

FINAL
Summary of the SAFMC Data Collection Committee Meeting
December 4, 2014
DoubleTree by Hilton New Bern/Riverfront
New Bern, NC

Members:

Mel Bell, Chair	Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair
Michelle Duval	Jack Cox
Wilson Laney	Roy Crabtree

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the September 2014 meeting were approved.

Status of Work on Bycatch Reporting in the Southeast

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.

Electronic Technology (Data Collection & Monitoring) Regional Implementation Plan

Gregg Waugh briefly reviewed the information in the overview document. Phil Steele, NMFS SERO, reviewed the Draft Implementation Plan. Committee members thanked Andy Strelcheck for the excellent job putting the document together. The Committee had a number of comments that will be compiled into a letter to be sent to NMFS by the end of next week. Council members were encouraged to provide any comments to Mel and Gregg as soon as possible but no later than Monday, December 8th.

Status of Implementation Plan for Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting

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.

Update on Commercial Logbook Pilot Study

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, updated the committee on the status of this project. The project is moving forward, with infrastructure and software changes projected to be completed by August 1, 2015.

Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment

Mike Errigo, Council staff, reviewed the final report. 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.

Other Business

Dr. Ponwith, SEFSC, and Dr. John Boreman, MRIP, updated the Committee on the decision within MRIP to shift from the phone survey to a mail survey. A dual frame process will be followed beginning in 2015 using both methods for at least 2 years. A transition team composed of representatives from NOAA Fisheries, Councils, Commissions, and State agencies are overseeing this work. Results from pilot studies with the mail survey have indicated a higher effort level and a higher estimate of recreational catch. The phone survey method will be used in 2015 to track recreational ACLs until the decision is made to move to the new mail survey and stock assessments have been updated with data from the new mail survey methodology. Dr. Boreman said the transition team is willing to host a webinar to address any questions or issues during the transition period.

Motion

There were no motions.

Timing and Task Draft Motion

The following draft motion has been developed based on direction from the Committee:

MOTION: APPROVE THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

1. Direct staff to assist in providing input on the draft Electronic Technology Regional Implementation Plan.
2. Direct staff to continue working with ACCSP (Mike Cahall) on developing a commercial logbook electronic data entry form. Gregg Waugh will be the staff person; Andy Strelcheck will represent the NMFS SERO and Dave Gloeckner/Steve Turner will represent the SEFSC; Monica Smit-Brunello will represent NOAA GC. A status report will be presented to the Council in March 2015 with the goal of implementation in early 2015.
3. Direct staff to work with the Gulf Council staff to begin working on a joint charterboat logbook amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.