

**Data Collection Committee Report
April 1, 2019
Dr. Greg Stunz – Chair**

The agenda and minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting were approved.

For-Hire Electronic Reporting Implementation Update (Tab F, Nos. 5, 5a-b)

The Committee received an update from Ms. Gerhart about the implementation of for-hire reporting requirements. Ms. Gerhart stated that implementation will occur in one phase that includes electronic logbook reporting, hail-out, and location reporting requirements. She expects the new requirements to be implemented in October 2019. The Committee stressed the need for efficient, effective, and validated implementation of for-hire reporting requirements despite budget constraints associated with survey validation and data integration.

Ms. Muehlstein presented summaries from eight For-Hire Reporting Workshops held throughout the Gulf States in early 2019. Members of the for-hire sector expressed concerns about survey requirements pertaining to economic inquiries, potential equipment failures or malfunctions while vessels were in storage or underway, deviations in landing timelines, requirements for inactive permits, species-specific catch recording, and trip types subject to reporting. After deliberation, the Committee decided further discussion would be required to address potential issues and the Committee will consider how to provide formal feedback to NMFS for consideration during the implementation process.

Commercial Fishing Unique Trip Identifiers (Tab F, Nos. 4a-b)

Dr. Gloekner presented an overview on the challenges and potential benefits of developing unique trip identifiers for commercial fishing trips. A second SEFSC presentation outlining solutions for these implementation challenges was scheduled immediately afterwards but was moved to the Shrimp Committee agenda due to time constraints.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.