



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

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April 28, 2023

Dr. Clay Porch
Director of Southeast Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Dr.
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Dr. Porch:

At its April 3-6, 2023 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) received a presentation on the final results of testing of cellular vessel monitoring system (cVMS) units that the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) conducted onboard both shrimp and research vessels in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf). After reviewing the results and noting complications that arose during the testing of certain units, the Council then voted to request the SEFSC conduct side-by-side testing of the current cellular electronic logbook (cELB) units and the three following cVMS units as well as any other cVMS units that NMFS considers appropriate for testing: the Woods Hole NEMO unit that is hard-wired to the vessel, such that it is not solar-powered; the Atlantic Radio Telephone ZEN VMS LTE unit; the Nautic Alert Insight X3 unit. Testing should be completed on at least five shrimp vessels in the Gulf for the length of an average offshore trip.

The Council also requests that the data from these tests then be processed through the new shrimp effort algorithm developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service and presented to the Council at a future meeting. Upon completion of these tests and presentation of the results, the Council will continue review and deliberations of its draft Shrimp Framework Action, which aims to transition the Gulf shrimp industry from the expired 3G cELB to a new system for monitoring and estimating effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Matthew Freeman.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Stunz
Council Chair

cc: Gulf Council
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