



Jekyll Island, GA
March 2023

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Update on modification to commercial coastal logbook program





Progress since December meeting

Amendment document has been drafted (**Attachment 2b**).

IPT review being conducted.

Revised document with completed sections will be available for Gulf Council meeting in April.



Revised Timing

Jan 2023	Gulf Council receives update
March 2023	SA Council approves for PH
April 2023	Gulf Council approves for PH
May 2023	Public Hearings
June 2023	SA Council approves for formal review
June 2023	Gulf Council approves for formal review
Sept 2023	SA Council approves for formal review
Early 2024	Final rule published
Jan 1, 2025	Regulations effective



Summary of Biological Effects

This action is administrative in nature and therefore not expected to have any direct effects on the biological environment.

There may be long-term indirect positive effects from:

- Timeliness of data on catch and discards
- Fewer errors, ease of submission may reduce recall bias
- Improved compliance



Summary of Economic Effects

- Commercial fishermen will need an internet equipped device such as a laptop, tablet, or smartphone – cost to those who do not have device but most likely have access already.
- Postage cost savings - estimated to range from \$208K to \$390K annually.
- Time savings to submit – cannot be quantified at this time.
- Time and cost savings to process data and improved data accuracy.



Summary of Social effects

- Direct short-term effects from individuals adjusting to the new process - mostly neutral or positive as most users are comfortable.
- Short-term negative effects for fishermen unaccustomed or uncomfortable with use of electronic reporting.
- Long-term effects expected to be positive as e-submission will simplify data collection and improve data quality.



Gulf's Data Collection AP

Met on February 13, 2023 and provided the following:

- Recommend that Council staff work with industry groups to determine what outreach and education would be appropriate to the commercial participants.
- Recommend that the Gulf Council and NOAA staff work with ACCSP, and other vendors to create a method for industry to beta test the Commercial Coastal Logbook Program prior to the implementation of the Commercial Coastal Logbook Program Amendment.



Next Steps

- Obtain input from SA Dolphin Wahoo AP
- Complete administrative description of the program and administrative effects/cost estimation
- Consider approval for public hearings (virtual)