THE SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

SG Recreational Permitting and Reporting Technical Advisory Panel Meeting Summary Report, August 2022

Overview of the AP Meeting

- Met via webinar on August 18, 2022.

- Reviewed multiple topics including:
    1) AP Process and Charge
        - *Convene a meeting of the Recreational Permitting and Reporting AP before the September 2022 SAFMC meeting. Direct the AP to review the Mid-Atlantic recreational tilefish reporting program with consideration of its applicability to the South Atlantic snapper grouper complex. Present AP recommendations at the September 2022 SAFMC meeting.*
    2) Private Recreational Reporting Workgroup Recommendations
    3) Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Program update
    4) Mid-Atlantic Recreational Tilefish Reporting Program
    5) AP comments and recommendations

AP Comments and Recommendations

1) Implementing a permit requirement

2) Getting the most out of a permit

3) Implementing a reporting requirement

4) Species that should be covered (all species vs. subset)

5) Available information to determine potential # of permits

6) Timing of implementing permitting and reporting

7) Integrating with existing programs

Implementing Permit Requirement: Resources and Timeline

- **Resources:** *Carefully consider the resources that are going to be needed and whether these resources will realistically be available to fully support any sort of permit or reporting requirement. These efforts take a great deal of resources dedicated towards outreach, compliance, and data acquisition as well as storage.*
  - Specify requirements ahead of time to estimate resources needed for outreach and compliance.

- **Timeline:** 5-years may be appropriate expectation to develop and calibrate permit or reporting for use in management.
  - Time will vary depending on initial design.
  - ~3 year for a pilot study would be ideal with clear end-point.
    - Pilot study could help trouble shoot potential issues with bringing "fully" online.

Getting the Most Out of a Permit: Permit Type and Validation

- **Permit Type:** *Recommend a vessel rather than individual permit since it helps reduce "the universe" of how many permits will need to be issued.*
  - Helps with validation and survey design.
  - Consistent with existing permits issued by SERO.
  - Vessel permit doesn't create impediment to integrate with existing programs.

- **Validation and Data Collection:** *Recommend annual renewal requirement, specific permit number (ID #), and separate permit application from existing commercial and for-hire application.*
  - "Over-subscription" could be an issue.
    - Is the burden of getting the permit enough or should a fee be considered?

Implementing a Reporting Requirement

- *Suggest that the Council establish clear goals on the expectations and intended outcomes from requiring reporting. This will help shape future AP recommendations as well as reporting design.*

- Similar comments on resources and timeline for permit requirement.
  - Awareness, compliance, and enforcement takes a notable amount of time and funding.

- Additional considerations:
  - Doesn't have to be a census. Could have sub-set or survey of permit holders reporting.
  - Permit may not accomplish as much without reporting.
  - Reporting not useful unless enforceable.
  - Helpful to get good sense of size of "the universe" of potential permits to determine reporting requirements and necessary supporting resources.
  - Can you have the same outcome with a survey vs a census?

Species that should be covered (all species vs sub-set)

- All species
  - Notable issues with bycatch and regulatory discards for many species across the complex.
  - The Snapper Grouper fishery is truly a multi-species fishery so being inclusive of all species would increase utility of program.
  - Would be beneficial to cover all species with one program (one permit with one reporting system).

- Sub-set of species
  - Including all species may "washout" some participants that specialize in one fishery.
  - Including all SG species would create major reporting burden (both for anglers and administrative).

Available information to determine potential number of permits

- Available information could provided a lower bound estimate of possible participants
  - Sampling during red snapper season in Florida
  - Florida Reef Fish Angler Designation
  - HMS permitted vessels
  - MRIP to determine relative distribution of effort

Implementing Permitting and Reporting at the Same Time vs Separately

- If permit implemented first, total costs and necessary resources could be forecast before full implementation of reporting.
  - Would get estimate of universe of anglers or vessels that will be covered.

- In a "perfect world" if resources and outreach were available, getting a permit in place first would be a reasonable approach.
  - Help with outreach and demonstrate compliance rates.
  - Avoid "growing pains" exhibited in other programs where permitting and reporting were rolled out together.
  - Could integrate pilot reporting project to help determine potential barriers and costs.

Integrating Data Collected via Permits and Reporting with Existing Programs

- *Have a clear plan in place for how a permit is going to be used and potential future reporting requirement.*
  - Have an idea of what can and cannot be done with permit and reporting.
  - Benefits should be identified.
  - Need plan for how permit is going to be integrated with other survey efforts or future reporting requirements.

- *Would be beneficial to start outreach ASAP and the first year of implementation is very important to successfully get a requirement in place and good compliance.*
  - Keep in mind existing permit in Florida and make sure actions are fully supported by the states.
    - Many anglers connect more with state agencies and rely on these agencies to know what regulations are applicable.
  - Private anglers and for-hire captains share a great deal of information and the for-hire sector could be helpful for outreach.

Questions?