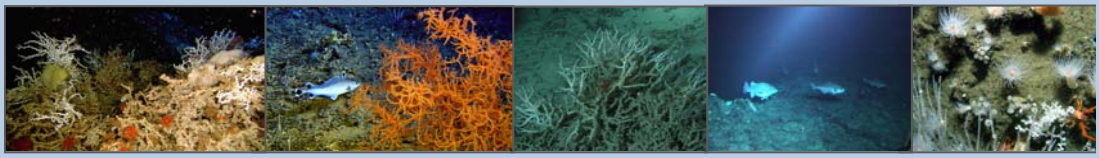
ATTACHMENT 3.

DECISION DOCUMENT

for
Data Collection Actions in Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
Orlando, FL
June 2012

Data Collection Actions in CEBA-3

Action 6. Modify permits and data reporting for for-hire vessels

Action 7. Modify permits and data reporting for commercial vessels

Action 8. Modify bycatch and discard reporting

Background for Actions 6-8

Currently, for-hire vessels are subject to the following permitting and reporting requirements:

Code of Federal Regulations: Title 50

§ 622.2 Definitions and acronyms.

Science and Research Director (SRD), for the purposes of this part, means the Science and Research Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS (see Table 1 of § 600.502 of this chapter).

§ 622.4 Permits and fees.

(a) Permits required. To conduct activities in fisheries governed in this part, valid permits, licenses, and endorsements are required as follows: (1) Charter vessel/headboat permits. (i) For a person aboard a vessel that is operating as a charter vessel or headboat to fish for or possess, in or from the EEZ, species in any of the following species groups, a valid charter vessel/headboat permit for that species group must have been issued to the vessel and must be on board--

(A) Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish.

(B) South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish.

(C) Gulf reef fish.

(D) South Atlantic snapper-grouper.

(E) Atlantic dolphin and wahoo. (See paragraph (a)(5) of this section for the requirements for operator permits in the dolphin and wahoo fishery.)

(ii) See paragraph (r) of this section regarding a limited access system for charter vessel/headboat permits for Gulf reef fish and Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish.

(iii) A charter vessel or headboat may have both a charter vessel/headboat permit and a commercial vessel permit. However, when a vessel is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, a person aboard must adhere to the bag limits.

§ 622.5 Recordkeeping and reporting.

Participants in fisheries governed in this part are required to keep records and report as follows.

(b) Charter vessel/headboat owners and operators—

(1) Coastal migratory pelagic fish, reef fish, snapper-grouper, and Atlantic dolphin and wahoo. The owner or operator of a vessel for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish, South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish, Gulf reef fish, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, as required under § 622.4(a)(1), 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 EEZ, and who is selected to report by the 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 and must submit such record as specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) Reporting deadlines--(i) Charter vessels. Completed fishing records required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section for charter vessels must be submitted to the SRD weekly, postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

(ii) Headboats. Completed fishing records required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section for headboats must be submitted to the SRD monthly and must either be made available to an authorized statistical reporting agent or be postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of each month. Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

Action 6. Modify permits and data reporting for for-hire vessels

Staff/IPT members suggested wording:

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing permits and data reporting systems for the for-hire sector.

Alternative 2. Require that charter and headboat vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly.

Alternative 3. Require that charter and headboat vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) daily.

Alternative 4. Require that charter and headboat vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD.

What's the difference?
Alternative 1 would continue to require charter vessel reports to be postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday); headboat reports must be submitted to the SRD monthly and must either be made available to an authorized statistical reporting agent or be postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each month. **Alternative 2** would require weekly reporting and **Alternative 3** would require daily reporting. **Alternative 4** would require weekly reporting initially and if the Science and Research director determine faster reporting was required, the Councils would not need to take any additional action.

What you did in March (2012): Option 1. For-Hire Vessel Reporting
Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing permits and data reporting systems for the for-hire sector.
Alternative 2. Data Collection Committee motion says modify as per Attachment 4, which is the Code of Federal Regulations excerpt pasted below: ***** *Code of Federal Regulations*: Title 50 § 622.2 Definitions and acronyms. Science and Research Director (SRD), for the purposes of this part, means the Science and Research Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS (see Table 1 of § 600.502 of this chapter). § 622.4 Permits and fees. Amendment, Proposed Changes: I. Timing *(2) Reporting deadlines--(i) Charter vessels and headboats. Completed fishing records required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section for charter vessels and headboats must be submitted to the SRD weekly, or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD. These records must be electronically stamped or postmarked not later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.* *Option 1. Weekly.* *Option 2. Daily.* *Option 3. Weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD.*

Committee Actions

1) Let's talk about clarifying the language in the alternatives.

- current Alternatives 2-4: Clarify when reports need to be provided and modify the wording in the current alternatives:

Option a: Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).
Option b: Daily = by noon of the following day

- current Alternatives 2-4: Clarify how reports need to be provided and modify the wording in the current alternatives or create new action/alternatives to define how reports are to be provided:

Option a: Headboat reports must be made available to statistical reporting agent?
Option b: Headboat and charter vessel reports must be mailed.
Option c: Headboat and charter vessel reports must be submitted electronically.
Option d: Headboat and charter vessel report can be submitted electronically or via fax/mail. (Note: This would require a system for them to report electronically.)

2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?

3) Do you want to select a preferred alternative?

Action 7. Modify permits and data reporting for commercial vessels

Staff/IPT members suggested wording:

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing permits and data reporting systems for the commercial sector.

Table 7-1. Summary of current snapper grouper data collection programs under Alternative 1.

Sector	Submit SRD Reporting Forms if Selected	Must Submit SRD Reporting Form for Each Trip	Carry Observers if Selected	Maintain Electronic Logbook if Selected	Must Provide Offloading, Purchase, and Sales Records if Selected	Carry Video Monitoring System if Selected	MRFFS Participation if Selected
Commercial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	N/A
For-hire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

Alternative 2. Modify permits and data-reporting for commercial vessels as follows:
(Note: As directed by the Council during the March 2012 meeting, these alternatives are similar to how this was considered in SG Amendment 18A; Council chose No Action as their preferred in SG Amendment 18A.)

Sub-Alternative 2a. Require all vessels with a Federal commercial permit to have an electronic logbook tied to the vessel's GPS onboard the vessel.

(Note: Sub-Alternative 2a would require 100% of snapper grouper vessels to have an electronic logbook; whereas, current data reporting programs only require electronic logbooks if selected. To date none have been selected.)

Sub-Alternative 2b. Develop a system for commercial permit holders to submit their logbook entries electronically via an electronic version of the logbook made available online.

Sub-Alternative 2c. Require that commercial landings and catch/effort data be submitted in accordance with ACCSP standards, using the SAFIS system.

Note: Alternative 2c would require that 100% of commercial fishermen report electronically using the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (**SAFIS).** SAFIS is a real-time, web-based reporting system for commercial landings on the Atlantic coast (http://www.accsp.org/safis.htm). It is comprised of three applications:

- Electronic Dealer Reports (eDR) - A forms based application collecting information from the dealers (landings, condition and price).

- Electronic Trip Reports (eTRIPS) - A Web-based application collecting data from fisherman (catch and effort) including gear used, fishing areas, and catch disposition.
- SAFIS Management System (SMS) - A Web-based application providing administrative tools to SAFIS administrators for management of user accounts, participants, permits etc.

The partners (States, Councils, USFWS, & Commissions) of the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) created SAFIS to meet the increasing need for real-time commercial landings data. Through a cooperative, consensus driven process, ACCSP developed a set of data collection standards. All program partners have agreed to these standards and have been adopted for almost all aspects of fisheries dependant data collection. A process has been put into place to fund research and implementation of these standards in the partner agencies.

Since its creation in 2003, SAFIS has been used to report data for the majority of states in the Northeast (North Carolina north participate in the program). The State of Rhode Island first adopted SAFIS in February 2003. SAFIS was then adopted by Maryland for landings data and quota monitoring of important finfish and shellfish species. NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region launched SAFIS for federally permitted seafood dealers in May 2004. Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine now use SAFIS. ACCSP continues to work with New York, Delaware, New Jersey to accommodate specific industry needs.

- SAFIS provides up-to-date information on species caught and their impact on fisheries and quotas
- SAFIS allows confidential access to data-of-record by fisherman and dealers
- SAFIS fulfills State and Federal reporting requirements through online data entry and reporting
- SAFIS management tools facilitate maintenance of partner-owned data such as participants, online permits, and vessels.

SAFIS management tools facilitate maintenance of partner-owned data such as participants, online permits, and vessels.

Program Partner SAFIS Implementation

Electronic Dealer Reporting (eDR): A web based application that collects landings data from dealers. This includes species, disposition and price.

Electronic Trip Reporting (eTRIPS): A web based application that compiles catch and effort data from fishers. Trip reports, or logbooks in some fisheries, provide catch and effort data from a permitted fishing entity (fisher of a vessel) or a single vessel. A trip is any single event where fishing was attempted, regardless of catch. Trips may be categorized as commercial, party/charter or recreational.

Voluntary Angler Logbooks (eLOGBOOK): A web based application that collects data from private recreational anglers on a voluntary basis.

Electronic One Trip Ticket (e-1Ticket): A web based application providing the ability to collect trip/effort/catch data and simultaneously create a dealer report. This application was released into production in January 2011.

What's the difference?
Alternative 1 would not change the current reporting requirements which would continue to make it difficult to verify dealer reported data in a timely manner. Sub-Alternative 2a would provide for more timely data reporting and would also collect catch by area information in much more detail than is currently done through the large statistical grids in the logbook. **Sub-Alternative 2b** would establish a system whereby fishermen could submit their logbook data electronically. **Sub-Alternative 2c** would bring the southeast into the same system that is in operation from North Carolina north.

What you did in March (2012): Option 2. Commercial Vessel Reporting
Alternative 1 (No Action).
Alternative 2. Modify similar to alternatives in Snapper Grouper Amendment 18A.

Committee Actions

1) Let's talk about clarifying the language in the alternatives.

- current Sub-Alternatives 2a-2c: Clarify when reports need to be provided and modify the wording in the current alternatives:

Option a: Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).
Option b: Daily = by noon of the following day

- current Sub-Alternatives 2a-2c: Clarify how reports need to be provided and modify the wording in the current alternatives or create a new action with alternatives to define how reports are to be provided:

Option a: Commercial vessel reports must be submitted electronically. (Note: This would require a system for them to report electronically.)

Option b: Commercial vessel reports must be submitted electronically or via fax/mail. Headboat and charter vessel reports must be mailed.

2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?

3) Do you want to select a preferred alternative?

Action 8. Modify bycatch and discard reporting

Staff/IPT members suggested wording:

Alternative 1 (No Action). Adopt the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Release, Discard and Protected Species Module as the preferred methodology. Until this module is fully funded, require the use of a variety of sources to assess and monitor bycatch including: observer coverage on vessels; logbooks; electronic logbook; video monitoring; MRFSS; state cooperation; and grant funded projects. After the ACCSP Bycatch Module is implemented, continue the use of technologies to augment and verify observer data. Require that commercial vessels with a snapper grouper permit, for-hire vessels with a for-hire permit, and private recreational vessels if fishing for snapper grouper species in the EEZ, if selected, shall use observer coverage, logbooks, electronic logbooks, video monitoring, or any other method deemed necessary to measure bycatch by NOAA Fisheries.

Note: This was adopted for the snapper grouper fishery.

Alternative 2. Adopt the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Release, Discard and Protected Species Module as the preferred methodology. Require that vessels with a commercial permit, for-hire vessels with a for-hire permit, and private recreational vessels if fishing for species in the EEZ under the authority of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, if selected, shall use observer coverage, logbooks, electronic logbooks, video monitoring, or any other method deemed necessary to measure bycatch by NOAA Fisheries.

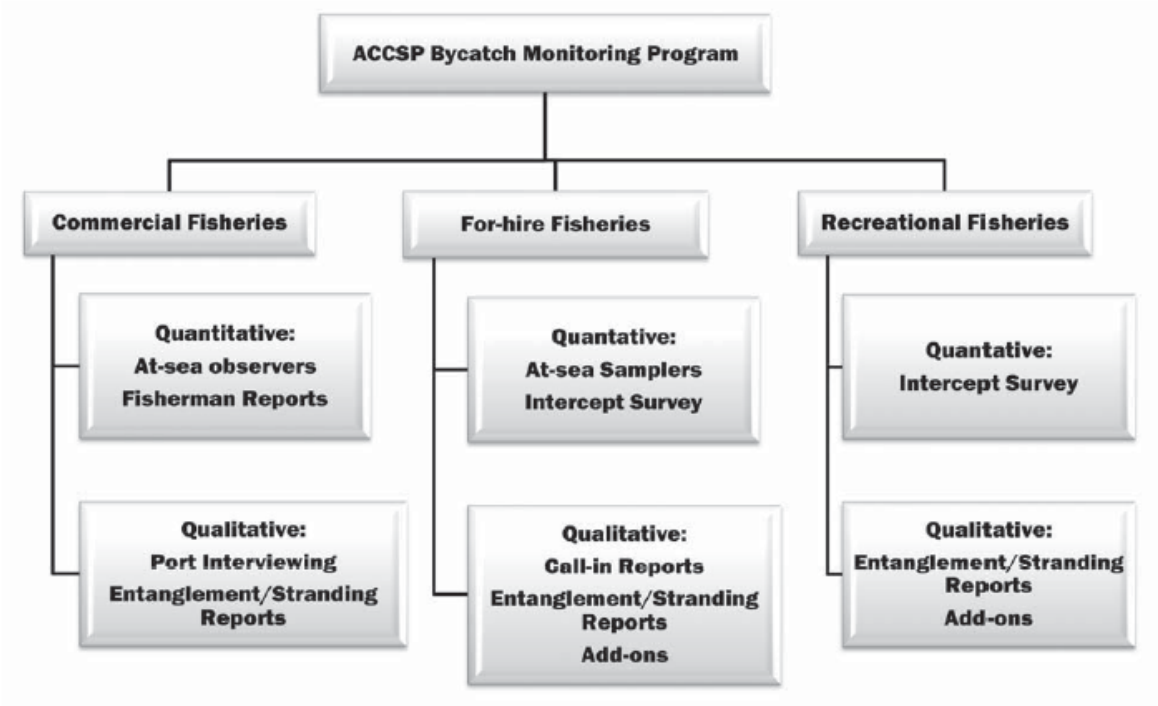
Note: The following material is from the ACCSP Data Collection Standards for 2012 that is attached to the decision document.

BYCATCH, RELEASES, AND PROTECTED SPECIES INTERACTIONS DATA
The ACCSP Bycatch, Releases, and Protected Species Interactions (hereafter called "bycatch") monitoring program includes sampling of all fishing sectors for living marine resources in estuarine, inshore, and offshore waters. Data should be collected on all US fishing vessels leaving from and landing at Atlantic coast ports, as well as from shore based fishing operations. Reporting of protected species interactions and managed species data currently are the highest priorities under the bycatch monitoring program of the ACCSP.

A. STANDARDS
The bycatch standards of the ACCSP include both quantitative and qualitative components. Targeted at-sea sampling programs ("observer") and collection of bycatch data through established fisherman self-reporting systems comprise the primary methods used to quantify bycatch. Sea turtle and marine mammal entanglement1 and stranding networks, beach bird surveys, and add-ons to existing recreational and for-hire intercept and telephone surveys are the primary sources of qualitative information for bycatch. In addition to providing some additional information on bycatch, qualitative data functions to verify anecdotal accounts and to better direct quantitative methods.

The ACCSP recognizes that new modes of data collection are evolving. Technologies such as electronic monitoring systems are in development or in use for commercial, recreational, and for-hire fisheries on the Atlantic coast. Hence, standards contained herein have the flexibility to expand and incorporate any unique features associated with these technologies.

Figure 16: THE ACCSP BYCATCH DATA COLLECTION METHODS FOR COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL, AND FOR-HIRE FISHERIES



1. Quantitative Data

The preferred data collection methodology for quantitative bycatch monitoring is vessel-based stratified random sampling with replacement. However, the Program recognizes that the sampling strata of a partner may vary based the characteristics of individual fisheries, available resources, and other factors. The sampling frame should reflect the current operational fleet, when data allow. All sampling programs should indicate within the ACCSP database procedures used to select vessels, including reasons for nonrandom selections. Data should be collected at the haul level for commercial fisheries and at the drop level (each time gear is wet) for for-hire and recreational boat mode fisheries. Pilot surveys are also recommended prior to full implementation in order to determine the appropriate level of sampling coverage for each fishery. Recommended PSE values for both estimates of protected species and total discards at the fishery level are 20 to 30%.

<u>What's the difference?</u>

Alternative 1 would continue the current situation whereby only 20% of the commercial vessels are currently completing discard logbooks. **Alternative 2** would provide the required data collection program to meet the Magnuson-Stevens Act bycatch reporting requirements.

What you did in March (2012): Option 3. Bycatch and Discard Reporting
Alternative 1 (No Action).
Alternative 2. Implement ACCSP.

Committee Actions

1) Let's talk about clarifying the language in the alternatives.

- current Alternative 1: NMFS currently requires 20% of commercial snapper grouper (and mackerel?) vessel owners to complete the discard logbook forms:

Option a: Require 100%.

Option b: Require some other percentage?

2) Do you want to add or remove any alternatives?

3) Do you want to select a preferred alternative?

Public Hearing Dates and Locations

Public Hearings will be held from 4 – 7 p.m.

August 9, 2012 Hilton Key Largo Resort 97000 South Overseas Highway Key Largo, Florida 33037 Phone: 305-852-5553	**August 8, 2012** Doubletree Hotel 2080 N. Atlantic Avenue Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931 Phone: 321-783-9222
August 7, 2012 Jacksonville Marriott 4670 Salisbury Road **Jacksonville, FL 32256** Phone: 904-296-2222	**August 6, 2012** Richmond Hill City Center 520 Cedar Street Richmond Hill, GA 31324 Phone: 912-445-0043
August 14, 2012 Hilton Garden Inn Airport 5265 International Blvd. North Charleston, SC 29418 Phone: 843-308-9330	**August 16, 2012** Hilton New Bern/Riverfront 100 Middle Street New Bern, NC 28560 Phone: 252-638-3585

Option 1. Approve the Data Collection actions in CEBA-3 for public hearings.

Option 2. Review the Data Collection actions in CEBA-3 at the September 2012 meeting before approving for public hearings.