

OVERVIEW

Data Collection Committee Meeting

September 15, 2016

The Data Collection Committee will: (1) receive updates on bycatch monitoring, the commercial logbook pilot study, and commercial logbook electronic reporting; (2) receive an update on the for-hire reporting amendment and several related projects; and (3) receive an update on the Citizen Science Program.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes: June 2016

1) Bycatch Monitoring – CE-BA 3 Progress Report

Jack McGovern (SERO) will provide a progress report on the SBRM rule (**Attachment 1**). The rule is scheduled to post in the Federal Register in late August or early September. If it publishes prior to this meeting a copy will be provided, otherwise this topic will be discussed in December.

At the prior meeting the Committee requested consideration of an alternative name for CEBA-3 that would better reflect its content. Staff suggests “Bycatch Reporting Amendment”.

Background

The Council requested regular updates on this effort. 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. A rule addressing bycatch reporting (SBRM) has been in the works through NMFS.

- The final SBRM rule is expected to be available for council consideration at the September 2016 meeting.
- In June 2016 the Council discussed the need for information on costs associated with reporting options. This is planned for the December 2016 meeting, to allow Council time to consider the final rule and for NMFS to address costs based on the final rule.

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

2) Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting

Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, will provide a cost analysis based on options explored and lessons learned through the electronic logbook pilot study (**Attachment 2**), and an update on voluntary commercial electronic logbook reporting (**Attachment 3**).

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 June 2016 the Committee approved a list of core variables, and delayed consideration for final approval until December 2016 to allow consideration of preliminary findings from a pilot study being developed through ACCSP.

The IPT revised the amendment document to include the core variables. Other sections were revised and updated as well, to prepare the document for consideration for approval in December 2016 (**Attachment 4**). The Committee is provided this draft for review, with emphasis on the discussion of alternatives and their impacts in Chapters 2-4, and preliminary Council Conclusions in Chapter 5.

The MAFMC recently approved actions requiring electronic reporting in their mandatory reporting system known as Vessel Trips Reports or VTR. This could be of interest to the Council since one intent of the SAFMC amendment is to avoid duplicate reporting, and many vessels are permitted in both areas (**Attachment 5**).

At this meeting the Committee will receive an overview on the SAFMC-ACCSP pilot study from Mike Errigo, SAFMC (**Attachment 6**), and an overview of the SC DNR for-hire logbook program from Amy Dukes, SC DNR (**Attachment 7**).

ACTION

- Review and provide guidance on the for hire reporting amendment

4) Citizen Science Program

The Council expressed interest in a citizen science program to address data needs and 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. A workshop was held January 19-22 in Charleston, SC, to judge interest and obtain broad feedback on a possible citizen science program. 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. On May 25, John Carmichael, Amber Von Harten and Julia Byrd presented a webinar in the NOAA QUEST series providing an overview of the program. On July 31, Ben Hartig, Amber Von Harten and Julia Byrd attended the 4th International Marine Conservation Congress and participated in citizen science symposium and a Focus Group devoted to the SAFMC citizen science project.

Staff continues to pursue funding opportunities to support dedicated program staff. Amber Von Harten, SAFMC, will provide an overview of the IMCC focus group (**Attachment 8**)

ACTION

- Provide guidance on how to proceed with the program

Other Business

Timing and Tasks

Adjourn