

OVERVIEW

Data Collection Committee Meeting

September 17, 2015

The Beach House Hilton Head Island
1 South Forest Beach Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC

The Data Collection Committee will: (A) appoint members to participate in the Citizen Science Workshop; (B) receive a presentation on the National Observer Program; (C) receive an overview of the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 from Council staff, receive a status report from NMFS SEFSC/SERO on bycatch reporting in the Southeast for CE-BA 3, and take action as may be necessary; (D) receive an update from NMFS SEFSC on the Commercial Logbook Pilot Study and take action as may be necessary; (E) receive a status report on the implementation plan for commercial fishermen to report logbook data electronically or on paper and take actions as may be necessary; and (F) receive an overview of options for the Charterboat Reporting Amendment, discuss, modify as necessary, choose preferreds for all actions, and approve for public hearings.

A. Citizen Science Workshop (Closed Session)

A workshop to develop a citizen science framework for the South Atlantic will be held January 19-22 in Charleston, SC. The Council directed that the Data Collection Committee would take the lead on this project, including making workshop appointments for Council representatives.

The Council will be asked to appoint 3-4 representatives per state. The program is in the planning stage, and has not reached the implementation stage. Therefore, those appointed at this workshop should expect to address topics such as project and data management, the types of information that can be collected by commercial and recreational fishermen or other interested citizens, how to ensure data collected are robust and scientifically sound, and the level of interest the public may have in contributing to a citizen science program. The program is not at the stage of identifying specific programs and potential participants in those programs.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss.
2. Appoint representatives for the Citizen Science Workshop.

B. National Observer Program

Jane DiCosimo, National Observer Program Coordinator, will give a presentation on the NMFS National Observer Program. This information is relevant to CE-BA 3 discussions.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

3. Discuss.
4. Take action/provide guidance as may be necessary.

C. Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (CE-BA 3)

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 staff member from the Mid-Atlantic Council gave a presentation on the two amendments, one addressing the methodology and one addressing potential industry cost sharing.

Based on discussions at the September 2014 Council meeting, the SEFSC/SERO agreed to draft a comprehensive bycatch reporting system for the southeast.

At the December 2014 Council meeting, Dr. Jack McGovern, NMFS SERO, updated the committee:

1. Dr. Crabtree and Dr. Ponwith have formed a group to work on this: Jack McGovern, Steve Branstetter, Bill Arnold, Nick Farmer & Jennifer Lee from the SERO; Jim Nance, SEFSC; and Shep Grimes, NOAA GC.

2. The group has met and is compiling information on what has been done and what is being done related to consideration of a bycatch reporting system. This will be compared with the legal requirements and they will be drafting what needs to be changed to meet the requirements.
3. A more complete update will be provided at the March 2015 Council meeting.

Council staff (Chip Collier) will give a brief overview of CE-BA 3 (**Attachment 2**). The NMFS SEFSC and SERO will provide an update on their efforts to date (**Attachment 3; 2nd BBook**). The Council's intent thus far is that bycatch reporting would be specified in the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 3 (CE-BA 3).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss.
2. Take action/provide guidance as may be necessary.

D. 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. The NMFS SEFSC will provide an update on progress (**Attachment 4; 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.

E. 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 demonstrated the system developed in the northeast during the September 2014 committee meeting. In addition, Francine made a similar presentation to the Snapper Grouper AP at their October 2014 meeting. The Snapper Grouper AP is very interested in using this system and approved the following motions:

MOTION: RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL MOVE FORWARD WITH IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTARY ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK REPORTING FOR ALL FEDERALLY-PERMITTED VESSELS
APPROVED BY AP

MOTION: RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL CONSIDER A VOLUNTARY ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM FOR PRIVATE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS TO IMPROVE RECREATIONAL DATA COLLECTION
APPROVED BY AP

At the December 2014 meeting, Gregg Waugh updated the Committee on the current status: Based on a call between Gregg Waugh and Mike Cahall on November 4, 2014, the status is as follows:

1. Software – ready.
2. Permits interface – ACCSP has access to the NMFS SERO permits data.
3. Data elements – Dave Gloeckner (SEFSC) has provided the list to ACCSP. The list contains more data elements than are currently being collected on the paper logbook. Gregg is to follow-up with Monica on whether this can be done under existing authority or would an amendment be necessary. In addition, Mike Cahall is working with the SEFSC to pare the list down.
4. Data Integration & Dissemination – ACCSP is currently working with NMFS northeast to get approval for the software to be used by both commercial and recreational fishermen to provide trip level data to NMFS through ACCSP. It is anticipated that this should be completed by sometime in January 2015. Once this is completed in the northeast, the same type of system should be relatively easy to implement in the southeast.
5. Implementation – trying for early 2015 in southeast. The possibility exists that one or more fishermen in the southeast could be asked to do this on a trial basis to ensure all the issues are resolved before full implementation.

Phil Steele questioned the access to permit data and Gregg is to follow-up with Mike Cahall. The consensus was to continue work with the goal of implementing this in early 2015.

As of January 2015, the plan is to have the tablet-based system operational in the northeast by late spring or summer. Once this system is operational in the northeast, it should be easily transferable to the southeast. ACCSP has access to the permits data through the copy of the permits data provided to the SEFSC by the SERO. Based on the excellent cooperation on the part of SERO, SEFSC, and ACCSP, all systems are on schedule for implementation of the voluntary use of the ACCSP electronic system to submit commercial logbook data sometime in late summer 2015.

Council staff (Gregg Waugh) will update the committee in September on the current status.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss.
2. Take action/Provide guidance as may be necessary.

F. Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment (Attachment 5)

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 Technical Committee met May 28-29, 2014, and a final report is available; portions have been included in the Decision Document. Mike Errigo, Council staff, reviewed the final report at the December 2015 meeting. The Committee discussed the recommendations and cost estimates and provided guidance for Council staff to begin work on a joint amendment during 2015, incorporating the previous guidance to pattern the amendment after the Headboat Amendment and the recommendations received from the Joint Charterboat Technical Committee.

The Gulf Council discussed the amendment at their August 2015 meeting and a report on their determinations is included (**Attachment 6**). Gregg Waugh will review the Decision Document for the Charterboat Reporting Amendment (**Attachment 7; 2nd BB**).

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION:

1. Discuss the actions/alternatives.
2. Provide guidance on timing and structure of the Charterboat Reporting Amendment.