

# OVERVIEW

## Data Collection Committee Meeting

June 16, 2016

The Data Collection Committee will: (A) receive updates on bycatch monitoring, the commercial logbook pilot study, and commercial logbook electronic reporting; (B) review core variables for the For-Hire Reporting Amendment; and (D) receive an update on the Citizen Science Program.

### Approval of Agenda

**Approval of Minutes:** December 2015

### 1) Bycatch Monitoring – CE-BA 3 Progress Report

Chip Collier, SAFMC, will provide an overview of bycatch monitoring provisions in SAFMC FMPs (**Attachment 1**).

#### Background

CE-BA 3 initially included actions addressing VMS, for-hire reporting, and commercial reporting. These were removed in December 2012, leaving only actions related to bycatch reporting. Since then this amendment has faced many challenges. First, questions arose in March 2013 regarding how Council actions up to that time met bycatch reporting requirements of 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. Next, by this time, similar amendments in the Northeast region had been disapproved, largely due to funding issues, and it seemed likely that CEBA3 would face a similar fate so the Council delayed further action. The Council has since 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. The Council requested regular updates on this effort.

#### **ACTION**

- Provide guidance as necessary

### 2) Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting

Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, will provide an update on the SEFSC commercial logbook pilot study (**Attachment 2**).

The Council previously requested that provisions be put in place to support voluntary electronic reporting of commercial logbook records. Such reports can be submitted through the ACCSP SAFIS (Standard Atlantic Fishery Information System) and will be accessible to the SEFSC through existing data feed agreements.

#### **ACTION**

- Provide guidance as necessary

### **3) For-Hire Reporting Amendment**

This amendment addresses reporting in the for-hire segment, including actions for mandatory, trip level reporting in the charter segment, modification of the timing of reporting in the headboat segment, and location reporting requirements for the charter segment. The for-hire reporting amendment was taken to public hearing January 25-February 5, 2016. In March 2016 the Committee requested that a list of core variables be developed for consideration at this meeting, and delayed final approval until at least September 2016 so further details on variables could be worked out.

A proposed list of core variables was developed by staff, based largely on data elements collected by the Headboat Survey and the SC DNR electronic logbook (**Attachment 3**). Core variable were offered for review by the IPT, recreational data collection contacts at the states, analysts and data collectors at SEFSC, the Snapper-Grouper AP and the SSC. The suggested list offered for Council consideration in Attachment 3 reflects the input of these various groups.

The IPT suggests the core variables be included in the text of the document and not as a specific management action and alternative. The primary concern is that specifying variables through an alternative will require an FMP amendment or framework to make any changes.

#### **ACTION**

- Review core variables
- Provide guidance on submission timing.

### **4) Citizen Science Program**

The Council expressed interest in a citizen science program to address the many outstanding data needs and take advantage of repeated offers by constituents to contribute to data collection efforts. An organizing committee of Council members, staff and interested parties was assembled to address the challenge of starting such a program. As a first major step, to judge interest and obtain broad feedback on a possible citizen science program, a workshop was held January 19-22 in Charleston, SC. Following the workshop, and relying heavily upon the discussion and recommendations provided, the Organizing Committee developed a program blueprint which the Council reviewed in March 2016. Staff continues to pursue funding opportunities to support dedicated program staff. On May 25, John Carmichael, Amber Von Harten and Julia Byrd will present a webinar in the NOAA QUEST series providing an overview of the program. On July 31, Ben Hartig, Mark Brown, Amber Von Harten and Julia Byrd will attend the 4<sup>th</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress and participate in citizen science symposium and a Focus Group devoted to the SAFMC citizen science project.

#### **ACTION**

- Provide guidance on how to proceed with the program

### **5) Other Business**

#### **Adjourn**