



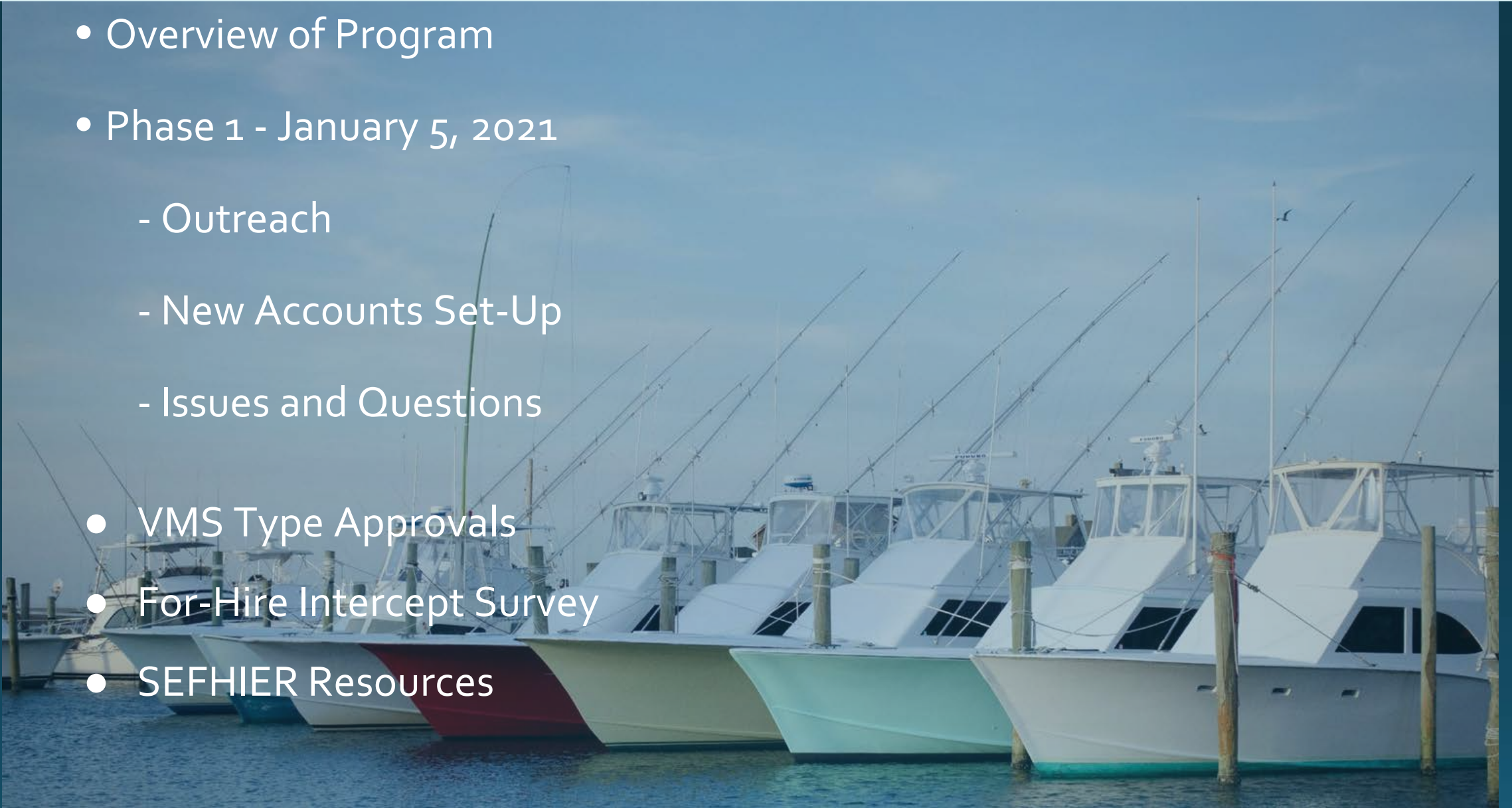
Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program



Tab A, No. 8

Topics to Cover

- Overview of Program
- Phase 1 - January 5, 2021
 - Outreach
 - New Accounts Set-Up
 - Issues and Questions
- VMS Type Approvals
- For-Hire Intercept Survey
- SEFHIER Resources



Overview of Gulf Program

Electronic reporting program for charter and non SRHS headboat vessels.

Affected charter/headboat permit holders with the following permits:

Gulf reef fish

Gulf coastal migratory pelagics

Historical captain permits



Gulf requirements apply to all Gulf permit holders regardless of where they fish or what they are targeting.

Overview of Gulf Program

PHASE 1:

- Declare each time vessel leaves the dock with expected return date/time and verified landing location.
- Submit fishing report before offloading.
- Headboats will continue to report to the Southeast Regional Headboat Survey through VESL, but will be required to declare fishing trip and report before offloading.

PHASE 2: (No effective date yet): Permanently affixed position reporting unit (satellite or cellular VMS) device that is always "on" and transmitting (power down exemptions are possible). Applies to vessels when the requirement becomes effective.

Electronic Reporting

- Reporting must be done using approved software/hardware
 - Currently these software programs are approved for the program
 - eTRIPS/mobile - Windows 10, iOS, Android, Free, compatible with GARFO and HMS requirements
 - VESL – computer-based web portal, iOS, Android, Free, compatible with the SC State Charter program, and the Headboat Survey
 - Approved software and hardware is listed on the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Electronic Technologies website



VMS Type Approval

Nine VMS Units have been type approved for the For-Hire Program:

- Seven units have forms
- Two units do not have forms

One VMS unit that is a Hybrid (Satellite and Cellular) is currently being tested

No Cellular Only Units have been submitted for approval to date:

- Vendors need to update the system to meet Technical Specifications
- Vendors may not think their cost to update the unit is justifiable
- NMFS cannot make the vendors submit their applications

A [table](#) is available on the For-Hire Electronic Reporting website for more information.

Outreach Webinars

Council and NMFS Staff conducted Outreach Webinars:

December 9th - Gulf State Agencies 24 attendees

December 15th - Gulf Fisherman 99 attendees

- Gulf Fisherman 94 attendees

December 16th - South Atlantic Fisherman 57 attendees

- South Atlantic Fisherman 46 attendees

December 17th - Gulf State Communicators 20 attendees

- South Atlantic Communicators 21 attendees

January 19th - Gulf NMFS OLE Agents 30 attendees

January 20th - Gulf NMFS OLE Agents 14 attendees

Future Webinars

NMFS Staff will be conducting Weekly Webinars for fisherman to call in and discuss any issues they are having with reporting.

February 2nd @ 6:00 pm EST

February 9th @ 6:00 pm EST

February 16th @ 6:00 pm EST

February 23rd @ 6:00 pm EST

The need for future webinars will be re-evaluated, and if more are needed we will continue them.

Jan 5th Reporting Requirements Effective

Total Number of GOM and South Atlantic Permit Accounts as of Jan 19, 2021

- VESL = 423 (204 Gulf, 159 South Atlantic, 60 dual permitted)
- eTrips = 467 (90 Gulf, 316 South Atlantic, 61 dual permitted)
- VMS Users = 15 (57 declarations, 40 logbooks)

As of Jan 20th, total # of Reports Submitted = 590 trips with 236 trip declarations

The number and information for Fisherman calls regarding the program are being logged in a database. Since 12/1/20 there have been over 400+ phone calls (average time 30 minutes).

Roll Out Issues

Customer Service/ NMFS Issues:

: VESL account requests need to be manually verified in our Permits System (PIMS) which caused a delay establishing the permit holders account.

Resolution: staff trained and backlog mostly cleared.

: Landing Locations/Port List not updating automatically, delay before the landing locations are showing up in app. **Resolution:** Revision of form to enter the landing location code, instead of drop down list.

: Customer Service Line: Lots of phone calls, voice mail malfunctioning.

Resolution: All team members have work cell phones that are receiving calls from the queue.

Roll Out Issues

Southeast Regional Headboat Survey Program Issues (VESL):

: Trip declaration wasn't working for a few hours. **Resolution:** modified the SRHS form to include the trip declaration (repaired by the afternoon of January 5th)

: Fishermen creating new accounts when they already had a headboat account .

Resolution: forms are now updated and this is no longer possible. Trips have been accounted for in SRHS.

General VESL issues:

: Captains wanted to fill in report while returning to the dock. **Resolution:** modified time of the ability to report to 1 hour before trip end time.


: Auto-populating return time lead to 10 minute trips. **Resolution:** modified return time to not auto-populate.

Roll Out Issues

eTrips Program Issues:

: Stat Zones were missing from app. **Resolution:** under way.

: Fishermen unsure of how to use eTrips. **Resolution:** Making the website more clear for setting up accounts.

 : Trip notification confusion. **Resolution:** Making changes to the trip notification to add landing location codes.

Gulf For-Hire Intercept Survey

- Completed Survey Questionnaire
 - Total questions = 22
 - 10 questions for interview and site information
 - 12 questions asked directly to the captains
- 6 hour shift at assigned site
- Interview federally permitted for-hire vessel captains NOT in the Headboat Survey program
- Complete charter activity report
 - Provides details if some federal charter boats are inactive





Gulf For-Hire Intercept Survey Timeline

The Intercept survey has been developed with S&T

Integrating assignment draw: ongoing

Start of intercept survey:
GOAL: early April

- What is realistic for states?



Tablet development: ongoing

Training for port agents: TBD

Things fishermen need to do now



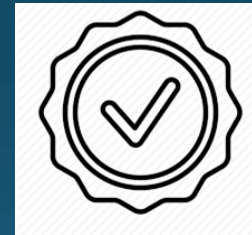
Make sure their information is correct on their permit paperwork



Watch informational videos (on website)



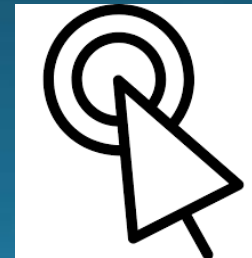
Read the website and toolkits



Submit landing location request for approval



Attend upcoming webinars (see website for schedule)



Select a software to use and create a user account

What To Expect In the Next Few Months



Compliance Assistance

- SEFHIER team
- OLE team
- Port agents
- State agencies



Training webinars for Port Agents/Samplers

- Tablet based application
 - Intercept survey
 - Charter Activity Report (CAR)
- Training date: TBD



Data sharing agreements

- SERO
- ACCSP

Resources

Electronic Reporting Phone Line:

1-833-707-1632

Hours: 8am-4:30pm EST

Program email address:

ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov

Website: The Best Resource!

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/southeast-electronic-reporting-technologies>

Toolkit

<https://gulfcouncil.org/southeast-for-hire-electronic-reporting-program/>

Resources

General Questions



Karla Gore



Jenny Ostroff



Peter Hood



Rich Malinowski



Rick DeVictor



Jack McGovern

Resources

Compliance



Kendall Brancart



Natalie Slayden

Monitoring



Anna Petracca



Tamara Heckel



Victoria Tozer



Resources

QA/QC



Alicia Breton



Shannon Stotler

Customer Service

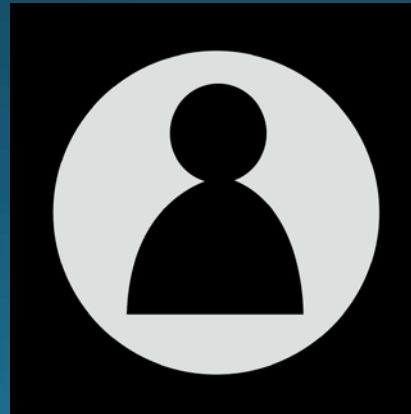


Trevor Hope

Intercept Survey



Mike Larkin



Dylan Miller

Resources

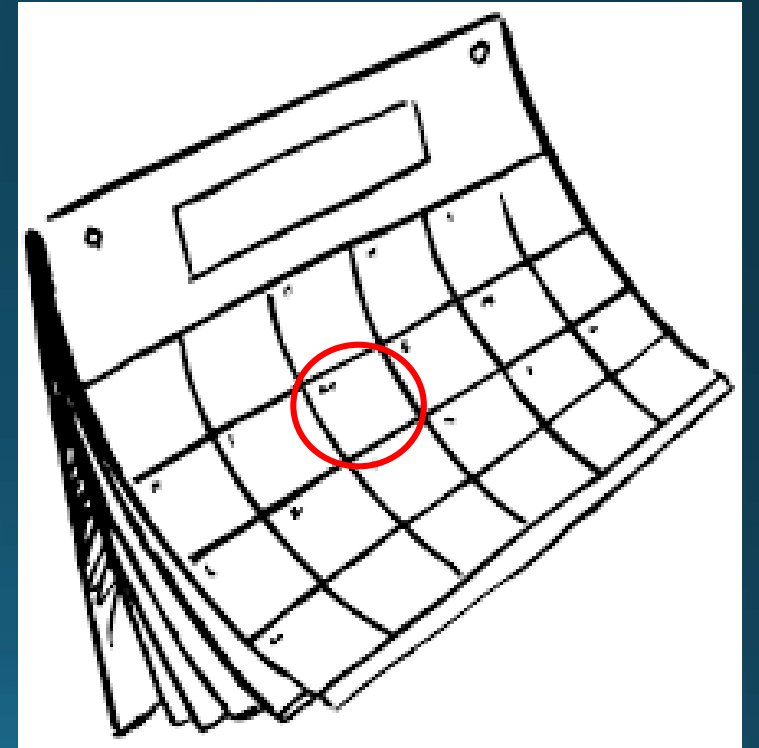
Upcoming For-Hire Permit Holders Webinar:

February 2nd @ 6:00 pm EST

February 9th @ 6:00 pm EST

February 16th @ 6:00 pm EST

February 23rd @ 6:00 pm EST





Questions?

Rich Malinowski

Rich.Malinowski@noaa.gov

Karla Gore

Karla.Gore@noaa.gov

Peter Hood

Peter.Hood@noaa.gov

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the electronic reporting program?

- to provide more accurate and reliable fisheries information about for-hire catch, effort, and discards
- to be used for better fisheries management in the future

What happens if I decide not to report?

Reporting is a condition of the permit. Non-reporting is considered non-compliance with the terms of the permit. The compliance team will be reaching out to those not reporting.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get the software? Is there a cost?

Both are free. Visit the website for links and a comparison of the different requirements that they meet.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-software-southeast-hire-electronic-reporting-program>

Where do I get the applications? Is there someone that can help me download it?

Apps are available on iTunes and Google Play. There is a toll-free number to call with questions. All vendors also offer help desk support.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use the software to meet the needs of different programs?

Yes. This table outlines which software complies with the different programs.

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-software-southeast-hire-electronic-reporting-program>

Frequently Asked Questions

I have both Gulf and South Atlantic permits. Which regulations do I need to comply with?

If you have both Gulf and SA permits (on the same vessel), you must follow the Gulf regulations. So, even if you are fishing in North Carolina you must declare your fishing trip and report before offloading.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I submit a landing location request?

There is an online form on our website for landing location requests. Submit the form and within 72 hours your landing location should appear in the application for use.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need to report on economic questions like cost of charter, fuel and fuel used? I don't feel comfortable sharing this information with NOAA.

These data fields were specifically requested by the South Atlantic Council. Collection of this type of data will give us a better understanding of the economic impacts associated with fishery management actions and fishery disasters.

Frequently Asked Questions

I have a charter/headboat permit but mostly run sight-seeing tours. Do I have to report?

Yes, however if you didn't go fishing in a particular week, you can submit a "no fishing report". These can be submitted up to 30 days in advance.

Sometimes I run as a charter, sometimes as a headboat, what do I do?

If you are part of the SRHS, continue to report as usual. If you are not part of the SRHS, follow the requirements according to your permit, selecting charter vs headboat depending on the trip.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to get a VMS now?

Position reporting is not effective at this time.

Are there any approved VMS units with forms?

All approved units are on the website. At this time, seven units are approved with forms.

How do I know if my VMS is working or not?

Contact the monitoring team. They will be able to check this for you.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an option to submit a report via phone? I don't know how to use a computer or tablet and I don't have a smartphone.

There is no option to submit reports via a phone call or on paper. There is a toll-free number to call with questions. All vendors also offer help desk support.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I get a VMS now?

There are some units that are approved now that will allow you to submit your declaration and logbook. Others are coming. Right now your options are:

- 1) You can choose an approved unit with forms,
- 2) choose an approved unit without forms and submit forms through an app,
- 3) or just go with the app for now and wait for more units to be approved.

How do I get reimbursed?

Reimbursement is available for any Gulf permit holder to comply with the new regulations. Reimbursement information is on our [website](#). Questions regarding the VMS Reimbursement Request Form, VMS Reimbursement Program process, and reimbursement status can be directed to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission by calling 503.595.3100.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if I get to my vessel and the VMS is not working?

Phase 2 of the requirements has yet to be implemented. When it is effective:

The vessel can not leave the dock without the unit functioning and completing a Trip Declaration.

- VMS systems have a very low rate of failure. However, there may be system updates and planned outages that the vendor schedules. It is the responsibility of the vendor to notify users that the outage will occur.
- The vessel operator will need to contact the hardware vendor to see if the situation can be repaired.
- Currently during Phase 1 the vessel operator can submit the Trip Declaration and Logbook through eTrips or VESL.
- NMFS is reviewing the options to have some type of systems failure notification for these types of situations.