



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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SER15-066

Mr. Robert K. Mahood, Executive Director
South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive
North Charleston, South Carolina 29405

SEP 14 2015

Dear Mr. Mahood:

Thank you for your letter dated August 26, 2015, regarding the For-Hire Logbook Amendment. You inquired as to whether charter vessel owners would be responsible for purchasing a tablet and having it installed on the vessel to meet the anticipated reporting requirements of the amendment, or whether the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has funding to reimburse charter vessel owners similar to what has been done in the past with vessel monitoring systems (VMS).

There are currently limited funds in the NMFS's VMS account but those monies are for VMS reimbursements only. As the For-Hire Logbook Amendment is developed, it would be best to assume that the charter vessel owners will be responsible for the cost of purchasing, installing, and maintaining tablets, as well as any associated data plans.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
for Regional Administrator

cc:

SEFSC: Dr. Bonnie Ponwith

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