Federal For-Hire Electronic Reporting

Tab F, No. 5

Topics to Cover

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- Questions from the Captains
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- What we can expect moving forward

Update on Rules and Timelines

- South Atlantic Final Rule published February 24, 2020 (85 FR 10331) and is effective September 1, 2020.
- Cellular Based VMS Final Rule is anticipated to publish in June 2020. This rule will allow cellular based location tracking devices to be approved by the program.
- Gulf of Mexico Final Rule is anticipated to publish by July 1, 2020, with a target effective date of September 1, 2020, for logbook and trip declaration.
- The Gulf of Mexico VMS requirements are anticipated to become effective by January 1, 2021.

Projected Implementation Timeline

Gulf Final Rules Publishes
June 15 – July 1, 2020

Outreach Videos & Toolkit Mailing
July & August 2020

Gulf Effective Date September 1
Begin Phase 1
(Logbook and Hail-Out)

Gulf Phase 2 (VMS)
Effective Date January 1, 2021

Phase 2 timing dependent
on hardware
and software development
and approval

Reporting Systems and Approvals

- eTrips and VESL software are currently being tested for use in the program.
- Several VMS systems are currently being tested by the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) for use in the program.
- All the approved systems will be listed on the Southeast Electronic Reporting and Technologies website. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/southeast-region-hire-electronic-reporting-development-plan-2019
- The VMS systems will also be listed on the OLE website. https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/enforcement/noaa-fisheries-type-approved-vms-units

NMFS VMS Reimbursement Program

- Reimbursement funds (~$800,000) for VMS will be available to Gulf For-Hire Vessels after the final rule publishes.
- A VMS system (satellite or cellular) must be approved by NMFS for use in this program to be eligible for reimbursement.
- Permit holders will be able to submit an application for reimbursement after the Gulf of Mexico final rule has published and the VMS system has been listed as an approved device.
- All dually-permitted vessels will need a system that works for both programs or they need two different systems, one for each program.
- Instructions for vessels to apply for reimbursement can be found here:
  - https://www.psmfc.org/program/vessel-monitoring-system-reimbursement-program-vms

Questions from the Captains

- Will cellular GPS archiving units be available as VMS reporting devices?
  - Cellular based units may be approved for use in the fishery. These would archive the vessel location once per hour and would transmit the information once within cellular range.
  - Cellular units may have a lower up front cost and lower monthly fees, however they do not allow for shore communication or real time data transmission.
  - Cellular-based units, as described in the proposed rule, need to have the ability to submit a logbook or allow for a connection to a device that can submit the logbook; however, a captain can still submit a logbook using other approved devices.

Questions from the Captains

- What steps have been taken to resolve potential issues around modifying a trip declaration? For example, if a captain has a VMS (satellite or cellular) device and decides to extend their trip or come in early how would they modify their hail-in?
  - The trip declaration requires the ESTIMATED TIME of arrival back to port.
  - If a vessel shortens or extends the length of the trip, no action is needed by the vessel. The vessel operator can proceed without concern.
  - However, if NMFS notices the vessel is habitually not adhering to their estimated return time on the trip declaration, the vessel permit holder may be contacted by NMFS.

Questions from the Captains

- What species are included on the reporting species list?
  - The logbook~~s~~ comprehensive species list will include Gulf and Atlantic state and federally managed species.
  - The logbook will have a drop down list of species to select from.
  - The logbook will provide the opportunity for captains to select and develop a list of favorites to reduce time when selecting species.
  - Some reporting programs will be able to "remember" your most selected species.

SEFHIER Support Update

Customer Service

Contractors to support customer service for the SEFHIER Program.

QA/QC

QA/QC staff member and contractors to work on validation of the data.

VMS

VMS staff member and contractors to support VMS/GPS activity.

Field Validation

NMFS is coordinating with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop survey guidelines and provide funding support for dockside validation.

What can be expected moving forward?

- NMFS and Council Staff are developing several outreach tools
  - NMFS SEFHIER designated phone line 833-707-1632
  - NMFS SEFHIER email address ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov
  - Instructional Videos
  - A Toolkit will be mailed to every Permit holder
  - Outreach is anticipated to begin this summer
- Gulf fisherman may begin submitting their Landing Location Application Forms after the Gulf of Mexico Final Rule has published and the program is ready to accept them.

Questions?

Please contact:

NMFS SEFHIER designated phone line

833-707-1632

or

NMFS SEFHIER email address

ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov