

OVERVIEW

Limited Access Privilege Program Committee

September 14, 2009
Charleston Marriott Hotel
170 Lockwood Boulevard
Charleston, SC

At this meeting of the Limited Access Privilege Program Committee, the Committee needs to: (A) hear a presentation on text message based angler reporting; (B) hear a presentation on the South Atlantic video monitoring pilot study; (C) hear a presentation on a request for a catch shares program amendment; (D) hear a presentation of an alternative to catch shares; (E) hear a summary of presentations on catch shares in the South Atlantic Ecosystem made at the American Fisheries Society meetings; (F) hear an update on the work of the Catch Shares Task Force; (G) receive an update on Snapper Grouper Amendment 20 (wreckfish) and provide guidance to staff; (H) receive an update on Golden Crab Amendment 5 and provide guidance to staff; and (I) have a discussion regarding the use of the catch shares terminology.

A. Text Message Based Angler Reporting (Attachment 1)

Scott Baker will make a presentation to the Council on his work. See the following abstract for a summary of his work.

Despite the large number of marine recreational anglers in the United States, there exist few opportunities for individuals to contribute self-reported effort and catch data directly to fisheries managers. Successfully implemented data collection programs based on self-reported information have been able to provide scientists with additional indices for comparisons with existing fisheries data sets and to increase angler participation and confidence in the fisheries management process. Limitations to self-reported data aside, the lack of a portable, electronic reporting device for the average angler has hindered development of new survey methods. We have developed a simple but fully customizable reporting method by which users can submit basic effort and catch information to an online database via text messages from mobile phones. To evaluate this new approach, we asked captains on behalf of six marine for-hire operations to send a text message to document effort, catch, and disposition of catch by species at the completion of each for-hire trip. Report submission was facilitated by RECTEXT, a compact syntax we developed to allow users to submit information within the technical limitations of a 160-character text message framework. During the course of the 4.5-month evaluation, participants submitted 128 trip-level reports that described 1,957 finfish interactions. Results and feedback from participants indicate that the approach is easy to use, is cost efficient, and allows for real-time reporting of information directly to an online database. In addition to the electronic angler diary application described here, we suggest that future evaluations of this approach be applied to tournament data collection, as the real-time nature of reporting and the organized structure of tournaments may provide a mechanism to both interact with all registered

anglers and facilitate design of an unbiased sampling protocol for validating the self-reported data.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None

B. South Atlantic Video Monitoring Pilot Study

Eileen Dougherty and Scott Baker will provide an overview of the South Atlantic Video Monitoring Pilot Study that began in August 2009. The specific project objectives are: 1) To compare data obtained from electronic video monitoring (EM) to data collected simultaneously with fishermen logbooks and at-sea observers; 2) To determine the age-size structure of frequently encountered and discarded snapper grouper species; 3) To collect information on number and disposition of discards with respect to depth and location of capture; and 4) To present the findings of this study to stakeholders at a public workshop.

A summary of the project follows:

This is a proposal to work cooperatively with fishermen to evaluate electronic video monitoring (EM) as a tool to characterize fishing activities of the commercial snapper grouper vertical hook and line (bandit) fleet. This study will involve multiple layers of data collection that revolves heavily on the participation of fishermen collaborators. The project design will allow for statistical comparisons among fishermen's logbooks, at-sea-observers, and electronic video monitoring systems as well as provide information on the age-size structure of frequently discarded species in the complex.

Briefly, six EM systems will be installed on bandit-rig vessels operating out of NC, SC and GA. Each EM system will consist of 2-5 cameras placed on the back deck of a boat, plus a global positioning system, all connected to a digital video recorder. Pertinent data collected by the EM system will include species caught, location, depth, date, time, and disposition of released organisms. Each EM system will be configured to collect data for the entire study period (12 months). In addition to completing detailed discard logbooks, fishermen will retain up to 300 regulatory discards for selected species in order to characterize the age-size structure by the stock.

At-sea observers will be placed on a portion of trips monitored with video hardware. Electronic monitoring data will be interpreted and compared to results from fishermen's discard logbooks as well as data recorded by at-sea observers. A workshop held post data collection (2nd year) will allow stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about this study and explore future opportunities for collaborative partnerships.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None

C. Snapper Grouper Catch Shares Program Amendment Request (Attachments 2-4)

Matt Ruby and Phil Conklin will present a request for a Snapper Grouper Catch Shares Program Amendment.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate.

D. Alternative to Catch Shares

Wayne Mershon will present the LAPP Committee with an alternative to catch shares for the snapper grouper fishery.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate.

E. Catch Shares in the South Atlantic Ecosystem

Kate Quigley will provide a presentation made to the American Fisheries Society Catch Share Symposium September 3rd in Nashville, Tennessee.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None

F. Summary of Work of the Catch Shares Task Force

George Geiger will update the Committee on the work completed by the Catch Shares Task Force, of which he is a member.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: None

G. Snapper Grouper Amendment 20 (Wreckfish) (Attachments 5 and 6)

Kate Quigley will go through the Draft Amendment 20 and present a draft of a program review of the Wreckfish ITQ.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Request staff to make changes and additions to the Wreckfish ITQ Program Review and add appropriate actions to Snapper Grouper Amendment 20.

H. Golden Crab Amendment 5 (Attachments 7 and 8)

Kate Quigley will go through the Draft Golden Crab Amendment 5 and Howard Rau, Bill Whipple, and Glenn Ulrich will be on hand to present their idea for a Golden Crab Catch Shares Program that was drafted at the last Golden Crab AP meeting August 24-25 in Charleston, SC.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Add appropriate actions to the Draft Golden Crab Amendment 5.

I. Catch Shares Terminology

The Committee needs to have a discussion regarding whether they would like to change the name of the LAP Program Committee to the Catch Shares Program Committee given the recent addition of this new terminology. NOAA recently released a fact sheet on catch shares that can be viewed at;

http://www.noaa.gov/factsheets/new%20version/catch_shares.pdf

“Catch share” is a generic term used to describe a fishery management program that exclusively allocates a specific portion of the total fishery catch to individuals, cooperatives, communities, or other entities including sectors. The term encompasses more specific programs defined in legislation such as Limited Access Privilege Programs and Individual Fishing Quotas.

REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTION: Consider changing the name of the LAP Program Committee.