

FINAL
SUMMARY REPORT – DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE
March 5, 2015
St. Simons Island, GA

The agenda was adopted, and the minutes of the December 2014 meeting were approved. The topics covered during the meeting were:

Status of Work on Bycatch Reporting in the Southeast

Dr. Jack McGovern, NMFS SERO, updated the committee on work acquiring information on bycatch data collection methodologies in use across 15 FMPs in the southeast. The NMFS SERO/SEFSC working group is looking at logbooks and observer programs currently in place. Recommendations for improvements in bycatch reporting are currently being developed, and a draft SBRM document will be produced.

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, NMFS SEFSC, also updated the committee on existing observer work on shrimp vessels and covered some issues during 2014 that resulted in lower sampling levels.

Electronic Technology (Data Collection & Monitoring) Implementation Plan

Gregg Waugh briefly reviewed the information in the overview document. Jack McGovern, NMFS SERO, reviewed the process used to develop the Implementation Plan. Committee members thanked Andy Strelcheck for the excellent job putting the document together and incorporating the Council's comments.

Status of Implementation Plan for Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting

Gregg Waugh updated the Committee on the current status: As of January 2015, the plan is to have the tablet-based commercial logbook reporting 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.

Update on Joint Gulf & South Atlantic Commercial Electronic Logbook Pilot Project

Dr. Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, updated the committee on the status of this project. Vendors and cooperating permitted fishermen have been identified, and infrastructure and software changes should be completed by August 1, 2015.

Joint South Atlantic & Gulf Council Generic Charterboat Reporting Amendment

Gregg Waugh, Council staff, reviewed the Gulf Council's motion to move forward with charterboat reporting and the Charterboat Decision Document. The Committee discussed the Decision Document and approved the motions shown below.

Motions

**MOTION #1: APPROVE THE PURPOSE AND NEED AS MODIFIED
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Purpose for Action

The ***purpose*** of the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Charter Reporting Amendment is to: Improve charter data collection methods to INCREASE THE ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF RECREATIONAL CHARTER DATA (~~help ensure recreational annual catch limit overages do not occur~~) in THE Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries.

Need for Action

The ***need*** for the Joint South Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico Generic Charter Reporting Amendment is to: Improve data collection methods and timeliness of reporting to limit overages of annual catch limits, to improve stock assessments, and to improve compliance in Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic fisheries.

**MOTION #2: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ACTION 1 ALTERNATIVES SHOWN ABOVE FOR DETAILED ANALYSES
APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Action 1: Amend the Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans to modify data reporting for charter vessels

Alternative 1 (No Action). Retain existing permits and data reporting systems for the charter sector. Currently, the owner or operator of a vessel for which a charter vessel permit for Gulf coastal migratory pelagic fish, South Atlantic coastal migratory pelagic fish, 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 fish, 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 records for charter vessels must be submitted to the Science and Research Director weekly, postmarked no later than 7 days after the end of each trip (Sunday). Currently, all headboats are required to submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).

Alternative 2. Require that charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).

Alternative 3. Require that charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) daily via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Daily = by noon of the following day.

Alternative 4. Require that charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Weekly = 7 days after the end of each week (Sunday).

Alternative 5. Require that charter vessels submit fishing records to the Science and Research Director (SRD) weekly or at intervals shorter than a week if notified by the SRD via electronic reporting (via computer or internet). Weekly = Tuesday following each fishing week.

MOTION: ADD SUBALTERNATIVES TO ALTERNATIVE 3:

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A. NOON OF THE FOLLOWING DAY

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3B. PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT THE DOCK

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

MOTION #3: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ACTION 2 ALTERNATIVES AS MODIFIED

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Action 2: Amend the Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans to require vessel or catch location reporting for charter vessels

Alternative 1 (No Action). There are no requirements for charter vessels to report vessel location electronically. Fishing location is required to be reported on the vessel logbook report using designated grids.

Alternative 2. Require charterboats to report catch location

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2A. by Latitude/longitude in degrees and minutes.

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 2B. BY HEADBOAT GRID

Alternative 3. Require the use of an electronic device that automatically records vessel location for later transmission along with the logbook information.

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3A. IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

SUB-ALTERNATIVE 3B. IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

Alternative 4. Require the use of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for charter vessels IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

The Committee did not complete discussions on Action 3 and this was addressed during full Council:

Action 3: Amend the Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper Grouper, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery Management Plans to specify certain aspects of reporting for commercial and for-hire vessels

More than 1 preferred alternative can be chosen.

Alternative 1 (No Action). There is no specified time for data to be made available to the public and to the Councils.

Alternative 2. Specify the following data flow and timing aspects of electronic reporting:

~~(i) Simplification of reporting—reporting should allow the individual to hit one button to simultaneously send the data to the state, ACCSP, and NMFS.~~

(ii) Data flow:

- a) Logbook & dealer data collected via authorized platform, ex. web, tablet, phone, or VMS application
- b) Data submitted to ACCSP or GulfFIN;
- c) Data integrated by ACCSP or GulfFIN into single composite data set;
- d) Composite data set distributed to appropriate agencies for analyses and use.

~~(iii) Data fed to ACCSP and made available to the public via the ACCSP website. The “official” numbers used for closures would continue to be the numbers maintained by NMFS and available on the NMFS website but this would provide more timely and useful updates to the public.~~

~~Sub-alternative 2a.~~ Apply to dealer reporting.

Sub-alternative 2b. Apply to headboat reporting.

Sub-alternative 2c. Apply to charterboat vessel reporting.

Alternative 3. Specify the following aspects of electronic reporting:

- (i) NMFS and/or ACCSP is to develop a compliance tracking procedure that balances timeliness with available staff and funding resources.
- (ii) NMFS is to use validation methods developed in the Gulf of Mexico logbook pilot study as a basis to ensure that the actual logbook report is validated and standardized validation methodologies are employed among regions.
- (iii) NMFS is to require and maintain a comprehensive permit/email database of participants.
- (iv) NFMS is to include procedures for expanding estimates for non-reporting.
- (v) NMFS is to allow multiple authorized applications or devices to report data as long as they meet required data and transferability standards.

Apply to only charterboats or also headboats and commercial???

**MOTION: APPROVE THE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES UNDER ACTION 3 FOR DETAILED ANALYSES
APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

Note: Since Action 3 was added to the amendment to include headboats, staff was directed to prepared wording to modify the Purpose & Need and add something to address this issue. The title of the document would also be expanded to address headboats.

TIMING – Based on timing approved by SAFMC in December 2014

- A. ✓ Technical Sub-Committee finalized report – November 2014.
- B. ✓ Council reviews final report
 - a. ✓ SAFMC – December 2014
 - b. ✓ GMFMC – January 2015
- C. Council reviews options and provide guidance to Staff/IPT
 - a. SAFMC – March 2015
 - b. GMFMC – March 30 – April 2, 2015
- D. Council reviews and approves for public hearings
 - a. SAFMC – June 2015
 - b. GMFMC – June 2015
- E. Public hearings – July (GMFMC)/August (SAFMC) 2015
- F. Council reviews public hearing input and approves actions
 - a. SAFMC – September 2015
 - b. GMFMC – August/October 2015
- G. Councils approves for final review
 - a. SAFMC – December 2015
 - b. GMFMC – October 2015/January 2016

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:

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 work with the Gulf Council staff to work on a joint charterboat logbook amendment. Provide the SAFMC’s actions to the Gulf Council and make sure the next version of the document includes the data elements (ensure discard data are included).
3. Direct staff to explore sending a letter requesting a portion of the funding for electronic reporting be allocated to South Atlantic Council fisheries.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.