



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

# **Update on modification to commercial coastal logbook program**





# Background

- The commercial coastal logbook program collects data from commercial vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Atlantic
- In the South Atlantic, commercial fishermen holding Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, or Coastal Migratory Pelagic permits are required to fill out a paper logbook within 7 days of completing a trip and mail it to the SEFSC
- A subset (20%) of commercial coastal logbook participants are selected to also fill out an economic or discard survey for a year
  - Mailed out separately from coastal logbook
  - Mandatory to complete if selected



# Background

This amendment would modify the FMPs for:

- South Atlantic Snapper Grouper,
- Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo,
- Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Migratory Pelagics,
- Gulf Reef Fish

to require commercial logbooks be submitted via electronic reporting forms instead of the currently used paper-based forms.





# Benefits of electronic logbook

- Accommodates vessels with multiple permits (one-stop reporting)
- Better compliance and timeliness for permit renewal
- More accurate information



# Progress since June meeting

- In June 2022 the Council made a motion to work on a joint document with the Gulf Council
- The Interdisciplinary Plan Team (IPT) convened in July to discuss next steps.
- The IPT has determined a **joint plan amendment** to each affected FMP would be needed. A **Categorical Exclusion** would be prepared to satisfy NEPA.
- IPT compiled a list of questions and answers for the Councils (***Attachment 3b***)
- IPT compiled a spreadsheet to compare current data fields and modifications that would be required for implementing an electronic logbook (***Attachment 3c***)



# Revised Timing of development

Oct 2022	Gulf Council approves for PH
Dec 2022	SA Council approves for PH
Winter 2022	Councils conduct PHs
Jan 2023	Gulf Council approves for formal review
March 2023	SA Council approves for formal review
Late 2023	Final rule published
Early 2024	Regulations effective



# DRAFT Purpose and Need

The **purpose** is to modify reporting for commercial fishing vessels issued South Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico permits and currently reporting through the Southeast Coastal Logbook program (Gulf Reef Fish, South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper, Atlantic Dolphin and Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf and Atlantic), to require that the reports be submitted electronically.

The **need** is to improve the timeliness and efficiency of the commercial logbook data collection and management program, which will improve monitoring and compliance of federally permitted commercial vessels participating in the Southeast Coastal Logbook program.



# What will change?

**Commercial logbook data fields have already been integrated into eTRIPS so that electronic submission is compatible with Atlantic standards through ACCSP**

- See Spreadsheet (*Attachment 3c*)
- The data will then be made available to SEFSC from ACCSP
- Timing for reporting will be unchanged (7 days)

**Voluntary (unless selected by SEFSC) portions of the commercial electronic program (economic and discard surveys)**

- The economic survey will have some additional data fields to be compatible with ACCSP's database
- Discards will be reported when completing the commercial logbook
- These two surveys will remain voluntary unless selected



# Why are there more data fields in the electronic logbook?

- To streamline data collection across federal and state agencies
- To accommodate vessels with multiple permits so the correct information is collected
- In general, the additional fields either collect the same information, but in a different way than on paper (gutted vs whole weight) or ask for a better estimate of the trip duration or characteristic (end/start port or trip end time).
- Changing existing data fields would require the ACCSP committee agreeing to changes.
- For additional information related to program modification see ***Attachment 3b***.



# Next Steps

- Draft amendment document being developed
- Obtain input from APs this fall
- Consider approval for public hearings in December 2022



# Extra slides

- Demo of eVTR using eTRIPS:

<https://youtu.be/spbGZiu7xqA?t=610>