



Agenda item XII.

Modification of For-Hire Trip Declaration Requirements

Reef Fish AP
October 11, 2022



Council Motion:

August 2022 Meeting:

- **Substitute Motion:** To direct staff to add an option to require for-hire vessel owners and/or operators to submit a trip declaration only for a trip that will be engaging in any type of fishing activity or charter trip.

Trip Declaration Requirements

- Current regulations: Trip declarations are required every time a vessel departs from a dock, berth, beach, seawall, or ramp. The trip declaration will indicate whether the vessel is departing on a commercial, charter, headboat, private recreational, or non-fishing type of trip (e.g., ice trips, transportation to/from marinas and private docks, sunset cruises).
- Trip declarations are used to validate information collected by the SEFHIER program
- Declarations for all trips allows NMFS to delineate between fishing and non-fishing activity and the associated effort with each, also collects socioeconomic data for for-hire industry



Fishing/Non-fishing Trip Examples

Fishing Trip	Non-fishing Trip
Taking clients on fishing trips	Traveling to a fuel dock to purchase fuel or to the pump-out station
Checking bait traps	Traveling to purchase bait, ice, refreshments from bait shop
Fishing for bait	Traveling to pick up clients
Cast netting for bait	Dolphin or sunset cruise



Draft Options: Trip Declaration Exemption

- **Option 1:** The exemption from the trip declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that are completed in 60-minutes or less.
- **Option 2:** The exemption from the trip declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that are completed in 90-minutes or less.
- **Option 3:** The exemption from the trip declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that are completed in 120-minutes or less.
- **Option 4:** Require federally-permitted for-hire vessel owners and/or operators to submit a trip declaration for trips that will be engaging in any type of charter or fishing activity.



Considerations

- A trip is considered to be dock-to-dock, not round trip (Options 1-3)
 - Example: If 60-minute exemption applied, vessel transiting for fuel would have 60 minutes or less to move from starting dock to fuel dock, then 60 minutes or less to move from fuel dock back to starting dock. Fueling time at dock would not be included.
- Trips with paying passengers on board would require a trip declaration, even if passengers do not engage in fishing activity (Option 4).



QUESTIONS?

