



Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program



Michelle Masi, Ph.D.
SEFHIER Program Manager
NMFS|Southeast Regional Office
Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov



Program Goals

- Produce reliable estimates of catch and effort for federally permitted for-hire vessels
- Immediate data uses - validate minimum catch and effort estimates
- Future data uses require calibration and benchmarking to existing data collections
- Anticipated benefits of SEFHIER:
 - Improved for-hire data for management:
 - Increased accuracy of data
 - Improved timeliness of for-hire data
 - Census-based reporting
 - Reduction in recall bias
 - Improved monitoring & compliance

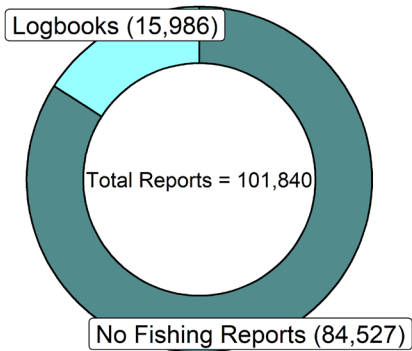


Quantifying Program Compliance

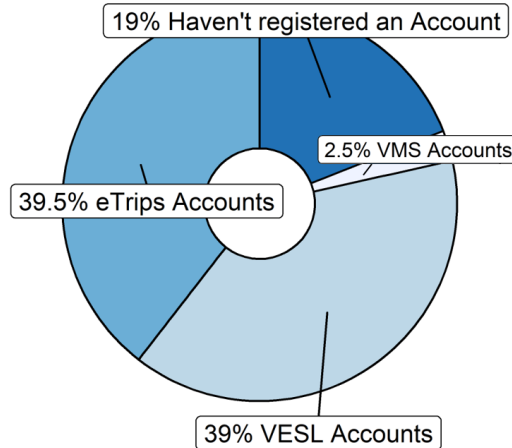


(January 1st - May 31st, 2022)

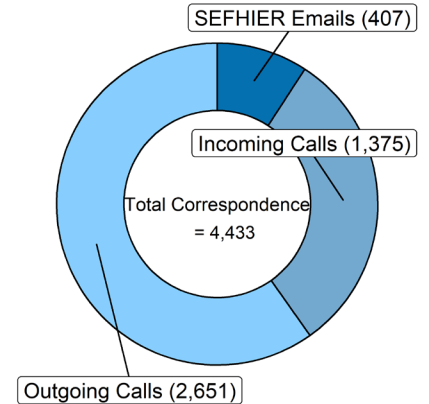
SEFHIER Reports
(from S. Atlantic For-hire Permitted)



% S. Atlantic For-hire Permitted Vessels
with a Reporting Account, by Type



SEFHIER Constituent Communication





Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Initiating a program from no reporting to full reporting had unique challenges (e.g. communication and compliance with reporting requirements)
- A lot of resources needed for IT development and program management & analysis (e.g. quality assurance and quality checks, customer service, analytical support)
- ~40% of our SEFHIER permitted vessels overlap with another region, which means that 60% of our vessels are required to report on questions not required by SEFHIER
 - New technical specifications & transmission methods for SEFHIER only vessels
- Annual budget reductions, while resource needs have increased
 - FY20 - \$2.65 million in funds
 - FY22 funds reduced to \$1.5 million



SEFHIER Data Usability

- Limited compliance in the South Atlantic
 - Compliance tends to be higher under limited access permits
 - Lack of declarations limits the ability of validation surveyors, law enforcement officers and port agents to meet vessels at the dock
 - On the dock enforcement is hindered by the weekly reporting interval in the South Atlantic
- Calibration of logbook data to MRIP
 - Calibrations will be different between Gulf and South Atlantic, due to differences in validation requirements (i.e., VMS, declarations, reporting prior to offload and the Validation Survey)
 - Non-compliance may impact calibration methods and estimates



Current Program Updates

- Regulations under consideration for revision (most are Gulf regulation centric):
 - Equipment failure exception (EFE) – allows exception to leave dock when VMS unit is not operating (note: trip reports still required, using software app)
 - Declaration burden – modify requirement for non-fishing trips (e.g. getting gas)
 - Other potential administrative regulation modifications:
 - Some VMS units not positioning in storage (under cover) – provide exception to allow
 - Declaration submission timeframe – reduce submission window to improve NMFS ability to match to a logbook
 - Eliminate requirement of reports from landlocked waterbodies
 - Allow 1 declaration for dual SEFHIER/Commercial vessels – currently 1 for each program is required
 - VMS installation requirements – qualified installer may not be needed, particularly for cellular VMS units



Acknowledgements

- SEFHIER program staff
- ❖ Special thanks to our For-Hire constituents!

