

OVERVIEW

Data Collection Committee Meeting

September 16, 2014
Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Blvd.
Charleston, SC

The Data Collection Committee will: (A) receive a status report from NMFS SERO on the Joint Dealer Amendment and take action as may be necessary; (B) receive a status report from NMFS on the Electronic Technology Implementation Plan and take action as may be necessary; (C) receive a presentation on work in the northeast on meeting Bycatch Amendments and take action as may be necessary; (D) receive a status report on implementation plan for commercial fishermen to report logbook data electronically or on paper and take actions as may be necessary; (E) receive an update from NMFS SEFSC on the Commercial Logbook Pilot Study and take action as may be necessary; and (F) discuss the status of the Charterboat Reporting Amendment and provide guidance on how to move forward.

A. Joint Gulf & South Atlantic Council Generic Dealer Amendment

The Joint Dealer Amendment was originally sent for formal Secretarial review on October 30, 2012. NMFS SERO and NOAA GC identified some issues that were discovered in early 2013 that needed to be modified in the amendment document. They presented the changes in the revised amendment to the SAFMC during the March Council meeting and the GMFMC during their April meeting. Both Councils approved the changes and reapproved the amendment/codified text for formal review. The revised amendment was sent for formal review on April 24, 2013. NOAA GC identified additional issues and advised the Council in June that additional analyses would need to be completed and hearings held in the Mid-Atlantic and New England areas. The analyses were completed and the hearings held. The Councils reapproved the amendment and it was sent for formal Secretarial review on September 26, 2013. The proposed rule was published on 1/2/14; the final rule was published on April 9, 2014 with regulations effective on August 7, 2014 (**Attachment 1**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss.
2. Take action as may be necessary.

B. Electronic Technology (ET) Implementation Plan

At the December 2013 meeting, the Council held a Data Workshop during which George Lapointe gave a presentation on Regional Electronic Monitoring Input for NOAA's Policy on Electronic Technologies and Fishery-Dependent Data Collection.

A National Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Workshop was held January 8-9, 2014 in Seattle, WA. Council members Mel Bell and Dr. Michelle Duval attended. Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel member Robert Johnson also attended. The purpose of this workshop was to bring key decision makers and stakeholders together in an effort to facilitate the implementation and integration of electronic monitoring (EM) into U.S. fisheries.

Goals of the National EM Workshop included:

- Facilitating a better understanding of the possible range of EM applications
- Determining solutions to current challenges impeding integration of EM
- Sharing lessons learned from pilot studies and early EM program design and integration efforts across regions
- Identifying key program design elements and processes
- Understanding cost considerations and implications of EM
- Providing tools to facilitate development of regional EM implementation plans
- Discussing Electronic Reporting (ER) needs in the context of developing effective EM programs

The committee discussed the workshop and noted:

1. Make it clear that Electronic Technology refers to electronic reporting and electronic monitoring and not just electronic monitoring.
2. The South Atlantic Council is focused on electronic reporting.
3. Reporting should link databases with common elements (e.g., water body codes).
4. Agency does not need to build everything but should focus on developing the standards; third party vendors should be involved from the start.
5. Amount of data from video monitoring is very large and costly; compare costs for observer versus electronic monitoring. The project by Scott Baker may provide some comparison.
6. Regional Implementation Plans will be developed with a target date of December 2014. Mel Bell is representing the SAFMC; Dr. Andy Strelcheck is representing the SERO; and Ken Brennan/Dave Gloeckner are representing the SEFSC.
7. The Regional Implementation Plan should be considered a living document and change as we move forward.

Dr. Andy Strelcheck, NMFS SERO, reviewed the SERO's request for input on the ET Implementation Plan (**Attachment 2a**) at the June 2014 Data Collection Committee meeting. The Committee discussed electronic reporting/monitoring and provided guidance to staff on a response to the request. The Council provided their input (**Attachment 2b**) on the ET Implementation Plan in a letter dated June 30, 2014. The NMFS SERO will provide an update on the implementation plan (**Attachment 2c; 2nd BBook**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review and Discuss.
2. Take action as may be necessary.

C. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CE-BA3) & Northeast Bycatch Amendments

At the December 2012 meeting, the Council:

1. Moved VMS to Snapper Grouper Amendment 30
2. Moved SAFMC For-hire reporting to a Generic SG, D/W & CMP Amendment
3. Moved Commercial Reporting to a Joint SA/GM Amendment

The only remaining item in CE-BA 3 is bycatch reporting; staff was directed to revise the document and bring to the Council in March 2013 for final review and approval.

At the March 2013 meeting, the Council reviewed and made changes to CE-BA 3. These changes were based on recommendations from the IPT to clarify wording and intent. The IPT conducted the analyses in the March 2013 document based on their new, suggested wording that was approved by the Council. Also, at the March 2013 meeting, NOAA GC offered to prepare an analysis of how the South Atlantic Council is currently meeting the MSA bycatch requirements. The Council accepted NOAA GC's offer and the Council also voted to postpone further consideration of CE-BA 3 until receipt of the analysis from NOAA GC. NOAA GC was scheduled to present their analysis during the September 2013 Council meeting to the Data Collection Committee. However, this presentation was rescheduled for the December 2013 meeting due to workload issues, and was recently rescheduled for the March 2014 meeting due to the government closure.

At the March 2014 meeting, Anna Martin (Council Staff) reviewed the current status of CE-BA 3. Monica Smit-Brunello (NOAA GC) advised the Council on how to proceed with CE-BA 3. Similar amendments in the Northeast Region have been disapproved due to the Anti-Deficiency Act and other types of funding requirements. If CE-BA 3 were submitted now, it would likely be disapproved for similar reasons. The New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils are working on a shared cost approach to covering the cost of observers and so the recommendation is to not take action now and monitor what is going on in the northeast. Then the Council could determine how best to proceed. The Council was also advised to address some of the discussion in the document on species-specific observer requirements.

The Committee/Council requested a presentation on the status of work in the northeast on the approach to cover observer costs for the June 2014 meeting; Council staff and NOAA GC are to provide updates. The presentation was scheduled for the September 2014 meeting due to time constraints at the June 2014 meeting. A representative from NMFS or the Councils (Mid-Atlantic and New England) will give a presentation on the two amendments, one addressing the methodology and one addressing potential industry cost sharing (**Attachment 3; 2nd BBook**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Review and Discuss.
2. Take action as may be necessary.

D. Commercial Logbook Reporting

At the March 2014 meeting, the committee expressed interest in future discussions about providing the opportunity for fishermen to report electronically, in addition to using paper. The Committee/Council directed staff to provide some options on how commercial fishermen could report electronically and via paper and provide at the June 2014 meeting. The Committee reviewed an options paper during the June 2014 meeting; staff reviewed the Council's work during 2011 and 2012 on logbook reporting in CE-BA 3. In December 2012, the Council removed the logbook reporting action from CE-BA 3 and directed staff to work with the Gulf Council on a joint amendment to address commercial logbook issues. At the March 2014 meeting, the Council directed staff to develop options to allow fishermen to report electronically. The Committee discussed the options and approved the motion below. The Committee concluded there would be no duplication with the on-board electronic logbook since any fishermen reporting with the on-board systems, would not need to report electronically once they returned to shore. Further, ACCSP has existing software that can do this type of reporting and the reporting should build in the capability to do the reporting at sea and include discards.

Motion approved by the Council:

Direct staff to work with ACCSP in developing a commercial logbook electronic data entry form. NMFS SEFSC would provide the data elements and participate in the development. NMFS SERO would also participate and provide the linkage to the permits database.

The team working on this is: Gregg Waugh (SAFMC staff), Mike Cahall (ACCSP staff), Dave Gloeckner/Steve Turner (SEFSC staff), TBD (SERO staff), and Monica Smit-Brunello (NOAA GC staff). Based on discussions between Gregg Waugh and Mike Cahall, if we receive the data elements and the SERO can provide ACCSP a link to the permits database, we should be able to have the system ready by January 1, 2015 that would allow fishermen to provide their logbook reports electronically if they choose. This will not change the existing paper logbook process. The data elements have been provided to ACCSP and we are awaiting word on the link to the permits database.

Mike Cahall and Francine Karp will be demonstrating the system developed in the northeast (**Attachment 4; 2nd BBook**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Receive presentation and Discuss.
2. Take action as may be necessary.

E. Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Commercial Logbook Reporting Amendment (GM & SA) & Update on Pilot Study

At the December 2012 meeting, the South Atlantic Council moved the commercial logbook reporting action into a separate amendment, directed staff to work with the Gulf Council to determine if they would work with us on a joint amendment, and coordinate with the SEFSC on removal of several reporting items on the commercial logbook form. A summary of the issue with the action/alternatives as discussed by the South Atlantic Council was provided to the Gulf Council for their February 2013 meeting. The Gulf Council approved a motion agreeing to work

cooperatively with the South Atlantic Council on development of the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Commercial Logbook Reporting Amendment. At the March 2013 meeting, the South Atlantic Council directed staff to do the following:

- a. Continue working with the Gulf Council to develop this amendment
- b. Coordinate with the SEFSC on removal of several reporting items on the commercial logbook form and provide a status report at the June 2013 meeting
- c. Work with the SEFSC to develop a schedule of meetings/workgroup with commercial fishermen in the Gulf and South Atlantic to work on developing the electronic logbook and bring back to the committee at the June 2013 meeting
- d. Direct the IPT to work on the wording and structure of the action/alternatives and bring back to the committee at the June 2013 meeting

The IPT met on April 1, 2013 and the Council discussed how to proceed at the September 2013 meeting. The Council requested an update at each Council meeting. Brett Pierce, NMFS SEFSC will provide an update on progress (**Attachment 5; 2nd BB**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss progress to date.
2. Take action as may be necessary. Provide guidance to staff on how to move forward.

F. Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment

At their December 2012 meeting, the South Atlantic Council reviewed the Gulf Council's actions related to charterboat reporting (shown below), and directed staff to keep the Council informed of progress on the Gulf Council's Generic Amendment addressing Charter Reporting.

The Gulf Council approved the following motions at their October 2012 meeting:

- a. Motion#1: To create a subcommittee with a member of the South Atlantic, HMS, Gulf Council, SEFSC, and MRIP to coordinate and bring back a complementary document to deal with headboat data collection system.
Motion carried with no opposition.
- b. Motion#4: To begin work on an amendment for electronic reporting for charterboats and to make the South Atlantic Council aware that we are developing the amendment.
Motion carried with no opposition.
- c. Motion: That the charge of the Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection AP be as follows:
 - Work with different experts to evaluate the merit of using offshore fishing permits, vessel registration information, and satellite imaging to gauge fishing effort.
 - Work with staff from the Southeast Science Center to evaluate the utility of self-reported angler data. (i.e., electronic web based/ phone apps)
 - Suggest possible "citizen scientists" projects that can be used to supplement current recreational data.
 - Critique the MRIP Strategic Communications Plan for recreational data collection, provide feedback on clarity and effectiveness of the message, and advise the Council on which pathways should be used to connect with anglers.

Motion carried with no opposition.

The South Atlantic Council discussed this issue during the September 2013 meeting and approved the following motion:

MOTION #2: APPOINT JOHN CARMICHAEL/MIKE ERRIGO (BACKUP) AS THE SAFMC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKING ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SEPARATING CHARTERBOATS FROM THE MRIP SAMPLING PROGRAM.

The Gulf Council appointed John Froeschke as the Gulf staff representative at their October 2013 meeting.

The next step was to request the involved agencies appoint individuals to represent MRIP, HMS, SEFSC, ACCSP, SERO, and ASMFC. The South Atlantic Council added Doug Mumford (NC DMF) and Eric Hiltz (SC DNR) to the technical committee. South Carolina has a charterboat logbook program that has been in place for a number of years, and North Carolina is developing a charterboat logbook.

The Gulf Council will discuss this at their August meeting and a report on their determinations will be included in the second briefing book (**Attachment 6; 2nd BBook**). The Technical Committee met May 28-29, 2014, and Mike Errigo will brief the Committee on their final report (**Attachment 7**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss the status of work.
2. Provide guidance as necessary on timing and structure of the Charterboat Reporting Amendment.