



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Dr. Michelle Duval, Chair | Charlie Phillips, Vice Chair
Gregg T. Waugh, Executive Director

AGENDA **Data Committee**

Sawgrass Marriott
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Thursday, June 15, 2017 – 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. (Times subject to change)

Approval of Agenda – Mel Bell

Approval of December 2016 Committee minutes – Mel Bell

1. Reports and Updates (*Attachments 1a and 1b*)
 - a. FHER Amendment Status – NMFS SERO
 - b. Bycatch Amendment Status – NMFS SERO
 - c. SAFMC/ACCSP Electronic Reporting Project Update – Mike Errigo
 - d. Headboat Survey Annual Report Draft – Bonnie Ponwith
 - e. Committee Action: Review and provide guidance as necessary

2. South Atlantic Research Plan (*Attachments 2a and 2b*)
 - a. Overview – John Carmichael
 - b. Committee Action: Review and approve – Mel Bell

Other Business – Mel Bell

Adjourn – Mel Bell

Committee Members

Mel Bell, Chair
Doug Haymans, Vice-Chair
Anna Beckwith
Zack Bowen
Mark Brown
Tim Griner
Wilson Laney
Ben Hartig
Robert Beal, ASMFC Representative

Attachments

Attachment 1a: GMFMC Memo, 4/13/2017

Attachment 1b: Headboat Annual Report Draft, May 2017

Attachment 2a: SAFMC Research Plan, 2017

Attachment 2b: SAFMC Research Plan Source Document

Staff: John Carmichael

OVERVIEW

DATA COMMITTEE

Agenda Approval

Minutes Approval – December 2016

1. Reports and Updates – Attachments 1a & 1b.

a. FHER Amendment Status

Amendment Status: The SAFMC for-hire electronic reporting amendment was approved for submission in December 2016 and submitted to the agency on March 3, 2017. This amendment began as a joint SAFMC-GMFMC effort; in September 2015 the SAFMC decided to pursue its own amendment. Actions include requiring weekly, trip-level electronic reporting by charter vessel operators of fishing activities and locations, and revised report submission timing for headboat operators.

At this meeting, SERO will provide a status report on the agency review.

During discussion of the Gulf for-hire reporting amendment in March 2017, the Council requested that the GMFMC consider revising its for-hire reporting amendment to exempt vessels with Gulf and South Atlantic permits from the GMFMC requirements for trips taken in the South Atlantic. The GMFMC considered the request but did not support the exemption request, as detailed in **Attachment 1a**.

b. Bycatch Amendment Status

Amendment Status: The Council requested regular updates on this effort, which began as actions in CE-BA 3. Questions arose in March 2013 regarding how Council actions up to that time met bycatch reporting requirements of the MSA. A detailed analysis planned by NOAA GC, initially scheduled for presentation in September 2013, was rescheduled several times due to workload issues and government shutdown and finally provided to the Council in March 2014. By this time, similar amendments in the Northeast region had been disapproved, largely due to funding issues, and it seemed likely that CE-BA 3 would face a similar fate so the Council delayed further action. The Council received several presentations on efforts in other regions, from NMFS and MAFMC staff. In September 2014, SEFSC and SERO agreed to draft a comprehensive bycatch reporting system for the Southeast. SERO will provide an evaluation of costs associated with bycatch reporting following publication of the final rule. The name of this amendment was changed to “Bycatch Reporting” in September 2016. A rule addressing bycatch reporting (SBRM) published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2017, and was provided to the Council at the March 2017 meeting.

At this meeting, SERO will provide an update on recent activities.

c. SAFMC/ACCSP Electronic Reporting Project Update – Mike Errigo

Description: Council staff is working with partners at ACCSP and the states to pilot a mobile application for electronic reporting of charter trips. Project components include an electronic logbook, a reporting tool for dockside validation, electronic measuring boards for use on trips and during dockside interviews, and a tool to allow enforcement officers to check reporting compliance. The application was designed with Harbor Lights Software, Inc.,

during spring 2016. Volunteer participants were identified and equipment purchased during Summer and Fall 2016 and data collection began in Winter 2016. Mike Errigo continues to provide the Council with regular project updates.

The project is currently well underway and progress is being made on several of the components of the Pilot Project. As was highlighted in the March 2017 update, there are four components to the Pilot Project: 1. Electronic logbooks for use by charter captains, 2. Electronic dockside validation app for validating logbook data, 3. Integration of electronic measuring boards with both the logbook app and the validation app for measuring discarded fish by charter captains and landed fish by dockside port samplers, and 4. Law enforcement app that officers can use to check reporting compliance. The electronic logbooks are out in the field and being used right now by captains. Feedback has come in and several changes have already been implemented based on that feedback. To date, 167 trip reports have been logged by the participating captains.

The electronic dockside validation app, which has been designed around the MRIP intercept survey, should be in Beta testing form by the end of May. This means that a working prototype of the app should be up and running by the end of May and state partners will be able to train their port samplers on how to use it and begin testing it in the field. The integrated electronic measuring boards will come in after this app has been tested and we are sure it is working properly.

Work has not yet begun on the Law Enforcement app yet due to the time and effort being devoted to first the logbook app and now the validation app. However, Francine Karp will be meeting with the Law Enforcement AP in May to get their ideas and feedback on what they would like to see in the app and what they need from it for it to be effective.

d. Headboat Survey Annual Report Draft

Description: At the December 2016 meeting the Committee received a presentation on SEFSC efforts to develop an annual report for the Southeast Region Headboat Reporting Program. A preliminary draft report will be provided for review and further comment (**Attachment 1b**).

e. Required Committee Action: Review items and provide guidance to staff.

2. South Atlantic Research Plan – (Attachments 2a, 2b)

Description: The 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act directed the Federal Regional Fishery Management Councils to develop a prioritized research plan for submission to the Secretary of Commerce. The first SAFMC plan was submitted in 2008; annual updates were submitted through 2015. In 2015, considering the pace at which fisheries research develops and the Council and staff time consumed by annual revisions, the Council moved to a 2-year update cycle. The 2015 submission also changed considerably from prior plans by focusing on specific, time-dependent research needs, as it was suggested that this would better enable the agency to meet the Council's needs. The broader, long-term research needs detailed through the 2008-2015 annual plans were retained as a source document. An important part of the source document is the Council's list of stock assessment priority stocks.

At this meeting, the Committee is asked to review the research plan (**Attachment 2a**) and source document (**Attachment 2b**). The draft 2017 research plan provided here was reviewed by the Snapper Grouper, Mackerel Cobia, and Dolphin Wahoo APs, and the SSC.

Required Committee Action: Review and consider approving the 2017 research plan.

Other Business