

**FINAL**  
**SUMMARY REPORT – DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE**  
**December 10, 2015**  
**Atlantic Beach, NC**

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the September 2015 meeting were approved.

Update on Commercial Logbook Pilot Study

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, updated the committee on the status of this project. The field portion has been completed and they are now evaluating the data. A report on the data portions will be available for the March 2016 meeting. Jack Cox indicated he participated and one vessel used the tablet (28' center console) and one used the laptop (35' down east lobster boat). Jack said Brett Pierce from the SEFSC was great to work with and had lots of patience working with the fishermen showing them how the logbook program worked on the laptop and computer.

Status of Implementation Plan for Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting

Gregg Waugh updated the Committee on the current status: Mike Cahall indicated they are working out the data feed in the northeast now and that portion should be completed by the end of the year. A detailed report will be presented to the Council in March and the system may be ready for fishermen to begin voluntary electronic logbook reporting early next year.

Citizen Science Workshop

John Carmichael, Council staff, gave a brief overview of the upcoming Citizen Science Workshop and the preliminary list of invited participants developed by the Citizen Science Workgroup. Sea Grant has been very supportive and is bringing a number of fishermen and agents to the workshop. A number of individuals have indicated they could not attend and in some cases the invited person and an alternative can attend so both are being invited. The Workgroup requested an additional \$5,000 to have a Proceedings Report prepared that would include a written record of the workshop. The Committee agreed by consensus to contract for the report.

South Atlantic For-Hire Reporting Amendment

Gregg Waugh, Council staff, reviewed the revised list of actions/alternatives. The overall intent of the amendment is to get charter vessels reporting the same data as headboats electronically, and have both report by the Tuesday following a week ending on Sunday. The Committee discussed the Decision Document and approved the motions shown below.

*Motions*

**MOTION #1. MOTION: APPROVED THE MODIFICATIONS TO ALTERNATIVE 2 FOR ACTION 1 AND SELECT ALTERNATIVE 2, SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2A AS PREFERRED**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**2.1 Action 1: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Charter Vessels**

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Require that federally permitted charter vessels, WHILE OPERATING AS A CHARTER VESSEL, submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week. *Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel preferred.*

**Preferred Sub-alternative 2a.** Report all fish harvested/DISCARDED ON ALL TRIPS REGARDLESS OF WHERE HARVESTED. (current HB requirement)

Sub-alternative 2b. Report ONLY SOUTH ATLANTIC federally-managed fish harvested/DISCARDED ON ALL TRIPS REGARDLESS OF WHERE HARVESTED. (snapper grouper, dolphin/wahoo, & CMP species)

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2C. REPORT ALL FEDERALLY-MANAGED FISH HARVESTED/DISCARDED ON ALL TRIPS REGARDLESS OF WHERE HARVESTED

**MOTION #2: ACCEPT THE EDITS AND CHANGES TO ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 3 FOR ACTION 1**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The owner or operator of a charter vessel for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for ~~Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) or~~ South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic (CMP) species, ~~Gulf reef fish,~~ South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such ~~Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP)~~ species, ~~reef fish,~~ snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable ~~Gulf,~~ South Atlantic, or Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and who is selected to report by the Science and Research Director (SRD) must maintain a fishing record for each trip, or a portion of such trips as specified by the SRD, on forms provided by the SRD. Completed fishing records must be submitted to the SRD weekly, postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday). Information to be reported is indicated on the form and its accompanying instructions.

**Alternative 3.** Require that federally permitted charter vessels, WHILE OPERATING AS A CHARTER VESSEL, submit fishing records to the SRD daily via electronic reporting via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Sub-alternative 3a. Report all SOUTH ATLANTIC fish harvested/DISCARDED ON ALL TRIPS REGARDLESS OF WHERE HARVESTED. (current HB requirement)

Sub-alternative 3b. Report ONLY federally-managed fish harvested ON ALL TRIPS REGARDLESS OF WHERE HARVESTED. (snapper grouper, dolphin/wahoo, & CMP species)

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3C. REPORT ALL FEDERALLY-MANAGED FISH HARVESTED/DISCARDED ON ALL TRIPS REGARDLESS OF WHERE HARVESTED

**MOTION #3: APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO ALTERNATIVES 1-3 FOR ACTION 2**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

## **2.2 Action 2: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Headboats**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** The owner or operator of a headboat for which a charter vessel/headboat permit for ~~Gulf or~~ South Atlantic **Coastal Migratory Pelagic (CMP)** species, **Gulf reef fish**, South Atlantic snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin and wahoo has been issued, or whose vessel fishes for or lands such CMP species, **reef fish**, snapper grouper, or Atlantic dolphin or wahoo in or from state waters adjoining the applicable ~~Gulf, South Atlantic,~~ or Atlantic **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)**, and who is selected to report by the **Science and Research Director (SRD)** must submit an electronic fishing record for each trip of all fish harvested via the ~~Southeast Region Headboat Survey~~ **SRHS**. Electronic fishing records must be submitted at weekly intervals (or intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD) by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week. If no fishing activity occurred during a reporting week, an electronic report stating so must be submitted for that reporting week by 11:59 p.m., local time, the Sunday following a reporting week.

**Alternative 2.** Require that headboats, WHILE OPERATING AS A HEADBOAT, submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week. **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel preferred.**

**Alternative 3.** Require that headboats, WHILE OPERATING AS A HEADBOAT, submit fishing records to the SRD daily via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Daily = by noon of the following day.

**MOTION #4: MAKE ALTERNATIVE 2 OUR PREFERRED FOR ACTION 2**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Require that headboats, WHILE OPERATING AS A HEADBOAT, submit fishing records to the SRD weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week. **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel preferred.**

**MOTION #5: APPROVE THE MODIFICATIONS TO ALTERNATIVES 1 & 2 IN ACTION 3**  
**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**  
**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

### **2.3 Action 3: Modify Electronic Reporting Requirements to Require Vessel or Catch Location Reporting**

**Alternative 1 (No Action).** Charter vessels participating in the For-Hire survey are required to report area fished (inshore, state, or federal waters), if selected as part of the survey. Headboats participating in the **Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS)** are required to report latitude and longitude of area fished (degrees and minutes only; within 1 nm<sup>2</sup> area).

**Alternative 2.** Require federally permitted charters vessels to report location **electronically manually** by latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on a headboat **chart grid**. **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel preferred.**

**MOTION #6: ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE 2 AS PREFERRED FOR ACTION 3**  
**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**  
**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**Preferred Alternative 2.** Require federally permitted charters vessels to report location **electronically manually** by latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on a headboat **chart grid**. **Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel preferred.**

**Recommendations to NMFS** – the Committee agreed by consensus to add the following as Recommendations to NMFS:

The NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) will develop the specific details of how the system would operate and will provide the Council the opportunity to have input into the system design. The system would include the following items as recommended by the Technical Sub-committee:

- a) Logbook data collected via authorized platform, ex. web, tablet, phone, or VMS application
- b) Data submitted to ACCSP or GulfFIN (Gulf Fisheries Information Network);
- c) Data integrated by ACCSP or GulfFIN into single composite data set;
- d) Composite data set distributed to appropriate agencies for analyses and use.
- e) NMFS and/or ACCSP/GulfFIN are to develop a compliance tracking procedure that balances timeliness with available staff and funding resources.
- f) NMFS is to use validation methods developed in the Gulf of Mexico logbook pilot study and the MRIP/SC validation project as a basis to ensure that the actual logbook report is validated and standardized validation methodologies are employed among regions.
- g) NMFS is to require and maintain a comprehensive permit/email database of participants.

h) NMFS is to include procedures for expanding estimates for non-reporting. NMFS is to allow multiple authorized applications or devices that can transmit data from sea to report data as long as they meet required data and transferability standards.

**MOTION #7: MOTION: KEEP THE EXISTING WORDING FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

The *purpose* is to increase the accuracy and timeliness of landings, discards, effort and socio-economic data of federally permitted for-hire vessels participating in the South Atlantic managed fisheries.

The *need* for this action is to improve charter vessel and headboat fishery data used for management and to improve monitoring and compliance of federally permitted for-hire vessels in the South Atlantic managed fisheries.

**MOTION #8: MOTION: APPROVE THE FOR-HIRE AMENDMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**APPROVED BY COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

***Timing and Task Draft Motion***

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

**MOTION #9: APPROVE THE TASKS AND TIMING AS PRESENTED:**

1. Direct staff to continue working with ACCSP (Mike Cahall) on developing a commercial logbook electronic data entry form for voluntary use by commercial fishermen.
2. Direct staff to contract for a Proceedings Report from the Citizen Science Workshop, conduct the workshop, and report back at the March 2016 meeting.
3. Direct staff to work with the Interdisciplinary Planning Team (IPT) to revise the South Atlantic For-Hire Amendment with the comments from Jack and others, to complete all necessary analyses, conduct public hearings in January/February, and to bring the document back at the March 2016 meeting for review of public hearings comments and approval of all actions.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.