Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program Improvement Amendment FISH

Informal reporting from SEP Webinar on 10/7/2024

for SSC Meeting 10/23/2024 and SAFMC Meeting 12/02/2024

Presented by SEP Chair Jennifer Sweeney Tookes, Ph.D.

Incentivizing Reporting

Consider better engagement & education

- Non-compliance vs. understanding barriers

Transparency in government processes

- Separation between NOAA and IRS
- Consider neutral third-party

Publicize reasons for economic info need

- Baseline economic data
- Revenue information for future fisheries disaster declarations

Compliance higher in Gulf– why?

- Permit loss, report prior to offload, strict validation survey, stakeholder ambassadors

Random Sampling Method for Economic Component of For-hire Logbook

Determine smallest sub-group of the target population to extrapolate overall representative sample size

→ Sample size necessary to achieve 90% of 95% confidence internal may be surprisingly large

NMFS has never dictated a particular minimum sample size or methodology

→Always left to researcher judgement

Goal of robust sample size with minimal regulatory burden

Range of Trips to be Sampled

Cannot recommend set number of trips to sample

- Need to determine percentage needed to yield desired confidence intervals

Follow standard survey sample approaches

- Determine smallest subgroups, goal of 5% margin of error, scale up

Attempt to generate accuracy similar to logbook program

- Also consider using NMFS approach to economic data gathering
  - E.g. one trip per year (exempt following year), target of 20% coverage, questions about typical vs. specific trips
- Sample active and inactive vessels separately

Strengths & Weaknesses of Census vs Sampling Methodology

Randomization would reduce reporting burden- but possibly increase administrative burden

Census more appropriate for landings and sampling more appropriate for economic data collection

Regardless, additional compliance consequences would be needed to facilitate responses

Target Compliance Rate for Log-book Data

Any compliance rate can be valid if representative

- "Non-response checks"
- Validation methodology will determine necessary compliance

Response rates less important that accuracy & truthfulness of data being reported

Consistency across For-hire Reporting Requirements

Need for SA to integrate with Gulf and NE

Gulf and NE don't need to be compatible; suggest SA align to Gulf

Support long-term developing of cross-regional system