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FISHERIES
SEFSC

Commercial Electronic Logbook Pilot Project

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Goals and Objectives

Goal:

- Create on-board electronic logbook program that can accommodate vessels participating in multiple federal fisheries and across regional boundaries

Objectives:

- Set up volunteer fishers to test electronic logbooks utilizing existing software from various vendors (we supply the tablets or laptops)
- Optimize existing logbook software for use in SE and HMS fisheries utilizing feedback from fishermen participating in the pilot study
- Develop IT infrastructure at SEFSC necessary to accept electronic logbook submissions



Photo Bubba Cochrane

Background

- Demand for high quality data to ensure sustainable harvest of marine resources is increasing
- SEFSC vessel logbook programs
 - HMS-Pelagic Longline, 1986
 - Gulf of Mexico reef fish, 1990
 - South Atlantic snapper/grouper, 1992
 - Federally managed shark, 1993
 - King and Spanish mackerel, 1998



Photo: SAFMC

Need

Data collected at finer spatial-temporal resolution will increase understanding

- Improve Single species stock assessment
 - Estimates of discard mortality (depth of discards)
 - Indices of abundance
 - Hot spot and recent fishing effects
 - Environmental effects – assign to each catch-effort observations
 - Age composition - in + away from hot spots
- Improve social + economic assessment
 - Impacts of management on
 - Profitability of the fishery
 - Impacts on fishers and their options
- Support Management
 - Greater variety of management approaches



Photo: NOAA/Collier County Sea Grant Extension

Need

- Current logbooks are limited in their ability to provide spatially explicit data or reduce errors in variables recorded by fishermen
 - Coastal fisheries logbooks only collect at trip level and require additional forms for discard reporting
 - Pelagic logbooks - need multiple sheets to collect set level data
- Use of electronic logbook (e-log) reporting would be timelier with fewer errors in machine generated variables (date, time, location)

Project Tasks

First Stage

- Develop data standards
 - Define formats, fields and definitions of each field to be submitted
 - HMS logbook program, SE logbook program and NE VTR program coordinating on standards
- Recruit software vendors
 - Contact vendors to develop interest in project
 - Deliver standards to vendors
 - Currently communicating about software changes with 3 vendors



An  ecotrust company



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Project Tasks

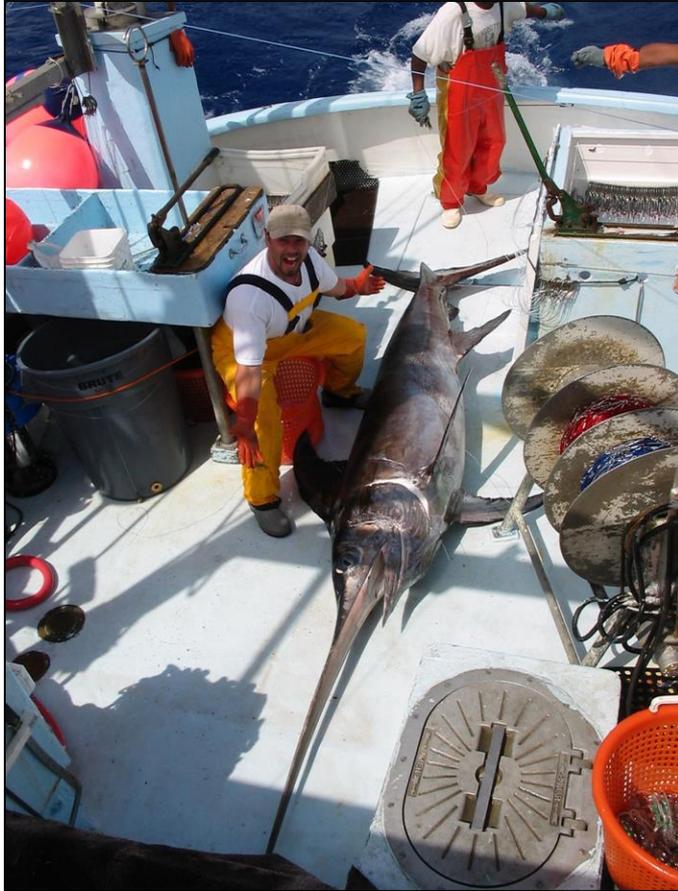


Photo: Derke Snodgrass

Second Stage

- Recruit volunteer fishers to pilot project
 - Utilize council meetings and contacts through each logbook program
 - 5 vessels from Gulf SE fisheries
 - 5 vessels from SA SE fisheries
 - 3 vessels from HMS pelagic fishery
 - Stratify by gear
- Develop infrastructure to receive reports
- Laptops (10) and tablets (3) randomly assigned along with software
 - Vessels record trips and send data for one month
 - Feedback gathered and returned to vendors
 - Updated software tested for one additional month
 - Any additional feedback gathered and sent to vendor for final modifications
 - Total data collection time estimated at 6 months

Final Stage

- Finalize software changes and modifications to IT infrastructure

Progress and Timeline

- Standards developed and sent to vendors
 - Working with potential vendors to increase participation
- Recruiting volunteer fishers
- January 1, 2015 tentative start date for commercial e-log reporting by pilot participants
- Finalizing infrastructure and software changes **should** be complete by August 1, 2015

ACCSP eTRIPS

- eTrips complements SEFSC commercial logbook pilot
 - Provides additional software option for fishermen
 - Mobile version will permit entry at sea and transmission when in cell range
 - Entry on Apple, Android or Windows Tablet
 - Vessels that can't report from sea, can report online once returning to port
 - Lower cost solution than some private sector vendors' software
 - ACCSP could house data and SEFSC would pick up data from ACCSP-simplifies infrastructure for collecting e-reports
 - SEFSC will require data on a finer spatial and temporal scale, which will require modifications to current eTrips software.

Post-Pilot Implementation

- Work with Councils to determine implementation strategies
 - Voluntary / mandatory
 - Scope for mandatory
 - Kinds of vessels excluded from on-board data recording;
 - Reporting by such vessels
 - Electronically from shore / paper
 - Geographic resolution
 - Timelines for implementation
- Work with partners (ACCSP, GulfFIN, private vendors,...) to deploy software solutions for electronic logbook reporting

Questions?

