

Data Collection Advisory Panel
Scope of Work
February 13, 2023
Tampa and Hybrid Meeting

Agenda Item V: Proposed Electronic Reporting in the Commercial Coastal Logbook Program

Action: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

The Southeast Fishery Science Center is interested in transitioning to an electronic reporting platform for the commercial coastal fisheries logbook program. This transition would allow fishermen with federal commercial Gulf reef fish and/or coastal migratory pelagic permits to report logbooks electronically rather than by completing paper forms. Program participants would still have 7 days to submit their logbooks. A policy document is currently being developed in partnership with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to implement this change throughout the southeastern U.S. The AP should review the meeting materials, listen to the program update, ask questions, and provide guidance on the proposed program modifications.

Agenda Items VI: Update on Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic (SEFHIER) program

Action: Presentation, information, and discussion

Staff from the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) will provide a presentation regarding SEFHIER program goals and updates to the AP. Additionally, the presentation will include an update on program compliance, enforcement actions, and administrative regulations changes. The Council has recently approved two provisional modifications to the program's requirement. In the fall of 2022, the Council approved an exemption to the Vessel Monitoring System requirement to address any equipment failure. The exemption is valid for up to 10 days from the provisional approval date. The permit holder may not request an exemption more than two times per vessel per calendar year. In January 2023, the Council approved a program modification that would require federally-permitted for-hire vessels owners and/or operators to submit a trip declaration for trips that will be engaging in any type of fishing or charter activity. The AP should listen to the presentation, ask questions of SERO staff, discuss the program updates and modifications, and provide any recommendations to the Council, if desired.

Agenda Item VII: Presentation on State Specific Private Angler Licensing and Reporting Requirements

Action: Presentation and discussion

Council staff will provide a presentation that reviews information on each of the five Gulf states' private angler licensing, reporting requirements, and provide an update of recent Council discussions on this topic. Each state has their own licensing database and programs that help define their universe of offshore recreational anglers. A recommendation provided by the Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act has prompted discussion on the use of a recreational federal permit to identify the universe of private snapper grouper fishermen in the South Atlantic, with subsequent reporting approaches that would provide private recreational catch and effort estimates. The Workgroup also discussed the merits of federal versus state permit approaches. Based on this discussion, the Workgroup recommended that the Gulf Council consider a federal recreational permit concurrently with ongoing efforts with the Gulf states, to define the universe of recreational anglers and consider whether this permit should be for all offshore species or focus on reef fish species. The AP should review the materials provided, listen to the presentation, ask questions of staff, and provide feedback on recreational fisheries data collection in the Gulf.

Agenda Item VIII: Update from Mote Marine Lab on Electronic Monitoring Research

Action: Information and engagement

Scientific staff from Mote Marine Laboratory will provide a presentation to the AP. The presentation will provide rationale for exploring the use of electronic monitoring technologies in fishery-dependent data collection programs. The presentation, along with the provided handout, will highlight some of the results from electronic monitoring research conducted by Mote Marine Laboratory staff and their collaborators. After the presentation, the AP is encouraged to engage in an informal discussion with the research staff panel to ask questions about the ongoing program and provide feedback which could help inform future research proposals on novel fishery-dependent data collection methods.

Agenda Item IX: Update on Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)

Action: Presentation and information

Council staff will provide an update presentation on the development of the Council's FEP. The Council has reviewed a draft FEP proposal and has charged it two technical committees (Ecosystem; Outreach and Education) to explore next steps for the FEP process. The AP should listen and ask questions of the presentation. At this time, no action is required of the AP.

Agenda Item X: Other business

Action: Review and discussion

At the January Council meeting a motion was passed to initiate development of a recreational fisheries management initiative for reef fish in 2023. This motion included several proposed initiatives for exploration. The AP should review and discuss the motion.