



Public Hearings
July 2023

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Council Staff

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Comprehensive Amendment Addressing Electronic Reporting for Commercial Vessels



HOUSEKEEPING FOR THIS HEARING



The purpose of this hearing is to gather your input on the proposed action. Your comments will help shape the Council's final decisions on the amendment.



FIRST, I will give some background and go over what is being proposed



THEN, staff from the Southeast Fisheries Science Center will give a presentation and demo of the e-Trips Mobile 2 application



NEXT, we will answer any clarifying questions pertaining to this amendment



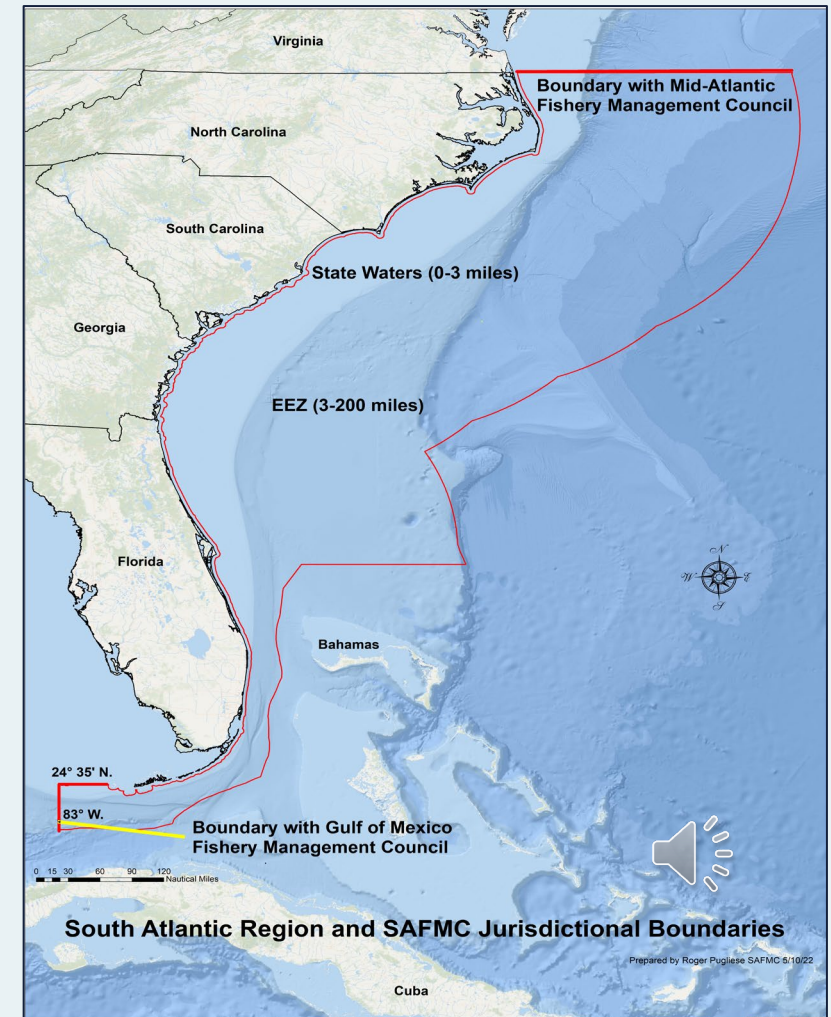
FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, a Council member is here to take your comments

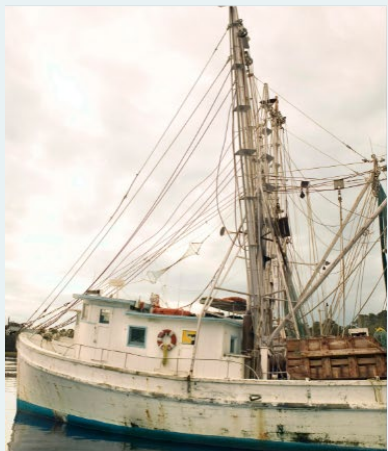


ABOUT THE COUNCIL



- 1 of 8 regional fishery management Councils
- Jurisdiction:
 - Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ranges from 3-200 miles
 - South Atlantic Region: NC, SC, GA, East Coast of FL
- Council Makeup:
 - Include recreational and commercial fishermen, state marine agency reps, and federal partners
 - 17 members, 13 voting, 4 non-voting
 - Representatives from each state in the region.
- The Council provides recommendations to the NMFS.





Background

The **NMFS Coastal Fisheries Logbook Program** collects data from commercial vessels in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.

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 Southeast Fisheries Science Center.





Background

A subset (20%) of commercial coastal logbook participants is selected to also fill out a supplemental **economic or discard survey** for a year

- Mailed out separately from coastal logbook
- Mandatory to complete ***if selected***



What is being proposed?




do away with the
current paper-based
reporting for
commercial logbooks
and require



ELECTRONIC REPORTING



for commercial vessels
currently reporting
through the NMFS
coastal fisheries
logbook program 



2018 SE COASTAL FISHERIES TRIP REPORT FORM Use Black Ink only ! OMB Control No. 0540-0016 Expiration Date: 9/30/2019

Signature: _____ Phone No.: () - _____ Schedule No. NMFS Use Only

Vessel Name: _____ Trip Start Date: MM DD YY County or Parish: _____ State: _____

Vessel No.: _____ Trip Unload Date: MM DD YY Dealer Name: _____

Operator Name: _____ Days at Sea: _____ No. of Crew: _____ SE Federal Dealer Number: _____

Operator Number: _____ Check box if landings sold to multiple dealers: ☐ Yes

GEAR SECTION: See Instructions on Page 2. Check gear box and fill in all the boxes below.

Traps (T) ☐ Fish ☐ Other ☐ Longline (L) ☐ Bottom ☐ Gill Net (GN) ☐ Drift ☐ Anchor ☐ Hook & Line (H) ☐ Hand ☐ Band ☐ Trawl ☐ Dredge ☐ Other Gear (O) ☐

Total # Traps Used: _____ # Hooks per Line: _____ Length (yards): _____ # Hooks per Line: _____ Total Hrs Fished: _____

Trap Soak Time (hrs): _____ Set Soak Time (hrs): _____ Depth (yards): _____ Total Hrs Fished: _____ SE VTR #: R16100001

Total Soak Time (hrs): _____ Total Soak Time (hrs): _____ Set Soak Time (hrs): _____ Date Received: _____

Mesh: _____ Length (miles): _____ Mesh: _____

CATCH SECTION: See Instructions on Page 4. Weight- Record POUNDS kept gutted or whole (DO NOT include fractions of pounds). Gear- Record gear used for MAJORITY of catch as T, L, GN, H, E, TR, B, S, P or O. (Do not use multiple gears). Area- Areas can be found on maps in logbook (page 6). Do not use state area codes. Depth- Record bottom depth where the MAJORITY of fish were caught in FEET.

Species Name	Code	Gutted-lbs	Whole-lbs	Gear	Area	Depth	Species Name	Code	Gutted-lbs	Whole-lbs	Gear	Area	Depth
Amberjack-Great	1812	#	#				P Jolthead	3312	#	#			
Amberjack-Lesser	1815	#	#				P Knobbed	3308	#	#			
Almaco	1810	#	#				G Red	3302	#	#			
Banded Rudder	1817	#	#				Y Whitestone	3306	#	#			
Creville	0870	#	#				Blacknose	3485	#	#			
Cobia	0870	#	#				Blacktip	3495	#	#			
Dolphin Fish	1050	#	#				Bonnethead	3483	#	#			
Black	1422	#	#				S Bull	3497	#	#			
Gag	1423	#	#				A Dogfish, Smth	3511	#	#			
Warsaw	4740	#	#				P Finetooth	3481	#	#			
Red	1416	#	#				L Lemon	3517	#	#			
Scamp	1424	#	#				S Sandbar	3513	#	#			
Snowy	1414	#	#				Sharnose, Ad	3518	#	#			
Yellowedge	1415	#	#				Blackfin	3757	#	#			
Yellowfin	1426	#	#				L Lane	3751	#	#			
Hind, Red	1413	#	#				S Mangrove	3752	#	#			
Hind, Rock	1412	#	#				N Mutton	3763	#	#			
Hind, Speckled	1411	#	#				P Queen	3770	#	#			
Bluestriped	1444	#	#				E Red	3754	#	#			
French	1445	#	#				R Silu/Yelloweye	3758	#	#			
White	1441	#	#				Vermillion	3765	#	#			
Margate	1442	#	#				Yellowtail	3767	#	#			
Margate, Black	1443	#	#				Triggerfish, Gray	4551	#	#			
Grunts, Unc.	1440	#	#				Triggerfish, Ocean	4562	#	#			
Hogfish	1790	#	#				Triggerfish, Queen	4563	#	#			
King Mackerel	1940	#	#				Tilefish, Gray	4474	#	#			
Spanish Mackerel	3840	#	#				Tilefish, Golden	4470	#	#			
Wahoo	4710	#	#				Sea Trout, White	3455	#	#			
Black Sea Bass	3360	#	#				Little Tunny	4653	#	#			
Bluefish	0230	#	#				Barracuda	0180	#	#			
Blue Runner	0270	#	#				Hake	1550	#	#			



6:51 42% Catches

2 HOOK AND LINE (11-17-08-51-07) SEARCH

Favorite Species

BASS, BLACK SEA

BASS, STRIPED

BASS, STRIPED

SUMMARY CATCHES

1 General : Food MACKEREL, ATLANTIC

9 General : Food TAUTOG

36 Not Brought on Board : Released alive TAUTOG

OFFLOADS



Who is proposing this action?



This action may affect vessels fishing in the Greater Atlantic Region and in other fisheries (e.g., Highly Migratory Species) that also have Southeast permits





Why are the Councils considering action?



To improve:

1. **timeliness and efficiency** of commercial logbook data collection and management
2. **monitoring**
3. **compliance**

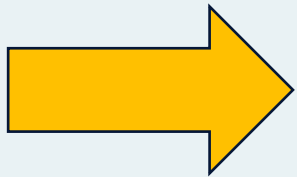
To eventually achieve one-stop-reporting for vessels holding multiple permits



Who will be affected?

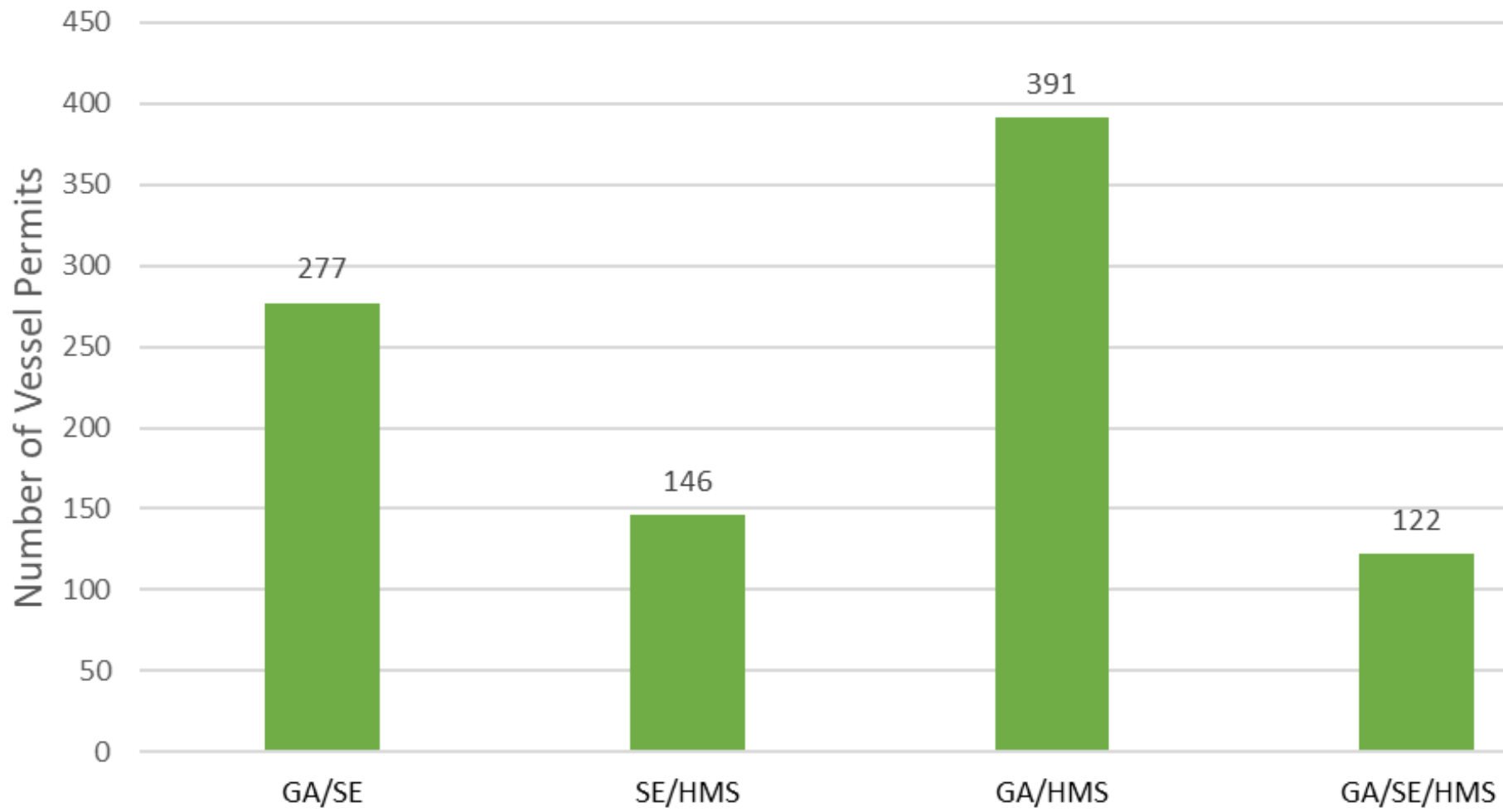
This amendment would modify the FMPs for:

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



All federally permitted commercial vessels in the above fisheries participating in the Coastal Fisheries Logbook program





What reporting platform will be required?

- Currently, **e-Trips** is a NMFS-approved application for electronic reporting in other fisheries and programs.
- The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is developing and testing e-Trips in collaboration with NMFS for use in the Southeast.
- Other platforms may become available from different vendors.





What will change?

Data fields may need to be added, removed, or modified. However, modifications are expected to be minor.





What will change?

The supplemental portions of the logbook (economic and discard surveys) will be **voluntary for vessels not selected to submit**

Discards will be reported when completing the commercial logbook (**disposition of catch**)



What will **not** change?

- **Timing for reporting** will remain 7 days after the conclusion of each commercial fishing trip
- **20% of vessels** will continue to be selected to submit supplemental surveys.



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.
- Time savings for fishermen to submit?
- Time and cost savings to increased assurance that the logbook entry was submitted.



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.



When will e- reporting go into effect?

Amendment is expected to be approved in Fall 2023.

NMFS will develop vendor specifications for electronic platforms and new platforms will need to be approved.

Regulations may be effective in early 2025.



FAQs

- Can I still report on the paper logbook if I choose?

There may be a transition time during which the paper logbook will be phased out.

- How will I know if I have been selected to fill out the supplemental surveys?

Commercial fishermen are currently notified by a mailed letter instructing them they have been selected to complete the survey. This will remain the same under the electronic system.



FAQs

- Will the economic section always appear on the logbook form?

Yes, it will always appear in the logbook form but will only be mandatory for selected vessels.

- Where do the reported data go?

Data will be transmitted via secure servers to NMFS, the NMFS will review data for quality and use the data for monitoring and compliance.



FAQs

- What is the expected timeline of one-stop reporting for vessels with multiple permits?

NMFS is currently working on a One-Stop-Reporting application and program. Estimated timeline for the work will be a few years based on different collection requirements and needs.

- Who should fishermen call if they are having trouble with the submission process?

The vendor that is supplying the application for software questions or issues. For questions about the logbook program call the Fishery Monitoring Branch at (305) 361-4581.





How do I comment?

SAFMC webinar hearings

July 25th at 6 PM

July 26th at 6 PM

July 27th at 6 PM



GMFMC webinar hearings

August 23rd at 12:00 pm

August 29th at 6:00 pm

August 30th at 10:00 am



How do I comment?

Submit online: [Submit Comment](#)

Mail: John Carmichael, Executive Director. 4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201. N. Charleston, SC 29405

Fax : 843-769-4520

Comments must be received by 5 PM on Friday, July 28th

Questions? Myra.Brouwer@safmc.net

(843) 302-8436

