



THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
**Improvements to the Southeast For-Hire Integrated
Electronic Reporting Program (SEFHIER)**

**For-Hire Reporting Advisory Panel
January 2025**



What are we going over at this meeting?

- Why are we here?
- Background on SEFHIER
- For-Hire Reporting Advisory Panel's charge
- Council activities in 2024
- Draft list of actions
- Q & A
- Summary of existing permit data (Attachment 1b)
- Discussion document (Attachment 1c)
- AP recommendations



What is an advisory panel (AP)?

- A group of individuals from the fishing community that advise the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council on fishery management topics, trends, and observations.
- The Council has 13 APs that provide guidance on specific fisheries (ex. Dolphin Wahoo), aspects of fisheries management (ex. Law Enforcement), and specific topics (ex. this AP!).





What is the Southeast For Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program?

The SEFHIER Program was implemented in 2020.

Separate requirements for the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

NMFS raised concerns prior to the program's implementation in the South Atlantic.

In February 2023, the Gulf's program ceased to operate due to court ruling.

The South Atlantic's program has remained operational.

What's the role of the For-Hire Reporting AP?

The AP is tasked with providing insight on improving the SEFHIER Program for the charter and headboat components of the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo, and Coastal Migratory Pelagic fisheries, particularly improving compliance with existing requirements and any potential new requirements.

The AP should consider lessons learned from self-reporting programs and discuss strategies that would enhance timeliness, accuracy, and quality of the data for SEFHIER. The AP should also consider ways to balance data and compliance needs with the reporting burdens associated with any recommendations that are put forward.



What is the Council considering?

The Council has received periodic updates on SEFHIER, most recently in March 2024.

The Council wants to discuss ways to:

- improve compliance with SEFHIER,
- strengthen reporting requirements, and
- explore data validation,

with the goal of utilizing the information being collected in future management decisions.



Council Activity in 2024



March

- Received [presentation](#) on the Southeast Region Headboat Survey
- Received [presentation](#) on the South Carolina for-hire reporting program

June

- Began assembling an advisory panel (AP)
- Requested information on how the Gulf Council is approaching for-hire reporting
- Reviewed concerns NMFS raised with the initial amendment and caveats on data usage
- Began work on an amendment to improve the SEFHIER program

Council Activity in 2024



September

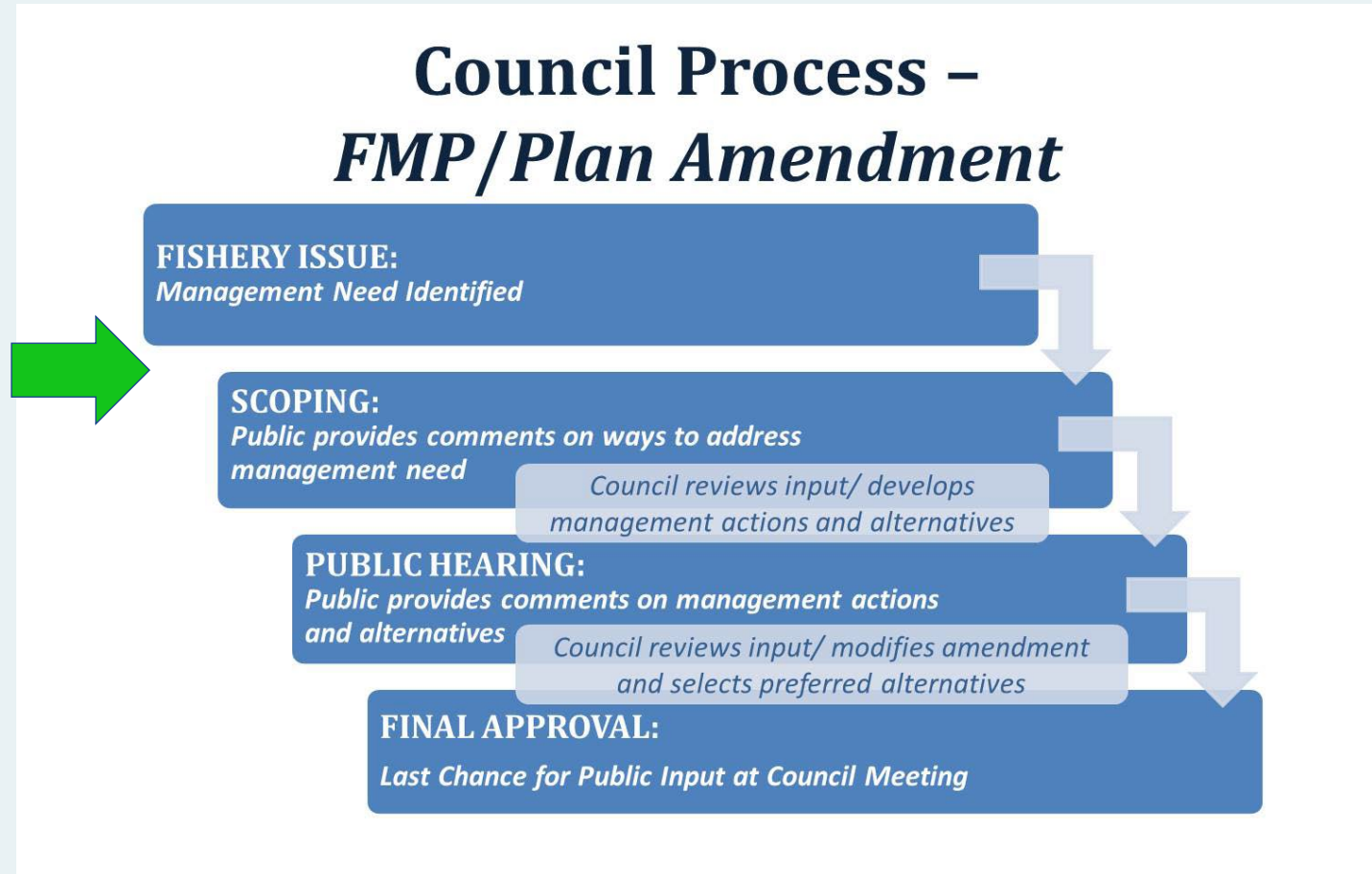
- Approved purpose and need for new amendment
- Drafted preliminary actions and range of alternatives
- Requested additional information from NMFS

December

- Finished assembling the AP
- Received [presentation](#) from Mid-Atlantic Council staff regarding use of eVTR data in management
- Received presentation on proposed changes to electronic reporting for Highly Migratory Species
- Received [additional information](#) from NMFS

Where is this amendment in the development process?

- The Council has identified the issue and is considering ways to address it.
- The Council will consider initiating public scoping in Spring 2025.



Draft List of Actions

1. Modify Reporting Frequency of Fishing Trips for For-Hire Vessels
2. Require Trip Notification for For-Hire Vessels
3. Establish Approved Landing Locations for For-Hire Vessels
4. Require Participation in a Validation Survey
5. Revise Reporting of Economic Data for Charter Vessels
6. Other items

What's expected from AP members this afternoon?



- Provide your observations and input relevant to existing reporting requirements and potential new ones.
- Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair at the end of the meeting.
 - Who is interested?



What's next?

- We're going to dive into changes the Council could make to improve the utility of the existing program
- But first.....

Questions?

- What's generally expected of you as an AP member?
- How are things expected to go today?
- Any lingering questions on the AP process?

