



Technical Subcommittee on For-Hire Electronic Reporting

Recommendations on an Electronic Logbook
Program for the For-Hire Sector



Objectives

- Increasing the timeliness of catch estimates for in-season monitoring
- Increasing the temporal (and/or spatial) precision of catch estimates
- Providing vessel-specific catch histories for management
- Reducing biases
- Increasing stakeholder trust and buy-in



Recommendations

- Should ***not*** be designed around a single species
- Should be flexible enough to accommodate different reporting requirements for different segments of the for-hire fleet
 - If some vessels are required to have VMS, don't need to require all vessels to have VMS
- Require Mandatory Participation by Vessel Owner/Operators
 - Potential for bias too great to allow voluntary participation



Recommendations

- Electronic Logbook Census
 - Procedure to expand for non-reporting
 - Survey would put us back in the same situation we are in now
- Trip Level Reporting with Weekly Submission
 - Due Tues of following week (same as headboat/dealers)
 - Reduces recall bias
 - Increases timeliness of estimates
 - Flexibility to accommodate more frequent reporting, including “real-time” (as tech/need arises)
 - Ability to submit “No Fishing” reports in advance



Recommendations

- Use of Multiple Reporting Platforms/Applications
 - Must meet minimum data and security requirements
 - Development of minimum standards by NMFS, GulfFIN, ACCSP collaboratively
- Data Storage and Management Process
 1. Logbook data collected via authorized platform, ex. web, tablet, phone, or VMS application
 2. Data submitted to ACCSP or GulfFIN
 3. Data integrated by ACCSP or GulfFIN into single composite data set
 4. Appropriate data sets distributed to appropriate agencies for analyses and use



Recommendations

- Use of MRIP-Certified Validation Methodology
 - Build on Gulf MRIP pilot study methodology
 - Include dockside validation of catch and vessel activity (tablet app)
 - Maintain registries of intercept sites and charter vessels
 - Consider at-sea observer coverage
 - Consider collection of fine-scale discard data, depth of capture, area fished, release condition/mortality (tablet app)



Recommendations

- Use of Accountability Measures Similar to Those Imposed on the Dealers
 - Only able to harvest/possess federally managed species if up to date on logbook reports (weekly or biweekly basis)
 - All delinquent reports would need to be submitted before a for-hire trip could be taken and federal species harvested
- Run New Logbook Program and Old MRIP Survey Concurrently for 3 Years for Calibration
 - Should not use new logbooks for monitoring catch for at least first year
 - Phase-in gives time to work out unforeseen problems and compliance issues



Recommendations

- Move forward with a Logbook Program for Federal Vessels
 - Ultimate goal is to encompass all for-hire vessels (federal and state)
 - States all on different time-lines
- GulfFIN/ACCSP Committees work jointly with end-users to coordinate this program
 - MRIP, States, Councils, SERO, SEFSC, HMS



Preliminary Budget

- Startup
 - \$170,858
- Recurring
 - \$4,735,700
- Total
 - \$4,906,558
 - Does not include money saved from not having to use MRIP survey
 - Do not have current expenditure for the MRIP For-Hire Survey
 - This is just for vessels with federal permits