



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Trish Murphey, Chair | Jessica McCawley, Vice-Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

AGENDA

For-Hire Reporting Advisory Panel

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Webinar Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2627824438935245401>

Approval of agenda

Public Comment

1. Comment on potential Council actions to improve the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Other Business

Adjourn

Advisory Panel Members:

Brian Bacon (RI)

Adam Nowalsky (NJ)

Chris Kimrey (NC)

Rom Whitaker III (NC)

James Skinner (SC)

Mark Phelps (SC)

Richard Stoughton (SC)

Kevin Dezern (GA)

Haley Stephens (FL)

Bob Zales, II (FL)

Melissa Leone (FL)

Staff: Myra Brouwer (Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net)

Attachments:

Attachment 1a: Overview Presentation

Attachment 1b: Summary of available for-hire permit data

Attachment 1c: SEFHIER Improvement Discussion Document

Attachment 1d: SAFMC Comments on HMS Proposed Rule

OVERVIEW

For-Hire Reporting Advisory Panel

After introductions, the advisory panel (AP) will approve the agenda for the January 2025 meeting. This will be followed by an opportunity for public comment.

1. **Comment on potential Council actions to improve the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program**

Description: The SEFHIER program was launched in 2021 with implementation of the Comprehensive For-Hire Electronic Reporting Amendment (SAFMC 2017), which modified reporting requirements for federally permitted charter vessels and headboats in the snapper grouper, dolphin wahoo, and coastal migratory pelagics fisheries. The SEFHIER program has been operating in the South Atlantic since 2021, but data being collected through the program cannot yet be used in management decisions because of 1) low compliance with reporting requirements, and 2) lack of validation. The Council acknowledged some improvement with the programs' requirement could be accomplished without amending the fishery management plans for the three fisheries. However, actions such as changing the reporting frequency and other aspects of the program would need to be modified through an amendment. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is also considering modifications to reporting requirements since SEFHIER ceased operating in that region in February 2023 after a court ruling.

The Council began assembling an advisory panel in 2024 to provide insight into possible actions. Council members sought to obtain feedback from for-hire federally permitted captains that report through SEFHIER, including members on existing advisory panels (e.g., dolphin wahoo AP), and those that hold southeast permits and operate in New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Council discussed possible actions and requested additional information from the SEFHIER program to inform their discussion. In December 2024, the Council directed staff to convene the AP in early 2025 to provide feedback ahead of requesting input from the public through scoping.

Requested AP Action: Council staff will facilitate discussion to gather the AP's comments and recommendations on the actions that could be considered through an amendment to the Dolphin Wahoo, Snapper Grouper, and Coastal Migratory Pelagics fishery management plans.

2. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Description: The Council's advisory panels have a Chair and Vice-Chair that are elected by their fellow AP members. The Chair helps lead the discussion of agenda items and delivers the AP's summary report to the Council at one of the quarterly meetings. The Vice-Chair fills in for these responsibilities if the Chair is not available.

Requested AP Action: Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for the For-Hire Reporting AP.