

OVERVIEW

Data Collection Committee Meeting

December 7, 2016

The Data Collection Committee will receive updates on bycatch monitoring, the commercial logbook pilot study and commercial logbook electronic reporting, SAFMC/ACCSP charter vessel logbook pilot study, and consider the for-hire reporting amendment and codified text for final approval.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes: September 2016

1) Bycatch Monitoring – CE-BA 3 Progress Report

Jack McGovern (SERO) will provide a progress report on the SBRM rule (**Attachment 1**). We are still awaiting posting of the final rule in the Federal Register. If it publishes prior to this meeting a copy will be provided, otherwise this topic will be discussed at a later meeting.

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, and will be provided for Council review once posted. SERO will provide an evaluation of costs associated with bycatch reporting following publication of the final rule. The name of this amendment was changed to “Bycatch Reporting” in September 2016.

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

2) Commercial Logbook Electronic Reporting

Bonnie Ponwith, SEFSC, will provide a progress report on voluntary commercial logbook reporting (**Attachment 2**). Mike Cahall of ACCSP will provide a presentation on advances in electronic reporting programs and the ACCSP role (**Attachment 3**).

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

3) SAFMC-ACCSP Electronic Charter Vessel Reporting Application Project

Council staff is working with partners at ACCSP and the states to pilot a mobile application for electronic reporting of charter trips. The application was designed with Harbor Lights Software, Inc., during spring 2016. Volunteer participants were identified and equipment purchased during Summer and Fall 2016 and data collection began in Winter 2016. Mike Errigo will provide an update on the project.

ACTION

- Provide guidance as necessary

4) For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment

The Committee will receive a presentation from Ken Brennan, SERO, on the electronic reporting system that has been in place for several years now in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) (**Attachment 4**). Experiences with program start up, outreach, training and compliance in the SRHS may be helpful when electronic reporting is implemented in the charter segment.

This amendment (**Attachment 5**) 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 Committee received a detailed presentation of the pilot study in September 2016, and an update at this meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider final approval of the for-hire reporting amendment and to consider implementation dates and timing. Codified text is provided in **Attachment 6**. A suggested schedule is as follows:

1. Council approval for formal review – December 2016
2. Document sent for formal review – January 2017
3. Implementation, assuming it is approved – June 2017
4. Suggest that the charter vessel reporting be voluntary from date of implementation through remainder of 2017:
 - a. Allows NMFS to work out the details of data flow, compliance, monitoring, etc.
 - b. Allows NMFS to work out the details of system requirements, etc.
 - c. Allows outreach via the proposed Outreach Project during 2017; NMFS SERO/Council Staff proposal submitted for the EM/ER Funding
 - d. Allows charter vessel owners time to become familiar with the reporting system prior to 1/1/18
5. Mandatory charter vessel reporting effective – January 1, 2018

ACTION

- Consider final approval of the for-hire amendment and codified text

OPTION 1. APPROVE THE FOR-HIRE AMENDMENT FOR FORMAL SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT AS NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE. GIVE STAFF EDITORIAL LICENSE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE DOCUMENT AND CODIFIED TEXT AND GIVE THE COUNCIL CHAIR AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS AND RE-DEEM THE CODIFIED TEXT.

OPTION 2. DO NOT APPROVE FOR FORMAL REVIEW

OPTION 3. OTHERS??

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN