes	Mr. Pearce	Yes	Mr. Anson	Yes
Mr. Boyd	Yes	Mr. Riley	Yes	Mr. Greene	Yes
Ms. Williams	Abstain	Ms. Bademan	Yes	Dr. Abele	Yes
Mr. Perret	Yes	Mr. Diaz	Yes		

Mr. Pearce stated the importance of improving timeliness and accuracy of fisheries data for headboats and the for-hire sector. Dr. Ponwith stated that MRIP is providing funding to implement electronic reporting for headboats gulf-wide. Dr. Ponwith also stated that her staff has encouraged inclusion of the for-hire sector in this program that could allow a shift from paper to electronic reporting. Dr. Dana questioned if this would change the actual reporting requirements or just the language. Dr. Dana also stated that she is not aware of pushback from industry on this issue but is concerned if any additional costs associated with reporting are being considered. Dr. Ponwith clarified that this would only affect the language as funding is not available to implement in the for-hire industry at this time. Dr. Crabtree stated that alternatives to address any funding issues would be developed and addressed through the Amendment process. The committee recommends and I so **move** to request **Council staff to work with Southeast Fishery Science Center advisors on developing an amendment to require electronic reporting for for-hire vessels.** *Approved by Gulf Council with no opposition.*

Gulf Council Motion: That the amendment should include options to bring the headboat reporting requirements in line with the Science Center’s requirement for electronic reporting.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.