

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE

Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach, Alabama

January 28, 2019

**VOTING MEMBERS**

10 Greg Stunz.....Texas  
 11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama  
 12 Susan Boggs.....Alabama  
 13 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS  
 14 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC  
 15 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida  
 16 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi  
 17 John Sanchez.....Florida  
 18 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana  
 19 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

22 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi  
 23 Doug Boyd.....Texas  
 24 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi  
 25 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana  
 26 Phil Dyskow.....Florida  
 27 Tom Frazer.....Florida  
 28 Robin Riechers.....Texas  
 29 Bob Shipp.....Alabama

**STAFF**

32 Assane Diagne.....Economist  
 33 Matt Freeman.....Economist  
 34 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director  
 35 Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist  
 36 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel  
 37 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer  
 38 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison  
 39 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager  
 40 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative and Communications Assistant  
 41 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

44 Darryl Boudreau.....Milton, FL  
 45 Ryan Bradley.....MS Commercial Fisheries United, MS  
 46 J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL  
 47 James Bruce.....Magnolia, MS  
 48 Nikki Burch.....Magnolia, MS

1 Ron Chicola.....Ruston, LA  
2 Bubba Cochrane.....Galveston, TX  
3 Mike Colby.....Clearwater Marine Association, FL  
4 Chris Conklin.....SAFMC  
5 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, MS  
6 Troy Frady.....AL  
7 Johnny Greene.....AL  
8 Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL  
9 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA, FL  
10 Laura Picariello.....

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1 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
2 Management Council convened at the Perdido Beach Resort, Orange  
3 Beach, Alabama, Monday morning, January 28, 2019, and was called  
4 to order by Chairman Greg Stunz.

5  
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**  
9

10 **CHAIRMAN GREG STUNZ:** I would like to call the order the Data  
11 Collection Committee. The members of that committee are me as  
12 the Chair, Mr. Anson as Vice Chair, Mr. Schieble, Ms. Boggs, Dr.  
13 Crabtree, Mr. Donaldson, Ms. Guyas, Mr. Sanchez, Dr. Mickle, and  
14 Mr. Swindell, and all of those are present.

15  
16 The first, if you're following along, is, on Tab F, we have a  
17 little bit of a light agenda today, as the shutdown is  
18 preventing Mr. Strelcheck from talking about the unique trip  
19 identifiers that we have been talking about for a meeting or so,  
20 and so, with that, our first item of business is a motion to  
21 approve the agenda. Has everyone had a chance to look at the  
22 agenda and if there is any changes? Not seeing any changes --  
23 Did you have a change, Kevin? Go ahead.

24  
25 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Not so much a change, but just a question. I  
26 know, with the shutdown and everything, obviously it prevented  
27 Andy and others from attending the meeting, but is there any  
28 need to make sure this gets done during this meeting, and can  
29 Andy present remotely the presentation, or -- I mean, is it not  
30 that important and where it can wait until the next meeting?

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Well, I might defer to our Chair and staff  
33 about the timing on that. I'm not real sure.

34  
35 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Kevin, I think we don't have a presentation,  
36 just because of the shutdown. There wasn't an opportunity to  
37 prepare one, and so I think, out of necessity, we'll have to  
38 defer that.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Donaldson.

41  
42 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Kevin, this has been an ongoing issue. I  
43 mean, when you were still on the FIN Committee, we were talking  
44 about this, and it's something that Andy and I and others have  
45 talked about, but, without the presentation, I don't know that  
46 we can really move forward, and, while there is some people that  
47 think that we should have addressed it yesterday, I think  
48 waiting until April is probably the best approach.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Chairman.  
3  
4 **DR. FRAZER:** Just to clarify, we'll make sure that it's on the  
5 agenda for the April meeting.  
6  
7 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Well, if that's okay with the committee,  
8 then, Kevin, we'll move on. Is there any other changes to the  
9 agenda? Seeing none, would someone like to make a motion to  
10 approve the agenda? So moved by Mr. Donaldson, second by Ms.  
11 Boggs. Any opposition to that? Seeing none, we'll move on to  
12 the next item of business, and that's Approval of the Minutes.  
13 Any changes or edits to the minutes? Seeing none, a motion to  
14 approve the minutes?  
15  
16 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** So moved.  
17  
18 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Moved by Ms. Guyas, and it's seconded by Mr.  
19 Donaldson. Any opposition? Seeing none, the minutes are  
20 approved. The next item of business is -- There's really just  
21 one item, but, John, would you like to brief us on the action  
22 guide, please?  
23  
24 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** Yes, I can go through this briefly. As we  
25 discussed, the commercial unique trip identifiers will be pushed  
26 back. On the SEFHIER implementation, there is two items here.  
27 The first part of this, we have SERO on the agenda, and this was  
28 really intended for the Regional Office to give an update on  
29 their implementation plan and deadlines and things.  
30  
31 They really haven't had time to work on this, and I think the  
32 shutdown has modified some of this, and so the plan for that is  
33 we're going to defer on this. If there is specific questions, I  
34 do think -- I have been in contact with Rich Malinowski from the  
35 Regional Office this morning, and I think I could reach out to  
36 him and find out any questions, if we have any. Otherwise, I  
37 think we should push this back, with the understanding that  
38 previously-established deadlines may be moved back a little bit.  
39 The second part of this, Emily is just going to give us an  
40 update on the SEFHIER, the outreach meeting schedule that we  
41 started last week.  
42  
43 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Froeschke. Dr. Crabtree.  
44  
45 **DR. ROY CRABTREE:** I mean, obviously, everything is delayed at  
46 this point. Electronic reporting is going to be delayed, and  
47 the red snapper TAC increase is delayed, the red grouper  
48 emergency rule is delayed, all of these things are delayed.

1  
2 Because staff is just today coming back in the office, no one  
3 has had time to really figure out -- I mean, they're trying to  
4 get the computers to come up and other type of administrative --  
5 So we're going to be a little bit of time to figure out what the  
6 plan is and what's the priority and what do we need to do and  
7 how long are things going to take, and so I just ask for some  
8 patience.

9  
10 I know I'm getting a lot of questions about the Permits Office  
11 and when are we going to start issuing permits, and I don't have  
12 answers to any of that yet, and so we'll come up with an  
13 alternative timing, and the concern with the electronic  
14 reporting is we're going to start running up into the beginning  
15 of red snapper season, and so we're going to have to have a  
16 conversation about that, but I don't think we are going to be  
17 able to do it in a meaningful way right now.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Thank you, Dr. Crabtree. On all of those  
20 positive notes, maybe Ms. Muehlstein would like to share with us  
21 her briefing on the SEFHIER.

22  
23 **SEFHIER IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**  
24 **SEFHIER OUTREACH MEETING SCHEDULE**

25  
26 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. I certainly will. Thank you, Mr.  
27 Chairman. Just to sort of dial this all back, because SEFHIER  
28 is kind of a scary acronym, I just want to put in context what  
29 we're talking about, and this is sort of the implementation  
30 program for the for-hire reporting requirements that the council  
31 voted to approve in the beginning of 2017, and so there has been  
32 an implementation team that has been working to figure out the  
33 logistics of the reporting requirements for those federally-  
34 permitted for-hire vessels.

35  
36 At the council, we have participated in different parts of that  
37 implementation process. One of the things that we did was enter  
38 into a contract with NOAA Fisheries to help them outreach the  
39 new reporting requirements, and, just really quickly, to go over  
40 sort of what we committed to doing with them, we decided that we  
41 would hold between twelve and fourteen in-person outreach  
42 meetings across the region to inform captains about what the  
43 requirements were, and we were going to do that sometime before  
44 December of 2019.

45  
46 The next thing is we committed to holding at least five webinar  
47 meetings to educate fishermen and other partners about the  
48 upcoming requirements, and then we also committed to providing

1 the council and the implementation team and folks at NOAA with  
2 detailed reports of each one of those meetings that we host.

3  
4 With that said, we went ahead, and this was sort of before we  
5 knew that everything would be delayed, and we started to plan a  
6 series of outreach meetings for the beginning of this year.  
7 It's my understanding that implementation for these reporting  
8 requirements will come in two phases.

9  
10 The first phase will include the hail-out requirements as well  
11 as the electronic reporting requirements, and, before the  
12 shutdown, we had planned to put that into place by April 15, and  
13 I suspect that that will be moved back, and then the second  
14 phase is going to require owner-operators to have some sort of  
15 device permanently affixed to their vessel that will, at  
16 minimum, archive their GPS location, and so what we had planned  
17 was to do this first round of meetings to talk about Phase 1,  
18 the hail-out requirements and the electronic reporting  
19 requirements, and we decided to move on and continue to host  
20 those meetings, despite losing our federal partners for a  
21 temporary time.

22  
23 We did have our first meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, and  
24 that happened last Thursday night, and it went pretty well. We  
25 had sixty-one operators at that meeting, and they all came and  
26 sort of shared some of their fears and asked some questions, and  
27 it was a pretty productive meeting.

28  
29 We have a number of meetings scheduled moving forward, including  
30 one tonight that will be happening at the Community Center in  
31 Orange Beach, right before the social that is also planned in  
32 the same place, and so hopefully we'll see you guys there if  
33 you're interested in seeing how we're hosting these meetings and  
34 what we're telling folks.

35  
36 What's next? We're going to complete this first series of  
37 meetings, and we expect to also send out a packet that is full  
38 of all the information that captains will be needing. That  
39 packet will go to all of our permit holders, our federal permit  
40 holders. We already sent out a postcard to notice these  
41 meetings, and so hopefully all the federal permit holders are  
42 sort of aware that we are starting this outreach opportunity.  
43 We will follow up with a packet.

44  
45 Then the Phase 1 will be implemented. After Phase 1 becomes  
46 implemented, we're going to host a series of webinars to do some  
47 troubleshooting, and we also want to engage our state partners  
48 during those webinars, both law enforcement and also the data

1 collection folks in each state, and then we plan to host another  
2 series of outreach meetings before this permanently-affixed  
3 hardware needs to be put on the vessel that archives location,  
4 and so we will be hosting another set of meetings, probably in  
5 August, and we plan to send out another postcard to notify our  
6 permit holders that we will be doing that. I guess that's kind  
7 of a broad overview of what we're up to, and I'm happy to  
8 entertain any questions.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Well, thank you, Emily. There's a few  
11 questions, and I've got a few for you, too. Mr. Schieble, go  
12 ahead.

13  
14 **MR. CHRIS SCHIEBLE:** We talked about the romantic Valentines  
15 evening that you set up for our charter captains at the Hale  
16 Boggs Federal Building. Is there the potential that we could  
17 maybe have a second meeting, or workshop, prior to  
18 implementation of Phase 1? Is that possible at all?

19  
20 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** You know what, especially since we'll be  
21 pushing back the implementation date, I think that's something  
22 that we can definitely consider, and he is referencing that we  
23 have planned Valentine's Day as the meeting for the Louisiana  
24 folks. Apparently I am not a romantic, and so I didn't even  
25 notice.

26  
27 **MR. SCHIEBLE:** I am not either, but I really don't want to go to  
28 the Federal Building no matter what.

29  
30 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** No, I completely understand, and so that is  
31 certainly something that we can consider, yes.

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Ms. Boggs.

34  
35 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Emily, you had mentioned that you sent out  
36 postcards noticing these meetings. How was that information  
37 pulled, the reason being the permit holders -- I have three  
38 permits, and I have not received any postcard.

39  
40 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Well, that's fascinating. I am going to have  
41 to look you up. Typically, what we do is we ask the Regional  
42 Office for their most recent list of federal permit holders and  
43 those addresses that are associated with them. Because we were  
44 not able to do that, we pulled the most recent one that was  
45 posted online, and so it's fascinating that you didn't get one.  
46 I will have to look on the database and see if you're on there.

47  
48 **UNIDENTIFIED:** She is on there.



1  
2 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. You're on there, and so we might have to  
3 look at your address and make sure that it's all right.  
4

5 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** One more question, Ms. Boggs?  
6

7 **MS. BOGGS:** Just one more comment, and I know that I have  
8 expressed this at prior meetings, but I would like, tonight, to  
9 make sure that we express to the charter fleet the delay that  
10 may be caused because of the federal shutdown, so they  
11 understand why, because that's going to be critical. They need  
12 to understand that there is going to be a delay.  
13

14 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Yes, and you'll see on the presentation tonight  
15 that we actually have April 15 with a big-old question-mark  
16 everywhere, because, when we gave the first one on Thursday, we  
17 didn't know when it was going to reopen, and so we're still in  
18 that question-mark, and it's pretty clear.  
19

20 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Anson.  
21

22 **MR. ANSON:** I'm sure this will be addressed tonight as well,  
23 Emily, but I'm just curious as to the two phases relative to the  
24 different data aspects. The first phase is going to deal with  
25 hail-out reporting requirements, and the second phase is going  
26 to deal with locational information, and so is the unit that  
27 they will be using for the locational information the same unit  
28 that they're going to be reporting the hail-out information, or  
29 is the hail-out going to be done by phone, and then they're  
30 going to have the unit installed later on, and then they'll be  
31 using that? Is that how it's going to work?  
32

33 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** It's a fabulous question, and so the answer is  
34 it depends. I think folks who have VMS already on their vessel  
35 or are already signing up. There is some pilot programs where  
36 you can get a VMS for free, and there is a federal reimbursement  
37 program, and so anglers will -- The short answer is anglers will  
38 have the option to do it either way, and so some of those  
39 devices that we know are going to qualify, and the VMS folks are  
40 working with it, you'll be able to just have that unit, and you  
41 can report from there and do that all -- You can rip the Band-  
42 Aid and do it immediately.  
43

44 For folks who don't get the VMS in time for the reporting, or  
45 don't want a VMS, there is -- Currently, the one approved vendor  
46 that we already have in the Gulf, and there is plenty that are  
47 planning to be approved, but the one approved vendor is actually  
48 working on a mobile reporting platform. They have a tablet-

1 based platform now, but you will be able to report from your  
2 phone, and so, for the first phase, if somebody didn't want to  
3 jump in and get a device that was permanently affixed to their  
4 vessel, for the first phase, they would be able to use a free  
5 reporting app from their cellphone, and so it wouldn't have any  
6 cost associated with it.

7

8 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** All right. Are there other questions? Emily,  
11 I've got two questions for you. One is just for clarity,  
12 because I think there are some questions, maybe, around this  
13 table and then just to get it on the record of how this relates  
14 to the headboats that are currently reporting in the current  
15 system they have versus this. Of course, obviously, there is  
16 headboats that aren't in that system, and this includes  
17 everyone, and, obviously, the typical for-hire guys, but  
18 headboats as well.

19

20 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Yes, and so both components of, I guess, the  
21 for-hire fishery, both the headboats and the charter vessels.  
22 Now, as you mentioned, the headboats are already reporting to  
23 the Southeast Region Headboat Survey, and so they will continue  
24 to report to the same people, but the frequency of reporting is  
25 going to change. Right now, they only report once a week, and  
26 Susan is shaking her head. It's daily reports, but they are  
27 submitted weekly, I thought. Is that right?

28

29 **MS. BOGGS:** My understanding is it's daily.

30

31 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. Yes, but John is confirming that they  
32 are daily reports, but they don't have to be submitted every  
33 day. The difference is the new requirements will require that  
34 they submit every trip before offloading fish, and so they will  
35 have to have some new type of device.

36

37 I think a lot of those captains are currently reporting on a  
38 desktop computer at the end of the day, and so they will  
39 continue to report to the same survey, but they will have to  
40 change the frequency and method with which they're doing that.

41

42 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Right. Thank you, Emily, and I think there may  
43 be some -- Just, as you're talking to people, that's very clear,  
44 because I think there's still a little bit of confusion on that.

45

46 The last question I have for you, Emily, is it strikes me a  
47 little bit in the discussion we're going to have in Mr. Dyskow's  
48 session coming up here regarding barotrauma, and you're going to

1 be interacting with a lot of anglers, particularly leaders in  
2 the fishery and charter captains, and it might be a good idea to  
3 reiterate the stuff that's going on with barotrauma.

4  
5 I mean, obviously, don't dominate the meeting, but it's a good  
6 opportunity to reach those people outside of the other  
7 activities that we have planned, and that was just a comment  
8 that I had.

9  
10 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. Great. Yes, thank you for reminding me  
11 of that. We have also, I think, at the first meeting we hosted,  
12 there was an opportunity -- Some captains had asked about the  
13 historical captain endorsement document, and so we definitely  
14 are trying to leave some time at the end to have some stuff, but  
15 that's a good comment, and I will make sure that we mention it.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Any other -- Dr. Mickle.

18  
19 **DR. PAUL MICKLE:** Yes, and thank you, Dr. Stunz. I just wanted  
20 to bring up, and I think this maybe the right time or not, and  
21 I'm not quite sure, but, with just the regionality, and I'm glad  
22 these meetings are focused in on the regions, to get some real  
23 customized education out there for the captains and then have  
24 the captains, obviously weigh-in on Phase 1 and Phase 2 and how  
25 it will be affected region-specific.

26  
27 Now, as far as Mississippi, our fleet is very small, since  
28 Katrina, and, potentially right now, with this implementation,  
29 they would have to report through multiple systems. Tails 'n  
30 Scales is mandatory reporting.

31  
32 Essentially, we're not going to have Phase 2. Phase 1 is pretty  
33 much exactly what Tails 'n Scales is mandatorily making them do  
34 right now, and so, as far as Phase 1 goes of this program, they  
35 will be identical to Tails 'n Scales, and I hate to add that  
36 much reporting burden to this fleet, but, again, having parallel  
37 datasets isn't all a bad thing, but it's burdensome for,  
38 obviously, the user group, and so I'm just giving early warning  
39 that there will be a lot of concerns from our state, and that  
40 reflection of kind of userability, and I hope that -- Down the  
41 road, I see kind of hybridizing datasets and making things more  
42 efficient, and, if one dataset is different from another, I am  
43 going to believe ours. Thank you.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Donaldson.

46  
47 **MR. DONALDSON:** Along those lines, there is concern among  
48 several states about -- You mentioned that they're going to get

1 buy-in from or work with the states in terms of data collection  
2 and law enforcement at these meetings now, and I think that it  
3 might have been a little more efficient to do it ahead of time,  
4 and it could have addressed some of Paul's issues, and so  
5 hopefully, in the future, when we're doing these things, to  
6 include the states early on in the process and not later, and so  
7 one of the issues we're going to be talking about at our  
8 commission meeting is this program and some of those issues, and  
9 so just something to consider in the future.

10

11 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Thank you. That's a very good point, Dave. Is  
12 there any other questions regarding this agenda item? Seeing  
13 none, that takes us to Other Business. Is there any other  
14 business that needs to come before this committee? Seeing none,  
15 then we will adjourn.

16

17 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 28, 2019.)

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