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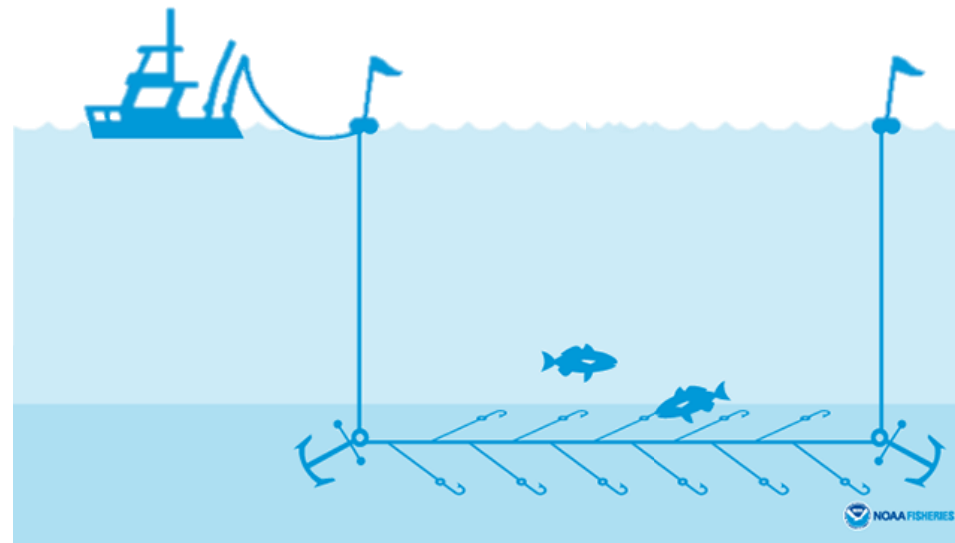
Full-retention in the Eastern Gulf's Commercial Reef Fish Bottom Longline Fleet

Lauren Waters and Jessica Stephen
NMFS, Southeast Regional Office

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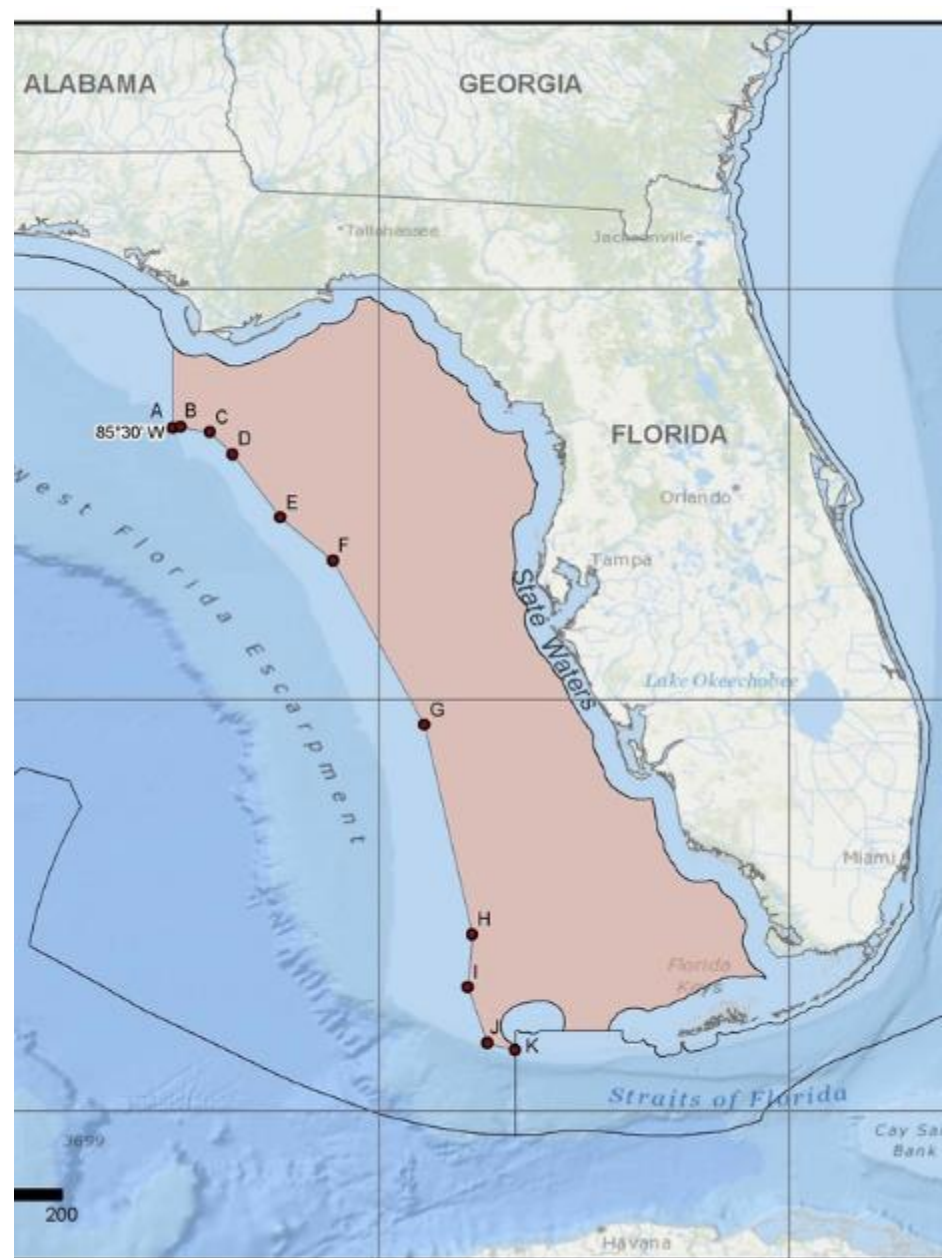
Current Bottom Longline Endorsements

- Only needed for vessels fishing in the eastern Gulf
- 62 available permits (59 in IFQ)
 - Must have commercial reef fish permit to obtain/maintain longline endorsement (LLE)
 - Majority in Florida
- Amendment 31 (2010)



Management History

- Also established June-August seasonal closure and restriction on use of bottom longline gear for reef fish in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, east of $85^{\circ} 30' W$ longitude, near Cape San Blas, FL (approximating the 35–fathom)



Eastern Gulf Longline Fleet Concern:

- Concerns about low red grouper harvest and high red snapper dead discards
- Is there a path to allow Eastern longline red grouper fishermen more red snapper allocation to land, rather than discard, red snapper?
 - Full-retention of red snapper with monitoring
 - Mortality-neutral: assign red snapper IFQ allocation equal to the fleet's dead discards
 - After vessel's red snapper allocation used, must stop fishing

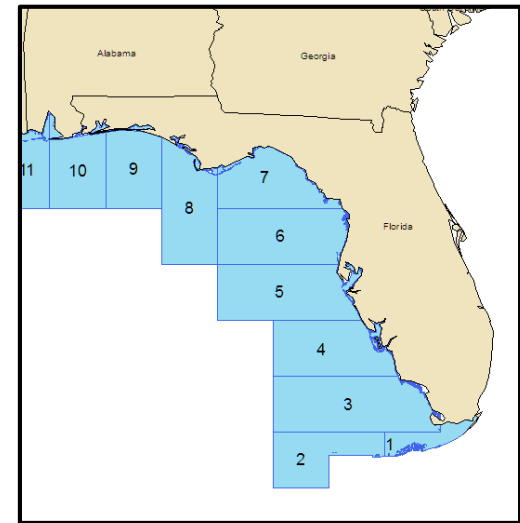
Full-retention Concept

- Allocation for red snapper would come from SEFSC's estimated dead discards for the eastern longline fleet
- Benefits may include:
 - Reducing bycatch
 - More efficient fishery
 - Producing more seafood

Estimates of red snapper dead discards

Year	Logbook Landings (lb gw)	Estimated Discards (lb gw)	Estimated Discards (number fish)
2016	140,155	59,118	9,641
2017	147,133	32,985	6,329
2018	216,476	77,621	17,000

- Based on 2018 estimates, assuming equal distribution among 62 vessels
 - ~1,252 lb gw per vessel
 - ~275 red snapper per vessel



Decision Points – Rationale

- Purpose and Need?
 - Purpose is to establish full retention fishery for red snapper by commercial fishermen with a bottom longline endorsement. The need is to achieve optimum yield by reducing bycatch and increasing efficiency in utilization of the resource.
- Temporary solution for low red grouper landings or permanent need for longline industry?

Expected Requirements

- Shares or allocation would be from a separate red snapper discard quota – new IFQ share category
- Must stop fishing when vessel/shareholder's total red snapper allocation zero (transferred or landed)
- Restrictions must be permit-based (not gear based)
 - Allocation on a LLE vessel may be landed using a different gear
- Monitor full-retention

Decision Points – Program Function

- Distribution of shares
 - Assign to permit/vessel or permit holder?
 - Proportional or equal?
 - If proportional, based on shares or landings?
 - Based on red grouper shares? (potential landings)
 - Based on actual red grouper landings?
 - Based on actual red snapper landings?
- Mandatory vs voluntary program?
- Transfer restrictions?
- Minimum amount of red snapper allocation in account to go fishing?



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Electronic Monitoring

Electronic Monitoring (EM)

- **Electronic Monitoring** refers to the use of cameras and other sensors to monitor fishing activities
- Elements of an EM Program
 - Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP)
 - Documents responsibilities, camera placement, etc.
 - EM Data
 - Data collected and transmission process
 - Electronic or paper reporting (logbook)
 - Video Review

U.S. Electronic Monitoring Programs

Used to supplement fisheries-dependent data to ensure sustainable management of shared resources. Currently used to audit logbook data, monitor discard compliance, collect discard and bycatch information.

Alaska

- Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) Non-Pollock Trawl Catcher/Processor (C/P)
- Bering Sea Pollock Trawl C/P and Motherships
- Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Trawl C/P
- BSAI Pacific Cod Longline C/P
- Small Boat Fixed Gear (Longline and Pot)
- Pollock Trawl Catcher Vessels
- Halibut Deck-Sorting C/P

West Coast

- Whiting Mid-Water Trawl
- Fixed Gear IFQ
- Non-Whiting Mid-Water Trawl
- Groundfish Bottom Trawl
- Inshore Rockfish

Pacific Islands

- Pelagic Longline - Hawaii Deep-Set

Greater Atlantic

- Groundfish
- Herring Mid-Water Trawl
- Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop
- Groundfish For-Hire

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species

- Pelagic Longline

Southeast



National Guidance on EM

- NOAA Fisheries Policy Directive (PD) on Electronic Technologies and Fisheries Dependent Data Collection (Issued 2013; updated 2019)
 - Cost Allocation PD (May 2019)
 - Minimum Video Retention Period and Data Storage Requirements PD (under development)
 - Update ET Regional Implementation Plans (Feb 2020)

EM Cost Allocation PD

- New monitoring system must be either funded through federal appropriations or non-appropriated funds (e.g., industry funding)
- NMFS cannot guarantee availability of federally appropriated funds for EM programs
 - *Will not approve new programs if insufficient funds*
- Guidance covers:
 - Cost responsibility
 - Cost categories



Cost Responsibilities from PD

- Administrative Costs
 - Cost of setting standards for program, monitoring, and administrative support - **NMFS responsible**
- Sampling Costs
 - When programs initiated by Councils are designed to provide greater flexibility or exemption from requirements – **industry responsible**
 - When NMFS determines EM is necessary to meet legal obligations (e.g., meet ESA needs) **and** if sufficient funds appropriated – **NMFS responsible**

Cost Category Examples

- Administrative costs
 - Program administration/support
 - Certification of EM service providers
 - EM program monitoring
 - Analysis and data storage
- Sampling costs
 - Equipment, installation, and maintenance
 - Training on equipment
 - Development of Vessel Monitoring Plans
 - Data transmission and service fees
 - Video processing and video storage

Cost Allocation from PD

- When costs are shared, the Councils must categorize costs into sampling and administrative and document responsibility
- For limited access privilege programs – NMFS may collect cost recovery fees from industry for Administration and/or Sampling costs

Costs Estimate Analysis

- Types:
 - Up-front (start-up) cost
 - Recurring (annual) costs
- Categories:
 - Program Development Cost
 - Vessel Equipment and Installation
 - Program Administration and Operation Costs

Sources: The Nature Conservancy white paper for the New England groundfish; other existing NMFS EM programs

Program Development Estimates

- Includes costs for:
 - Infrastructure
 - Policy/regulatory costs
 - Implementation needs: VMP, communication, training, EM reviewer certification, etc.
- Start-up: ~\$130,000 - \$250,000
- Annual: ~\$60,000

Vessel Equipment/Installation Estimates

- Assumes: 3 cameras/vessel at 2018 prices
- Start-up: ~\$3,000 – \$10,000 per vessel
 - Variable by number cameras, camera resolution, etc.
- Annual: ~\$1,600 per vessel
 - Support and repair of equipment
 - Variable by number of trips, weather conditions, etc.
 - Estimated camera life of 5 years

Program Administration and Operation Estimates

- EM Submission and Review
 - ~\$300,000 – \$750,000 per year
 - Variable by number of trips and % reviewed
- EM Transmission and Storage
 - ~\$50,000 – \$500,000 per year
 - Variable by number trips, video size, and video retention time frame
- Program and System management
 - ~\$175,000 – \$800,000 per year
 - Database maintenance, data analysis, data processing, data auditing, etc.

Costs estimates

	Start-up	Recurring	Who Pays?
Equipment (62 vessels)	\$186,000 – \$620,000	\$99,200	I
Program Development	\$130,000 - \$250,000	\$60,000	N
Program Admin. And Operation	\$525,000 - \$2,050,000	\$525,000 - \$2,050,000	I & N
Total Costs	\$841,000 - \$2,920,000	\$684,200 – \$2,209,200	

NMFS will not approve new programs if insufficient funds

Questions?

Purpose and
Needs

Permanent vs
Temporary

Distribution

Restrictions

Minimum
pounds

Monitoring
Requirements

Extras



Longline Endorsements (LLE)

- Implemented in 2010 to reduce sea turtle bycatch
- Endorsement was available to those with minimum annual average landings of 40,000 pounds during 1999-2007.
- Purpose was to “strike a balance in reducing interactions of sea turtles and bottom longline gear while maintaining a bottom longline component”

Longline Endorsements (LLE) and IFQ

- IFQ landings do not record gear
 - IFQ vessel accounts link to permits
 - A LLE permit does not always mean the vessel always fishes with longline gear
- IFQ landings may not be trip level
 - No current trip identifier
 - Vessel may land with several dealers
 - E.g., 1 trip but 2 IFQ landing transactions
 - Day trippers may only land every few days
 - E.g., 2 trips but 1 IFQ landing transaction

Longline Endorsements (LLE) and IFQ

- Currently 59 LLE associated with 54 IFQ accounts
 - 4 shareholder accounts hold more than 1 vessel with a LLE
 - 29 shareholder accounts have red grouper shares
 - 44 shareholder accounts have red grouper landings