



# Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program



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# Gulf & South Atlantic SEFHIER Permit Accounts as of Nov. 3rd



Reporting Platform	S. Atl. Permit Accounts (Updated 8/01/21)	Gulf Permit Accounts (Updated 8/01/21)	Gulf/S. Atl. Dual Permitted Accounts
eTrips	542 (+55)	179 (+7)	78
VESL	507 (+93)	521 (+26)	115 (+4)
Headboat (VESL)	64	68	_____
VMS	_____	106 (+17)	_____
South Carolina (VESL)	144 (+0)	_____	_____
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257 (+48)</b> ~899 have yet to register	<b>874 (+33)</b> ~503 have yet to register	<b>198(+4)</b> ~176 have yet to register



# Gulf & South Atlantic Permit Accounts

- ~1,580 permit holders have yet to register with approved vendor
  - Nov 3rd = 2,329 registered accounts
  - Accounts include both permit holders & captains (not 1:1)
- Expect 20-30% permit latency
- ~500 S. Atl. vessels with no reports since Jan 4<sup>th</sup>
  - SEFHIER staff reached out to these constituents & some cases were referred to OLE
- >30,000 logbooks have been submitted in 2021 from S. Atl., federal for-hire permitted vessels
- SERO anticipates increased participation as permits come up for renewal



# SERO Hosted Outreach Webinars

## Recently Held Webinars

- Gulf VMS requirement webinars weekly in Sept
- SEFHIER constituent calls with Andy Strelcheck:
  - Gulf constituents: Oct 7<sup>th</sup> @12-2 pm ET
  - South Atlantic constituents: Oct 14<sup>th</sup> @12-2 pm ET
- Gulf Council hosted VMS vendor webinars:
  - Oct 7<sup>th</sup> @10-1130 am & Oct 12<sup>th</sup> @6-7 pm ET
- SEFHIER Validation Surveyor training sessions:
  - Throughout October





# Continued Outreach

- An updated permit renewal letter with SEFHEIR (Gulf VMS) requirements was posted to SEFHIER website:
  - [https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/reports/cs/SEFHIER\\_VMS\\_Rule\\_Letter.pdf](https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/reports/cs/SEFHIER_VMS_Rule_Letter.pdf)
- For dually Gulf & S. Atl./Atl. permitted vessels, the southeast for-hire intercept survey (SEFHIS) began in October:
  - Rack card posted to the SEFHIER website:  
[https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/reports/cs/Better\\_Data\\_Better\\_Fishing.pdf](https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/reports/cs/Better_Data_Better_Fishing.pdf)
- Regular SEFHIER website updates:
  - E.g. updated answers to FAQs  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational-fishing/frequently-asked-questions-southeast-hire-integrated-electronic>

# VMS Update: Gulf Requirements



VMS rule: *delay in effective date from December 13<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

- Gulf federal for-hire permitted vessels will be required to have a type-approved VMS unit that includes a GPS device affixed to the vessel that, at a minimum, archives vessel position data for submission to NOAA Fisheries
- Currently 3 cVMS (cellular-based VMS) units have received type-approval for Gulf For-Hire vessels (Faria, CLS NEMO and Nautic Alert's Insight X3)
- Hail-outs and VMS units are expected to provide better data on fishing effort (number of trips) and allow for better enforcement of fishing regulations

Link to all type-approved VMS Units:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-vessel-monitoring-system-vms-units-reporting-southeast-hire-electronic>

# General Discussion Items



- GARFO/SERO dually permitted vessels:
  - VESL is not certified with GARFO; dually permitted vessels can use eTrips to satisfy both GARFO and SERO permit reporting requirements
  - To meet the requirements of both programs, you must fill out the approved form when you offload & submit the form within 48 hours of the trip ending
- HMS caught species:
  - Using VESL app, still need to complete the HMS electronic logbook report
  - Using eTrips/mobile app, eTrips prompts for HMS required questions



# Acknowledgements

- SEFHIER program staff
- ❖ Special thanks to our For-Hire constituents!





# GCES Penalty Policy



- NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is working with industry to ensure compliance with SEFHIER.
- OLE is conducting outreach/education & initiating investigations on SEFHIER related referrals.
- Non-compliance is assessed on a case by case basis, and may result in compliance assistance, written warnings, and summary settlement penalties. Some cases may also be referred to NOAA's Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) for review and issuance of civil administrative penalties.
- The GCES penalty policy and schedules can be found at the following link: <https://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office3.html>



# What Can fisherman Do Now?

- # 1** Select a reporting software; for Gulf permitted vessels: select & install a VMS unit before the effective date
- # 2** Create a reporting account for each vessel/user
- # 3** Review the website; watch informational videos, read SEFHIER toolkits
- # 4** For Gulf permitted vessels: check that your landing location is approved. If not, submit a landing location request form for approval



# Constituent Questions?



Start on our webpage (web link on slide 5):

- News and announcements:
  - Sign up to receive SEFHIER-specific Fishery Bulletins:  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new>
- Guides and Tools:
  - Informational videos and the S. Atlantic-specific toolkit online
- Upcoming webinars dates (will also be sent via SEFHIER Fishery Bulletins)
- Find forms: landing location, power down exemption and VMS install certification
- Contact SEFHIER customer service:
  - Customer Support Toll Free: 1-833-707-1632
  - Customer Support Email: [ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov](mailto:ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov)
  - Contact me directly: [michelle.masi@noaa.gov](mailto:michelle.masi@noaa.gov)

