

**Summary of the Data Collection Committee
October 20, 2014
Battle House Renaissance
Mobile, Alabama**

Committee Members Present:

Harlon Peace, Chair
Kevin Anson, V. Chair
Roy Crabtree
Johnny Greene
Camp Matens
Myron Fischer
Robin Riechers
Martha Bademan
John Sanchez

The Data Collection Agenda (**Tab E, No. 1**) was amended to postpone the Calibration Workshop Summary Report (**Tab E, No. 3**) until the following day and the revised agenda was adopted. The minutes of the August 27, 2014 meeting (**Tab E, No. 2**) were approved as written.

Kevin Anson led the discussion of the recently implemented Species Reporting Requirements under the Joint Electronic Dealer Reporting Amendment (**Tab E, No. 5a**). He stated that the requirement to report *all* species through the electronic dealer trip ticket reporting system is burdensome as it requires submission of state managed species data to NMFS. NMFS does not directly use these data (except for enhanced QA/QC of the federally managed species data) yet, these state managed fisheries data are required to be submitted at the same frequency as the federally managed species data. Bonnie Ponwith stated that NMFS benefits from submission of these data as they can be reviewed for coding errors however, they are not directly used. As a compromise, Bonnie Ponwith suggested that these data could be submitted via the current mechanism yet, split electronically and directed to the appropriate data repositories. This would alleviate the concern with state managed species without compromising the structure of the current data reporting system. Additionally, Bonnie Ponwith suggested that crab and oyster fisheries data could likely be removed from the reporting requirements as these species are unlikely to be miscoded as a federally managed fish species.

Ben Hartig stated the South Atlantic Council reviewed the technical subcommittee summary report at their September 2014 meeting. He stated that the South Atlantic Council is supportive of the general direction and preliminary recommendations of the technical subcommittee. John Froeschke stated the technical subcommittee is on track to complete the report by the December 1, 2014 deadline.

Harlon Pearce led a discussion of methods to improve private recreational data collection and management. The committee reviewed the summary report from the February 2013 Private Recreational Data AP meeting including recommendations for a vessel permit system to improve catch and effort data for red snapper. The rationale for this program is that it could aid both data collection and increase flexibility in fishing opportunities. The committee agreed to revisit this issue pending determination of Reef Fish Amendments 39 and 40 that could also affect the management strategy for red snapper.

Greg Stunz stated that his research group is developing and deploying an enhanced iSnapper software that will enable electronic reporting for private recreational anglers and provide on-going support to the for-hire sector. He stated this technology will work on nearly all operating devices; a necessary improvement to serve private recreational anglers.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.