



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# SEFHIER

Better Data, Better Management

Michelle Masi, PhD  
NMFS|Southeast Regional Office  
[Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov)

# SEFHIER Background Information



- ❖ Federal for-hire electronic reporting began Jan, 2021
- ❖ Applicable South Atlantic/Atlantic federal permits:
  - South Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Coastal Migratory Pelagic fish (CHS)
  - Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Dolphin/wahoo (CDW)
  - South Atlantic Charter/Headboat for Snapper-grouper fish (SC)
- ❖ Permit requirements differ among the Gulf and S. Atl. programs (the Gulf program had more requirements)
- ❖ Permit renewal withheld for non-reporting as of 4/29/2022

# SEFHIER Program Goals

- ❖ Produce reliable estimates of catch & effort for federally permitted for-hire vessels
- ❖ Immediate data uses - validate minimum catch & effort estimates
- ❖ Future data use requires calibration and benchmarking to existing data collections
- ❖ Anticipated benefits of SEFHIER:
  - Improved for-hire data, for management:
    - ✓ Increased accuracy & timeliness
    - ✓ Census-based reporting
    - ✓ Reduction in recall bias
  - Improved monitoring & compliance



# (Required) SEFHIER Logbook Fields

## ❖ Trip Detail Fields:

- **Vessel ID/permit group** (for SA or Gulf form)
- **Captain First & Last Name**
- **Trip Type** (Charter, Headboat, Commercial, Recreational)
- **Trip Activity** (Fishing – Yes/No; Trip w/o Effort)
- **Trip Start/End Date & Time**
- **End Port**
- **Primary Gear**
- **Primary Target Species**
- **Fishing Hours**
- **Fishing Depth**
- **Fishing Location** (Lat/Long)
- **Species Caught and/or Discarded**

## ❖ Passenger and Economic Questions:

- **# of Anglers**
- **# of Paying Passengers**
- **# of Crew**
- **Trip Fee**
- **Fuel Used**
- **Price per Gallon**



# SEFHIER Outreach & Communication

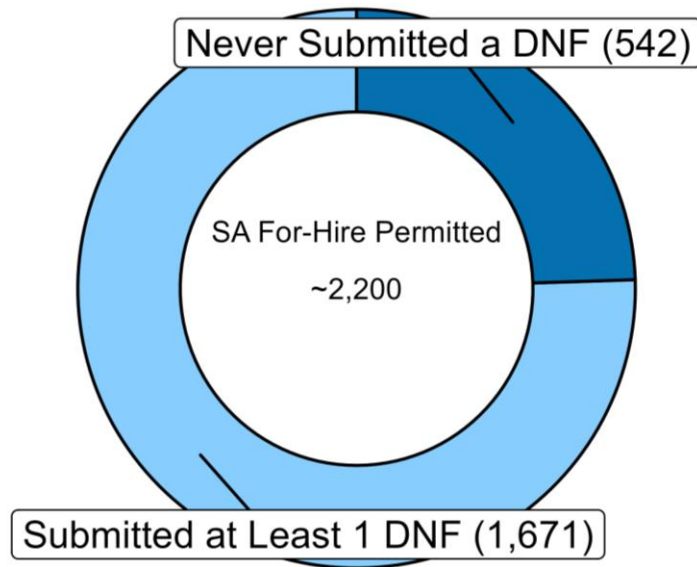
- ❖ Outreach efforts to promote compliance:
  - **2021-2022:** webinars & constituent calls; Council communication and presentations
  - **2021-ongoing:** outgoing/incoming calls (via our customer service line: 1-833-707-1632) or email at: [ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov](mailto:ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov); [toolkit](#); [compliance guide](#); [SEFHIER website](#); [Fishery Bulletins](#); permit renewal/welcome letters; compliance check at permit renewal; Council presentations; OLE outreach via dock visits & enforcement action
- ❖ Communicating reporting requirements for dual South Atlantic/Atlantic and Gulf Permitted Vessels
  - “Reminders about Reporting Requirements for Vessels with Commercial and Federal For-Hire Permits” went out as a [Fishery Bulletin](#) on 10/26/2023
- ❖ How to add/modify SEFHIER required fields (e.g. add shark depredation)
  - Requires consideration of (1) burden on constituents, (2) burden on software developers (NMFS does not pay app vendors), (3) how data will be used, and (4) legal considerations

# < 2021: Total SEFHIER Data

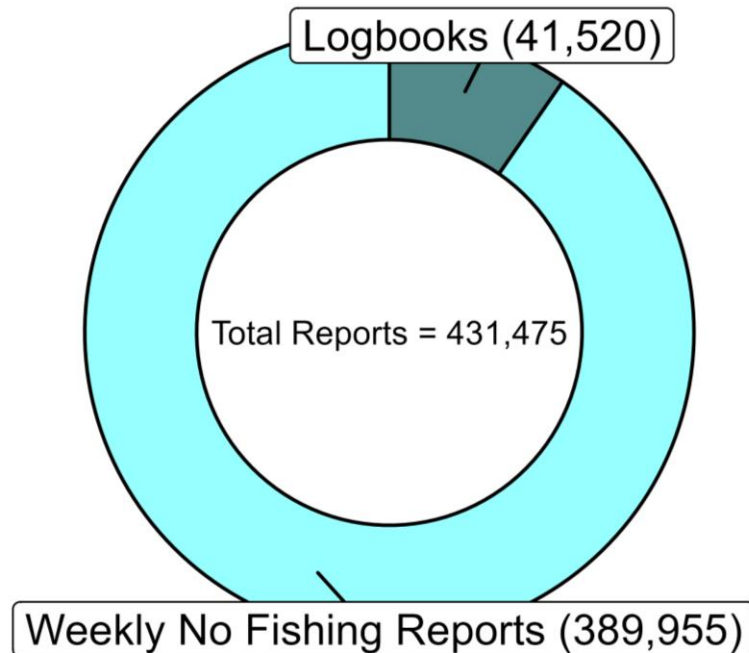


# 2022 South Atlantic (SA) SEFHIER Data

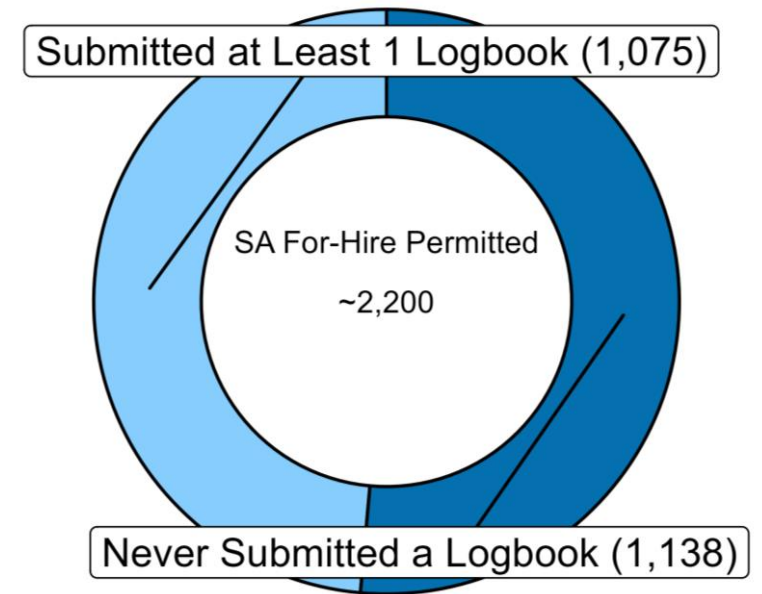
SA Permitted Vessels  
That Submitted At Least 1 Did Not Fish Report (DNF)



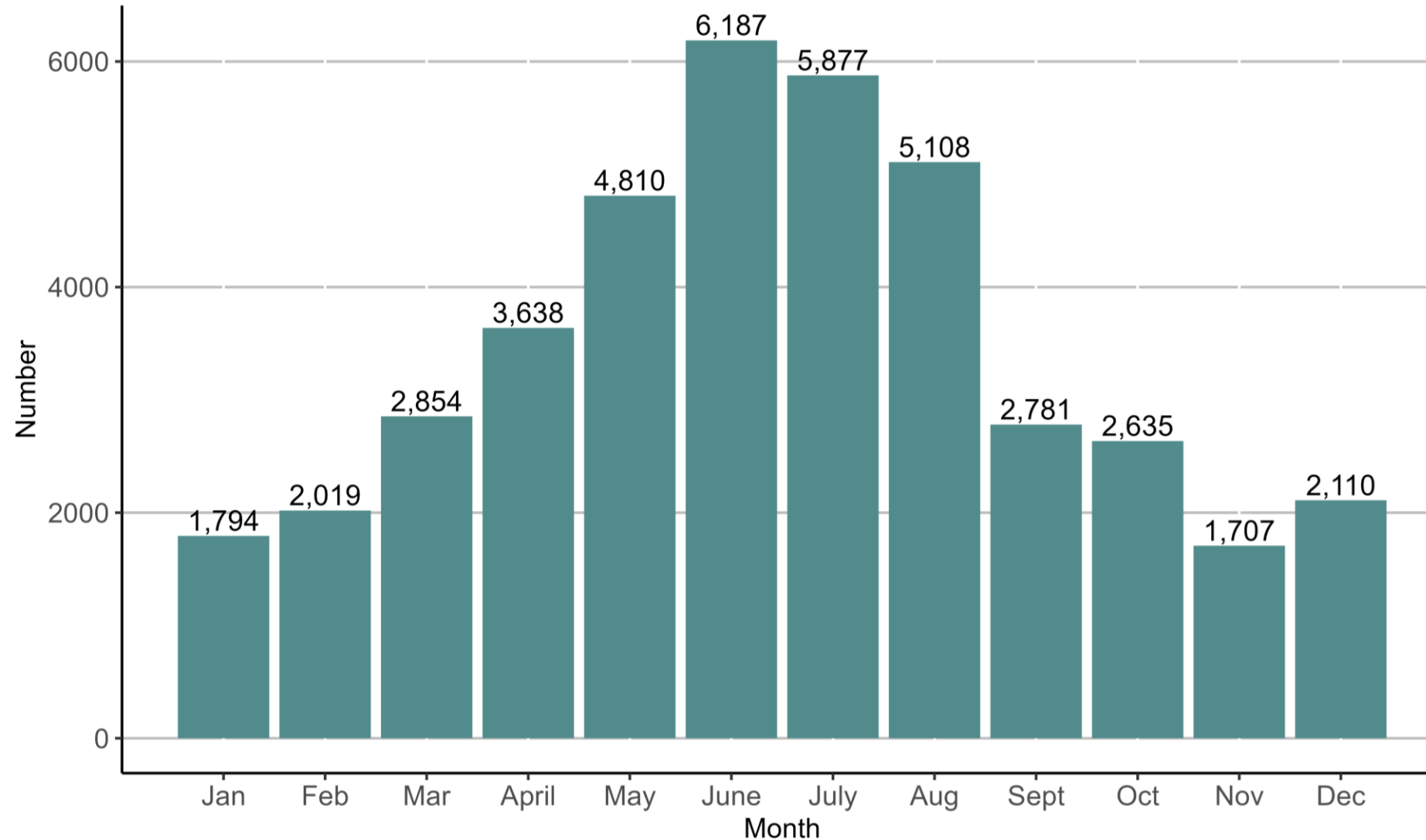
SEFHIER Reports  
(from SA For-hire Permitted)



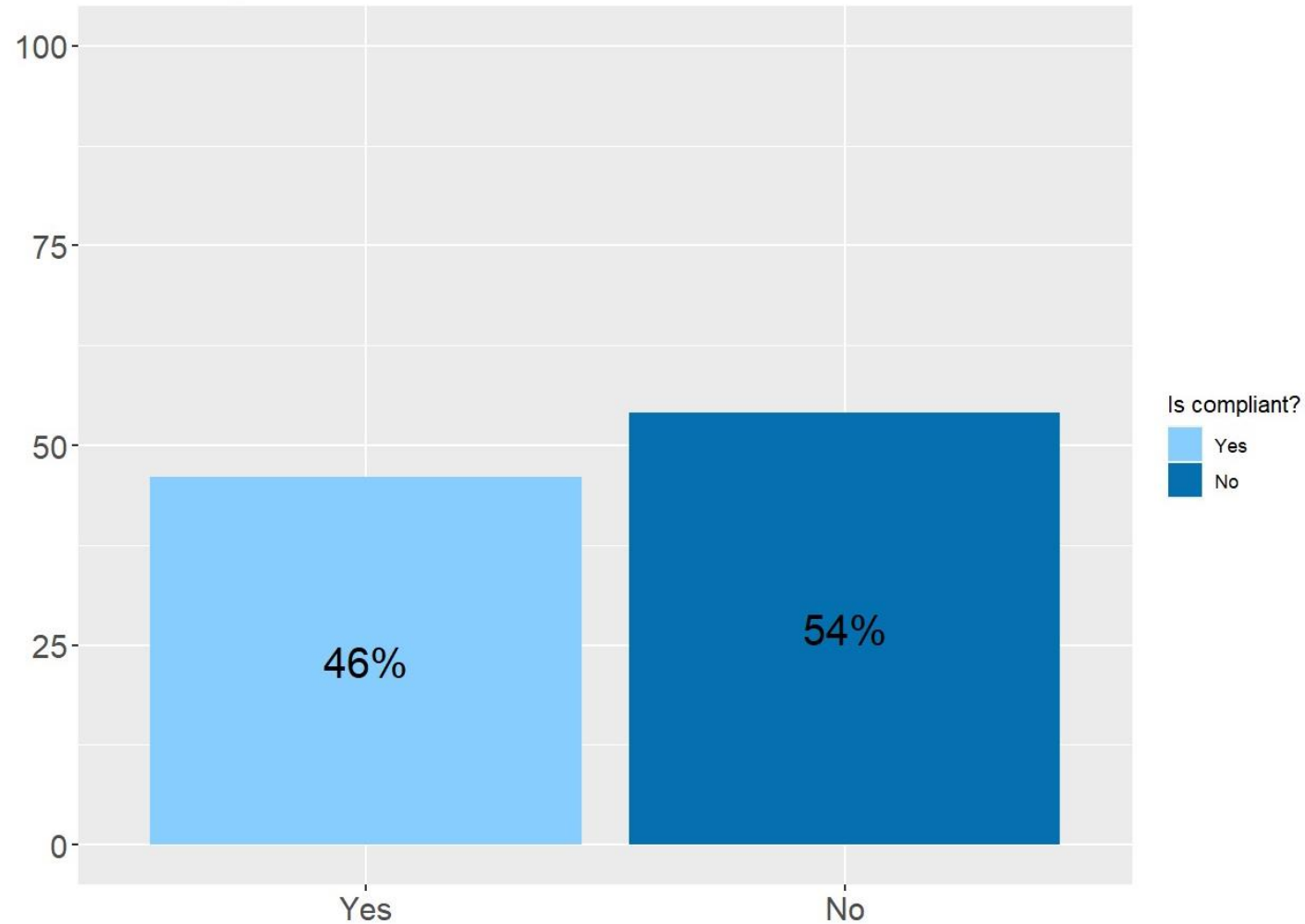
SA Permitted Vessels  
Fishing vs Not Fishing



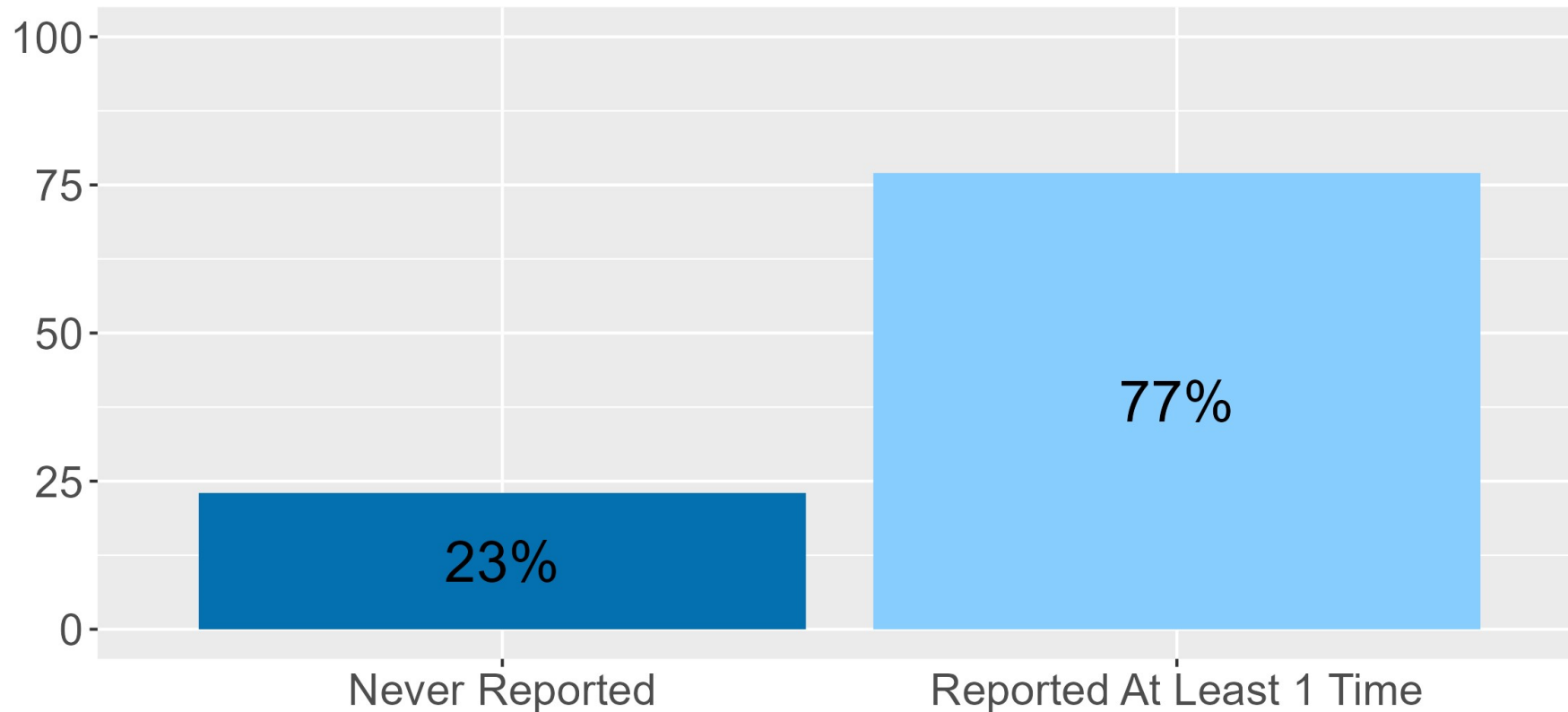
# 2022 SA SEFHIER Data: Total Logbooks, by Month

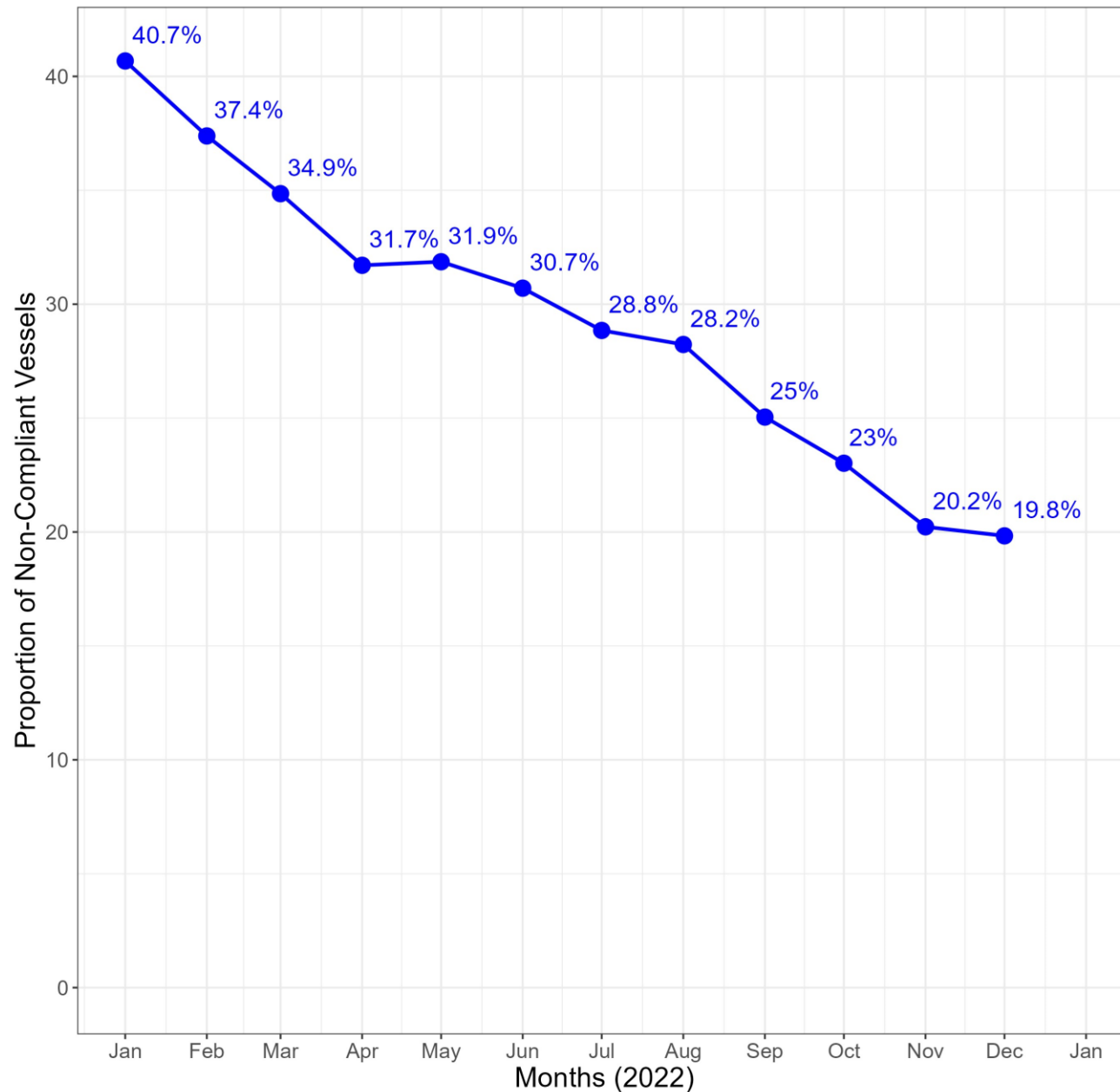


# 2022 SA SEFHIER: % Compliant vs Non-Compliant Vessels (With Regard to the Reporting Requirements)



# 2022 SA SEFHIER: % of Permitted Vessels Reporting vs Not



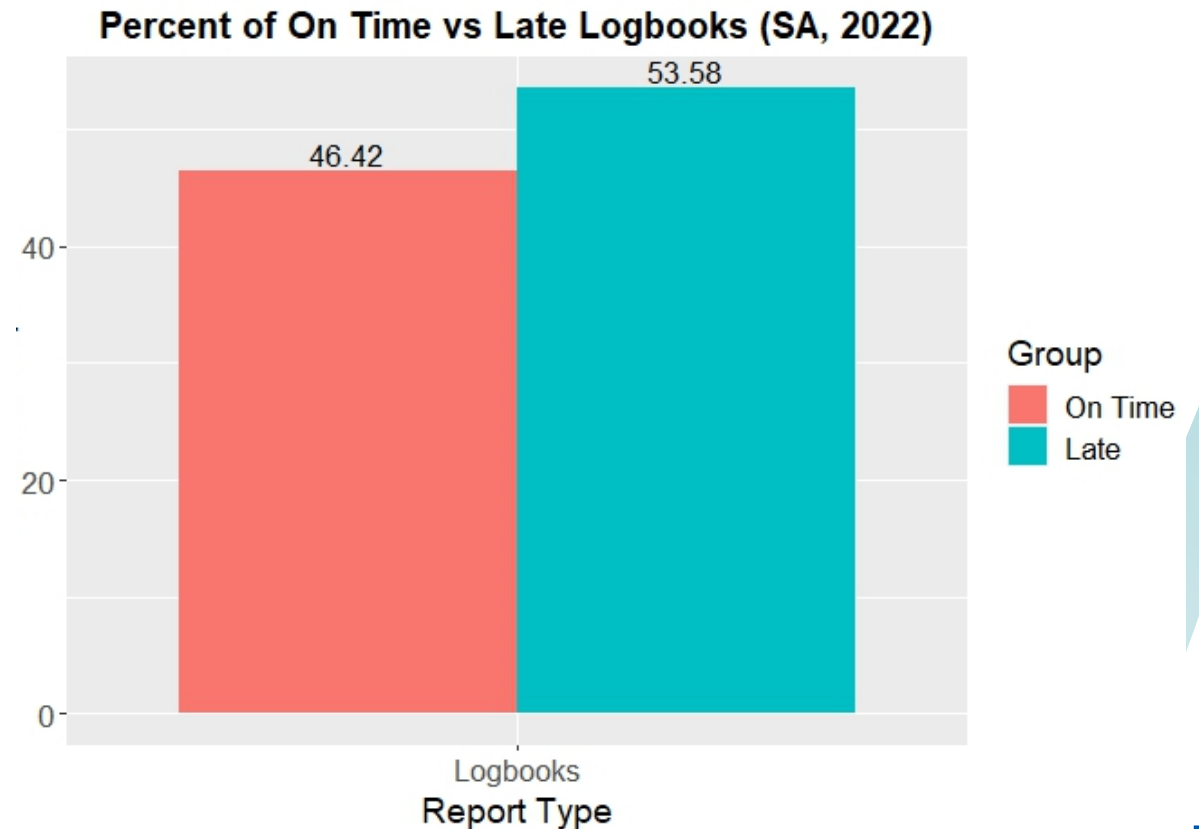
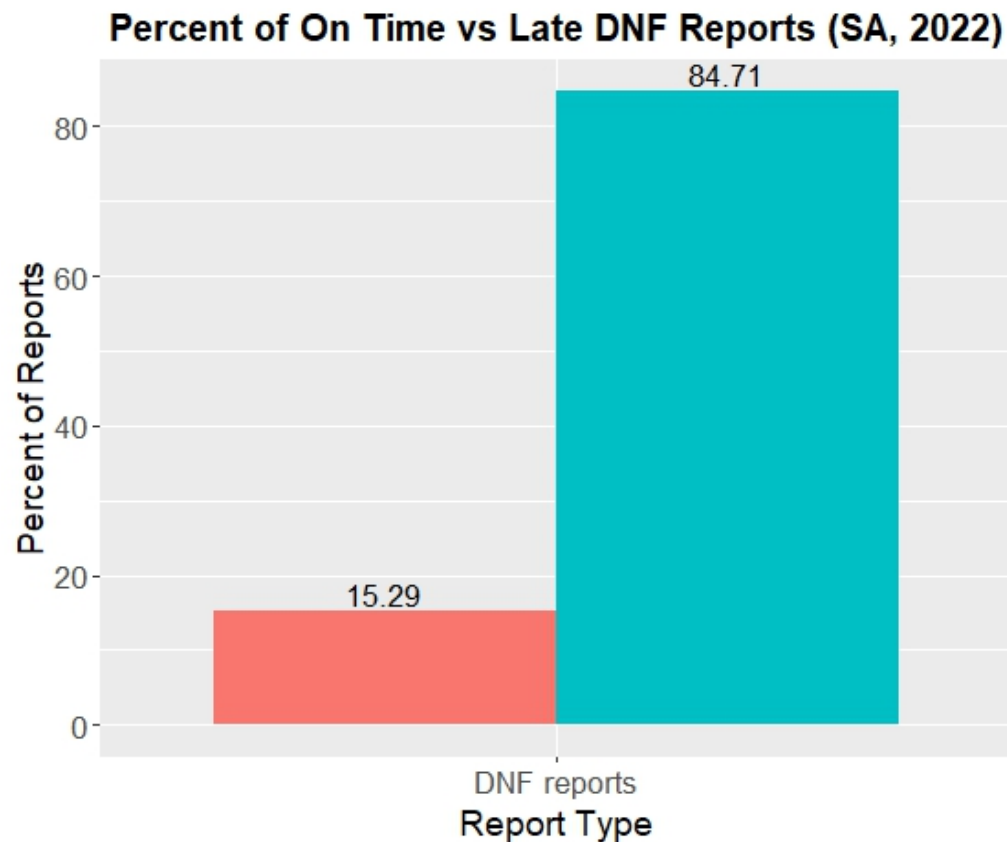


**2022 SA SEFHIER:**

**% of Non-Compliant  
Vessels, by Month  
(Out of ~2200 Total SA  
Permitted)**

# 2022 SA SEFHIER: Late Reporting

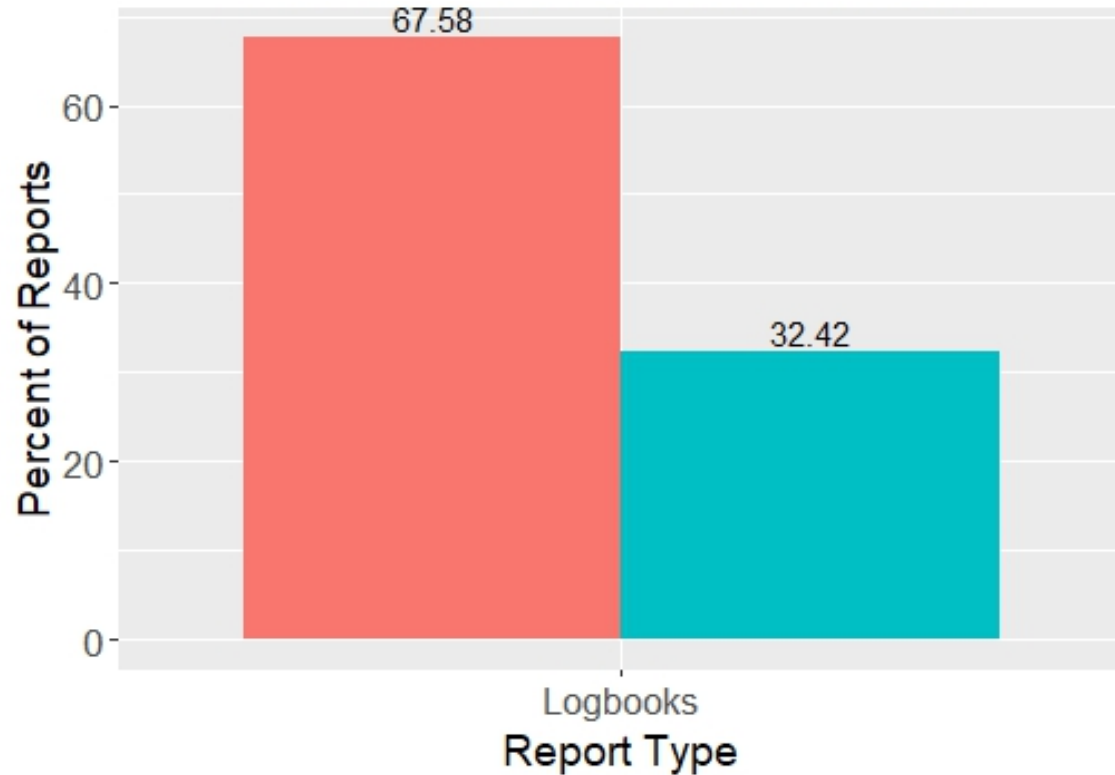
\*Late = transmission > submission deadline (i.e., Tuesday 11:59 pm, following the reporting week)



# 2022: Late Reporting

(% of logbooks submitted > 30 days of Trip End)

## South Atlantic Program (~2200 permits)

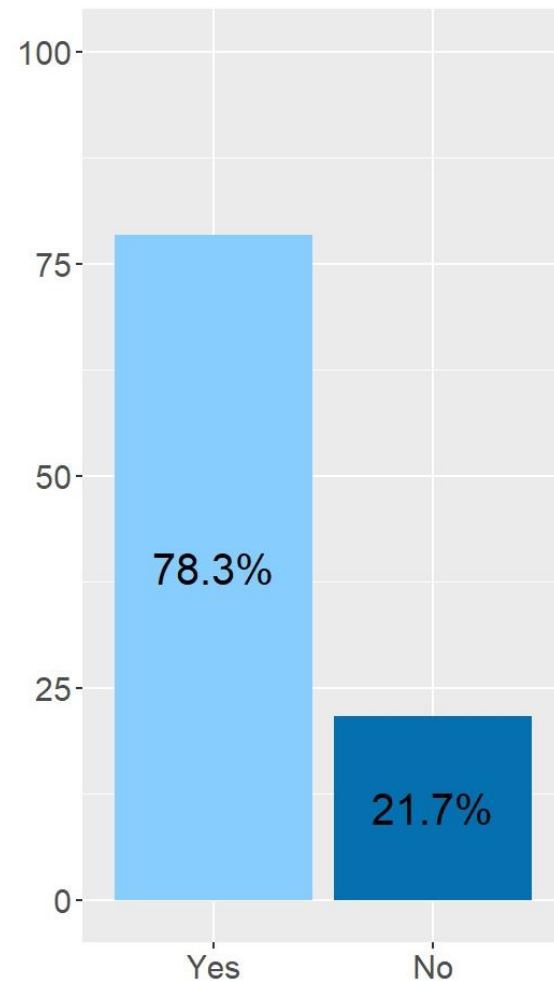


## Gulf Program (~1300 permits)

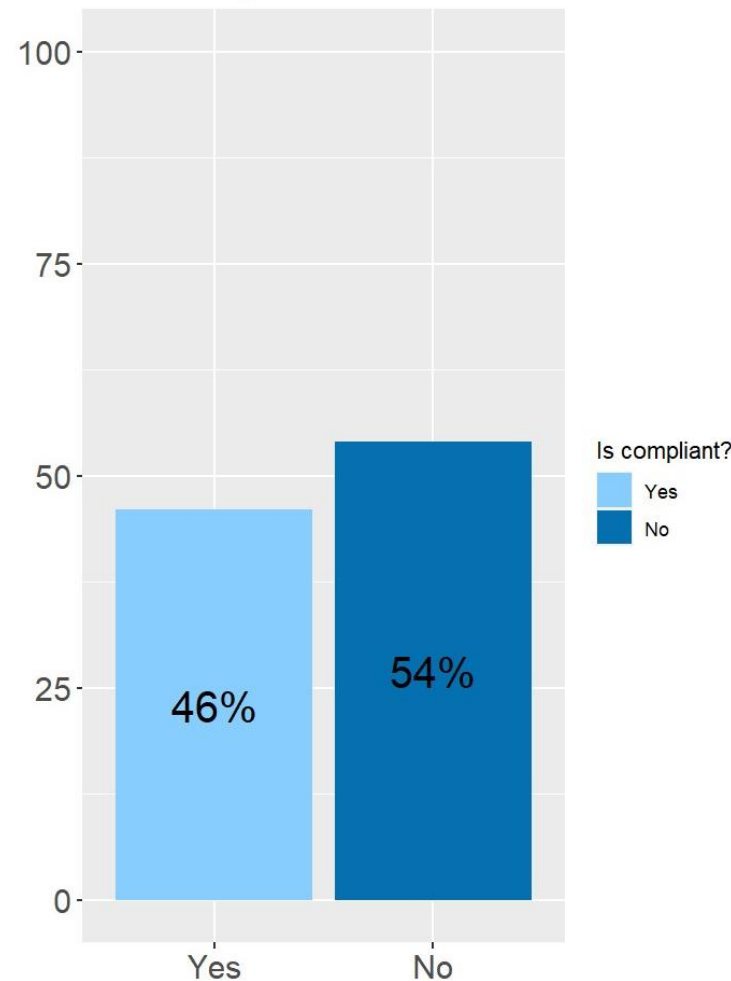


# 2022 SA SEFHIER: Comparison of Gulf to South Atlantic Compliance, with Regard to the Reporting Requirements

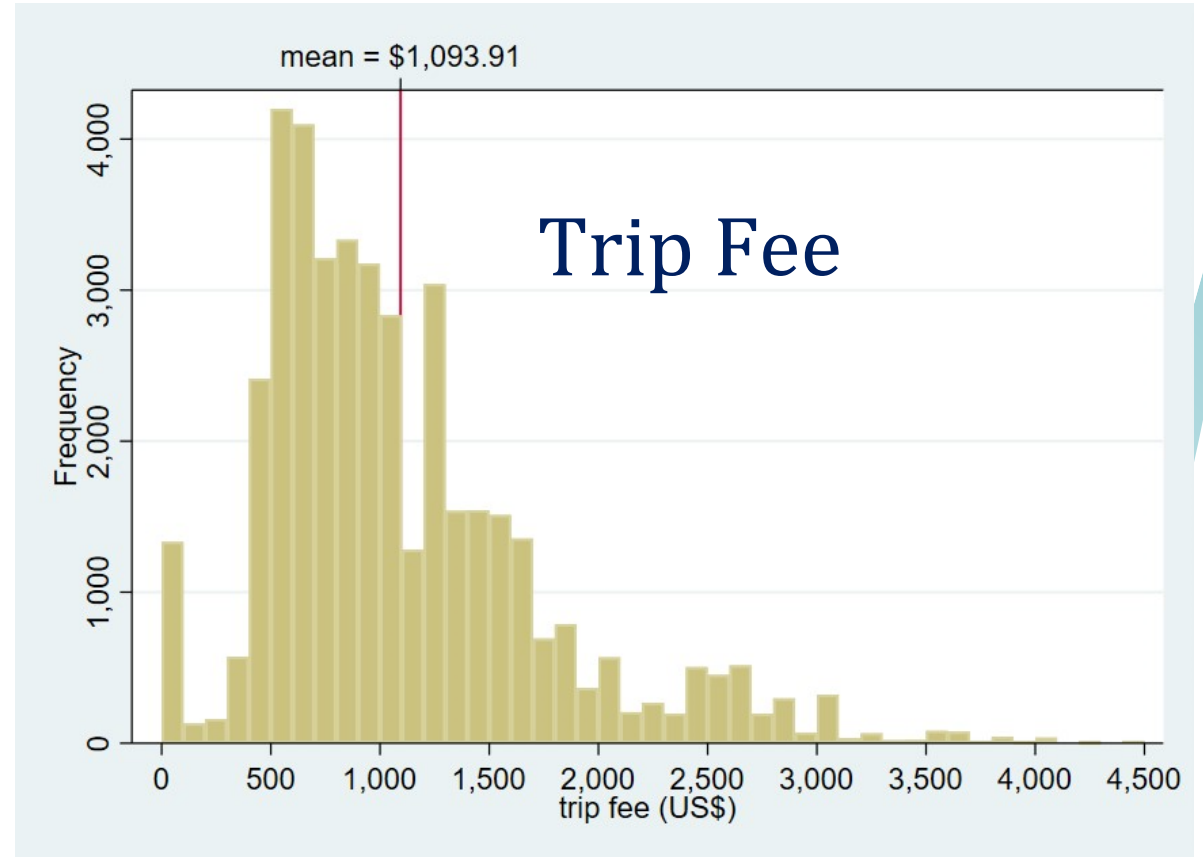
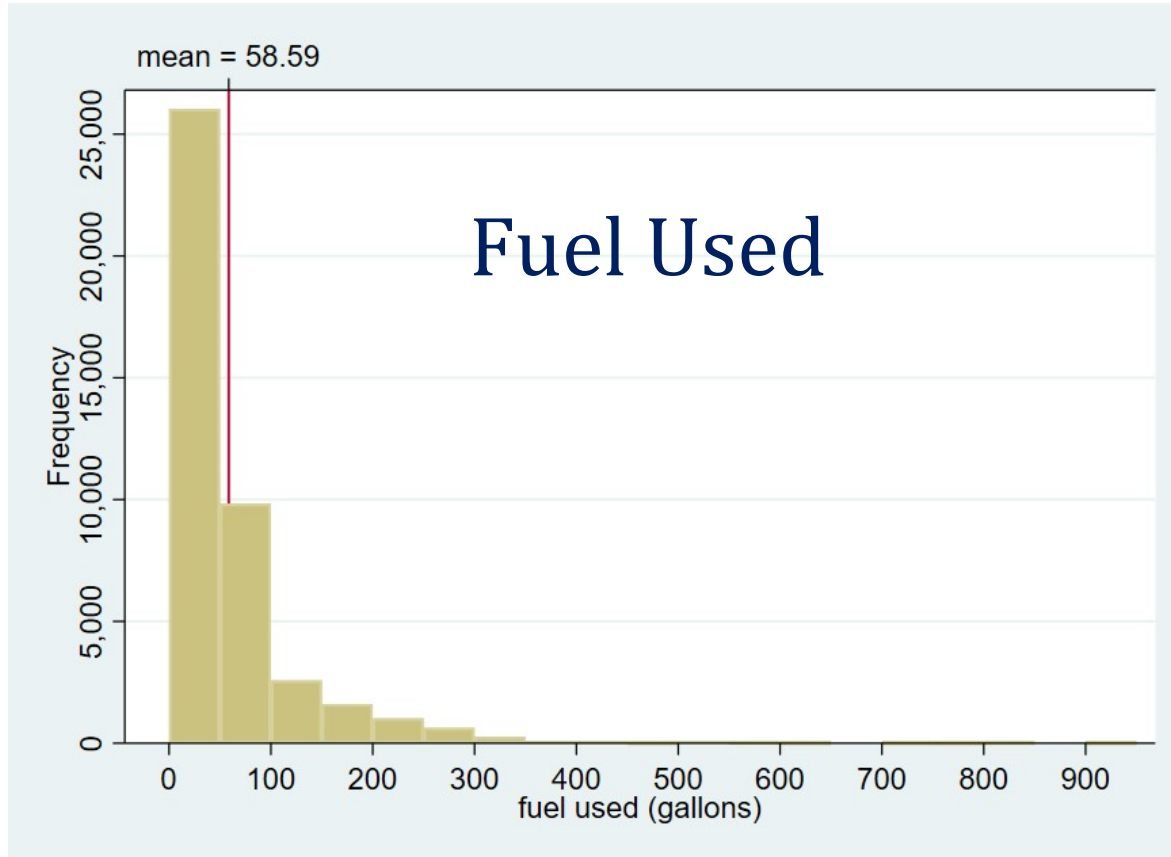
**Gulf Program**  
\*(~1300 permits)



**South Atlantic Program**  
\*(~2200 permits)



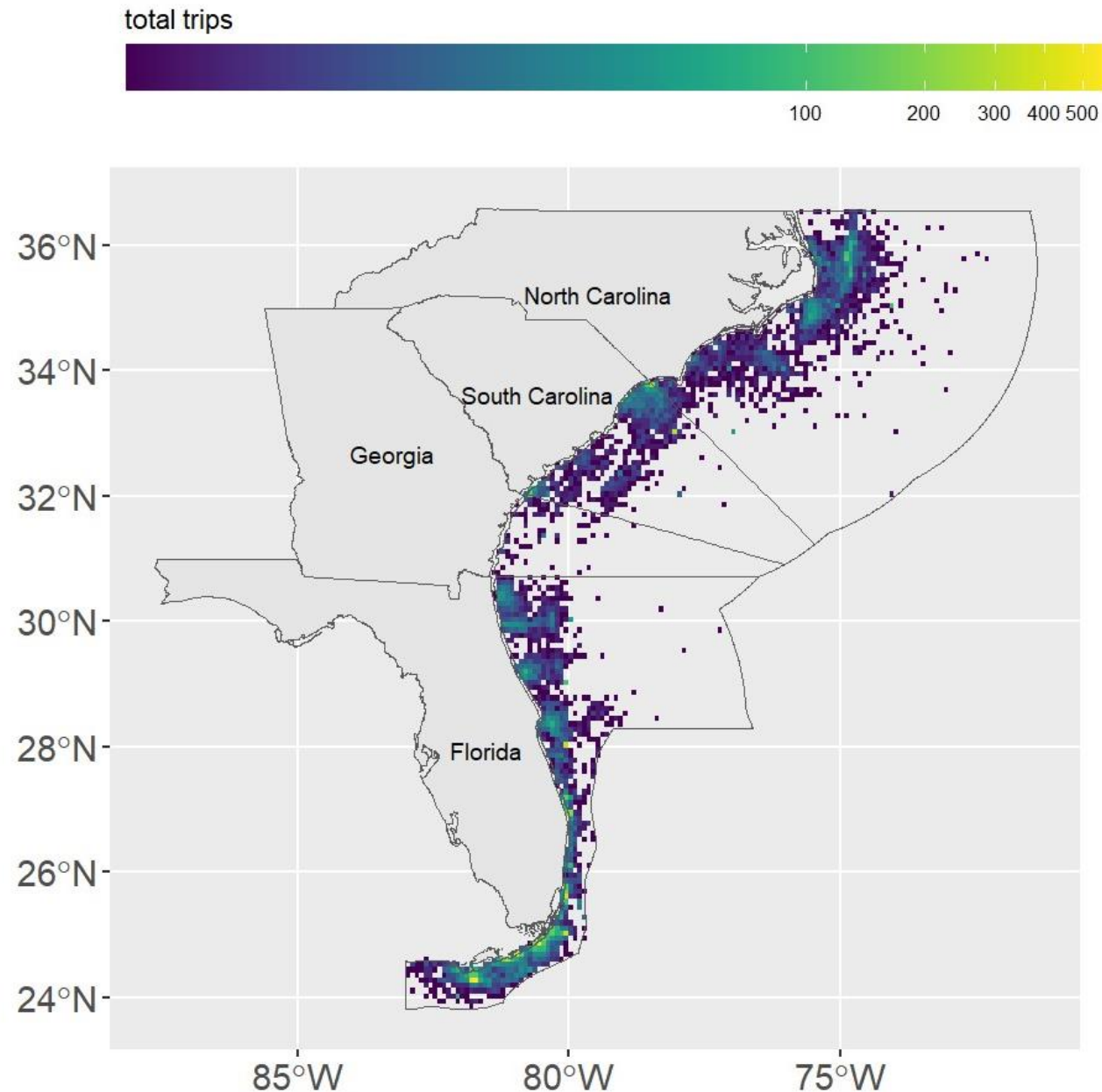
# 2022 SA SEFHIER: Frequency of Values Reported, for Economic Data Fields



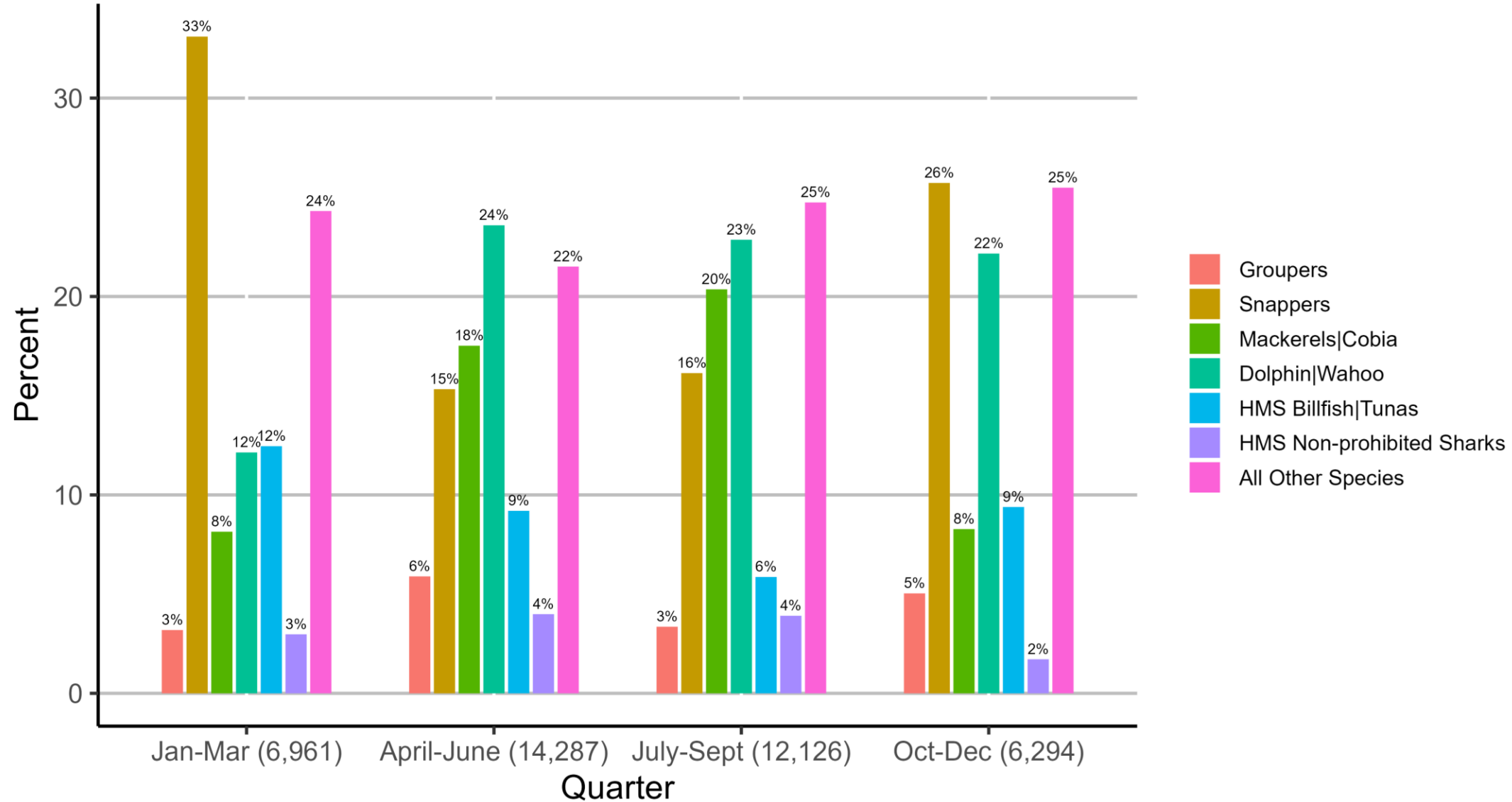
\*Data values reported by < 3 vessels were removed, for privacy

## 2022 SA SEFHIER Spatial Analysis:

# of Logbooks, by  
Area Fished  
(Shown @ 5x5  
Min. Squares)



# 2022 SA SEFHIER: Seasonal Patterns in Targeted Species



# 2022 SA SEFHIER: Key Takeaways

- ❖ Overall, poor SA SEFHIER program compliance; inability to determine accuracy of submitted data
  - 54% of vessels are missing reports, as of October 2023 (when data was pulled)
  - Month-to-month, 20-40% of SA SEFHIER permitted vessels are missing reports
  - ~85% of DNFs and ~55% of logbooks were submitted after the submission deadline
  - A high number of DNF's are submitted at permit renewal (may indicate misreporting)
  - >32% of logbooks were submitted >30 days of trip ending (i.e., unusable)

# SEFHIER Program Data Usage

- ❖ South Atlantic For-Hire Amendment was approved but, given concerns over the program requirements, SEFSC noted the following caveats for data usage:
  - Collected data will only provide minimum estimates of fishing effort, which could be used to validate the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) charter estimates
  - Collected data would not be considered useful for providing official estimates of catch and effort for the for-hire fishery until:
    - ✓ Catch is reported prior to offload, so that it can be independently verified;
    - ✓ Multiple years of side-by-side comparisons to MRIP survey have been conducted;
    - ✓ Monitoring and improving compliance over time;
    - ✓ Then, develop statistically robust estimation procedures

# SA SEFHIER: Suggested Next Steps

- ❖ To improve compliance, the Council should consider adding the following requirements:
  - Submit logbooks within 1 hour of returning to the dock or before offloading fish
  - Declarations for every for every for-hire fishing trip
  - A comprehensive, trip validation program (if no VMS)
  - Limited access, for-hire permits



Source: <https://graphicmama.com/>

# Special Thanks!!



## ❖ Data Analysts:

Jenny Ostroff, Anna Shipunova and David Records (SERO);  
Kyle Dettloff, Jo Williams and Nikolai Klibansky (SEFSC)

## ❖ Chip Collier

## ❖ Our SEFHIER constituents!

SEFHIER customer service: 1-833-707-1632 (8:00-4:30 pm EST) or [ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov](mailto:ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov)



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

# Questions?