Tab F, No. 4

SEFSC Commercial Electronic Logbook Project

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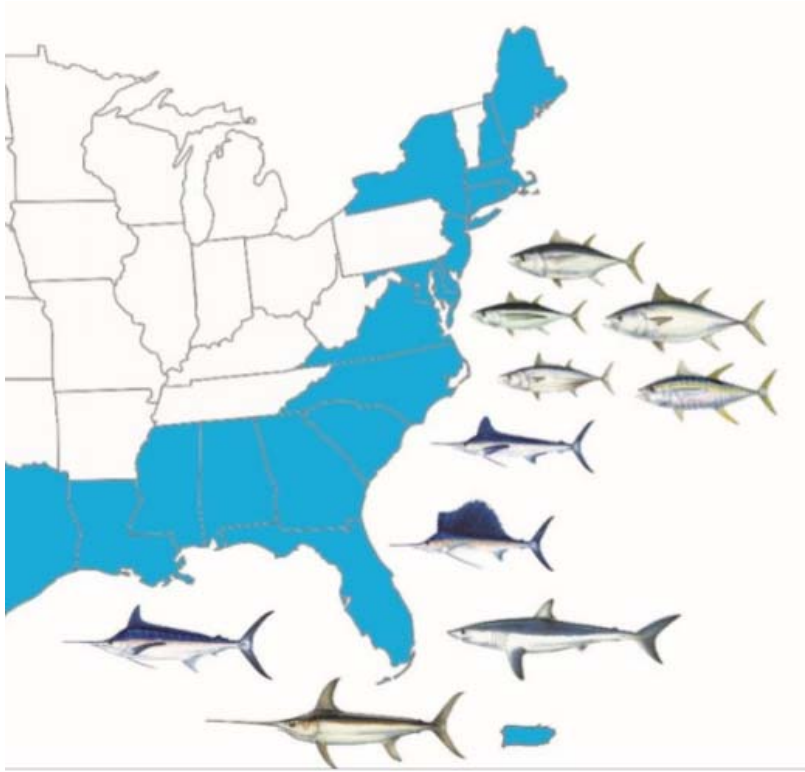
June, 2020

Goals:

Create on-board electronic logbook program that can accommodate vessels participating in multiple commercial federal fisheries and across regional boundaries

SEFSC vessel commercial logbook programs:

- HMS-Pelagic Longline, 1986
- Gulf of Mexico reef fish, 1990
- South Atlantic snapper/grouper, 1992
- Federally managed shark, 1993
- King and Spanish mackerel, 1998
- Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, 2004



What is logbook data used for?

- Indices of abundance for Single Species Stock Assessment
  - Hot spot and recent fishing effects
  - Environmental effects – assign to each catch-effort observations
- Social + economic assessment
  - Impacts of management on Profitability
- Estimates of discards (target and non-target)
- Validate commercial landings from Dealers

Logbook data <u>not</u> used for?

- Not used for tracking Individual Fishing Quotas
  - IFQ system remains duplicative at this time
- Not used for tracking Annual Catch Limit.
- Electronically reported Dealer landings are used to determine when ACL is reached.

The SEFSC does not build or maintain logbook software.

Vendors are responsible for software that satisfies our Standards.

Overlap of participants in both for-hire and commercial fisheries.

A singular device with alternate interfaces (and data requirements) would reduce the cost and burden to fishers.

Overview of Pilot Project Design

Installation of the e-logbook: April of 2015.

E-logbook versions from three vendors: OLSPS (Olrac) Marine, Electric Edge Systems Group Inc., and Harbor Light's Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)

Nine commercial vessels with laptops or tablets submitted total of 58 trips with days at sea ranging from 1 to 17.

All vessels had on board GPS

<u>South Atlantic:</u>
5 from North Carolina, 1 From Florida

<u>HMS:</u>
1 South Florida (buoy, trolling), 1 North Carolina/Mass. (longline)

<u>Gulf:</u>
2 Florida (reef longline/hand line), 2 Texas (bandit)

Most frequent feedback: fishers asked for mobile versions of the software because the laptops were too cumbersome.

Also:

- More efficient navigation through software
- Ability to search quickly when looking through tables for data entry
- As many data entry fields as possible to ‘roll over’ between sets.
- Display settings to accommodate night fishing

All Pilot versions of the e-logbook have tools that limit the data entry burden on commercial fishers.

Lists of valid entries for gear, bait used, and species targeted. Fishers can further refine list by creating “favorites”

The pilot project participants expressed interest in “rolling over” fields (target species, hook size and type, bait type used, etc.)

SEFSC staff suggest we limit which specific fields fishers need to enter every time to ensure that the correct information is collected.

Reporting Changes

Lists of valid entries. Example: species

62 Paper logbook vs. 900+ eLogbook

Justification:

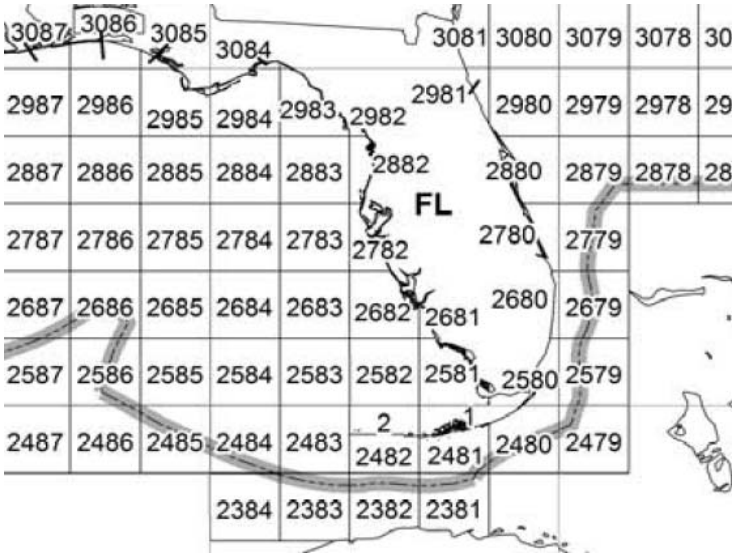
Reduce errors

Wahoo	4710	#	#			'	Sea Trout, White	3455	#	#			
Black Sea Bass	3360	#	#			'	Little Tunny	4653	#	#			'
Bluefish	0230	#	#			'	Barracuda	0180	#	#			'
Blue Runner	0270	#	#			'	Hake	1550	#	#			'

Reporting Changes

Location: Much higher resolution

Multiple spatio-temporal points per trip and per set



Justification

Decrease the uncertainty of biological models, ultimately improving stock assessment methods

Identify specific hotspot fishing locations or times

Identify essential fish habitat, spawning aggregations, migration patterns, Total mortality events

Biggest change is to set-based reporting

- HMS commercial fishers have been providing set-based reports that use multiple pages
- Coastal commercial fishers have been reporting once per trip

Hail weight/ set vs. total weight / trip

- Much higher resolution for CPUE indices

Exceptions to set-based reporting

Feedback from fishers: Commercial Hook and line fishing and Cast Net does not fall naturally into a well-defined set.

Accommodate fishers by switching to sub-trip definition

FISMA

- ACCSP assigns all participants a Participant ID. ID/Password = fisher submits logbooks

- ACCSP is entering into an information sharing agreement (FISMA) with SERO that will allow ACCSP Participant IDs to be linked to their corresponding permits.

- All electronic forms will be linked to fisher compliance and, provided forms are free of error, fishers will be given near real time credit for their submission.

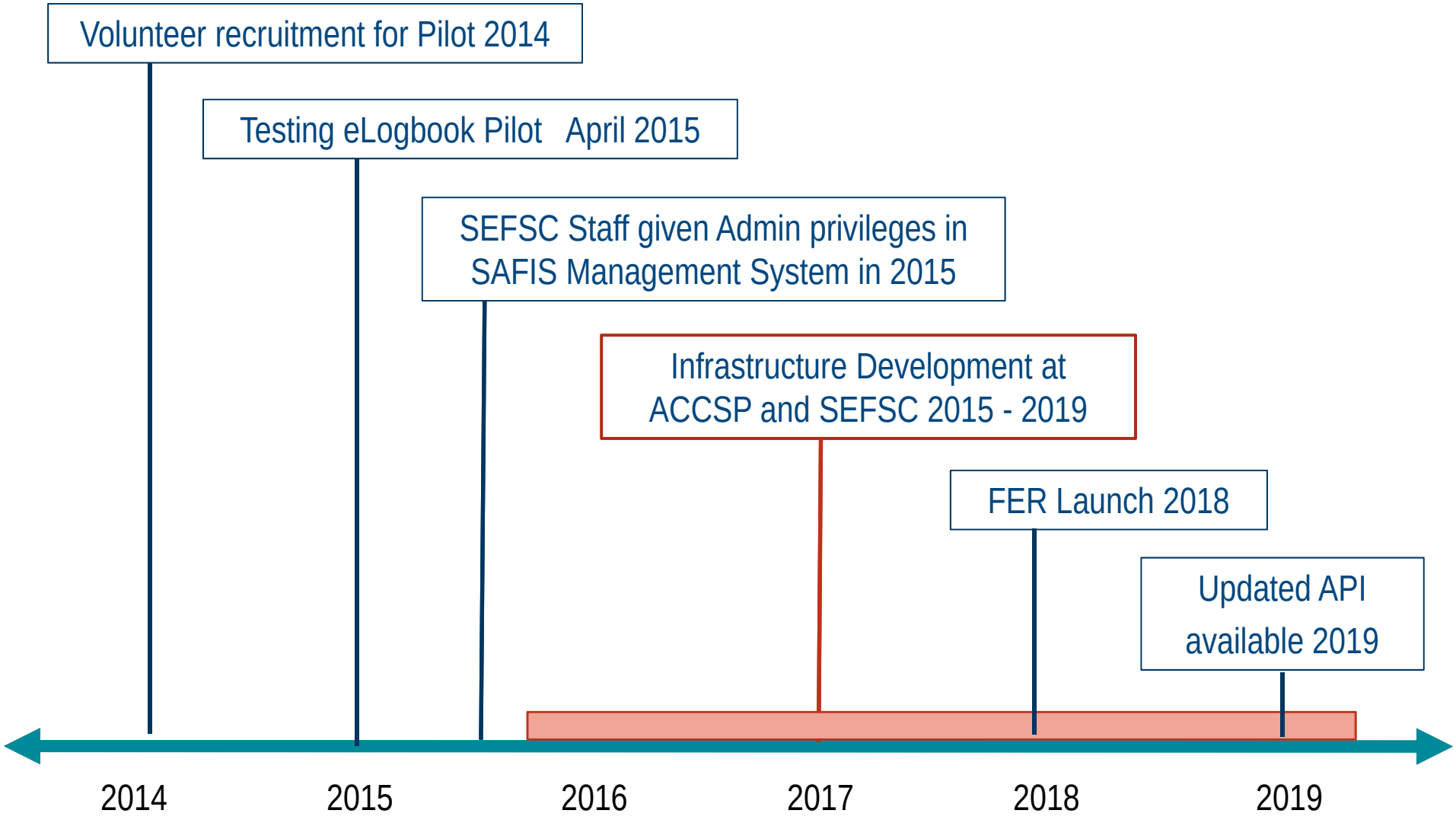
Fisheries Electronic Reporting

SEFSC is currently using the FER application to accept No Fishing reports.

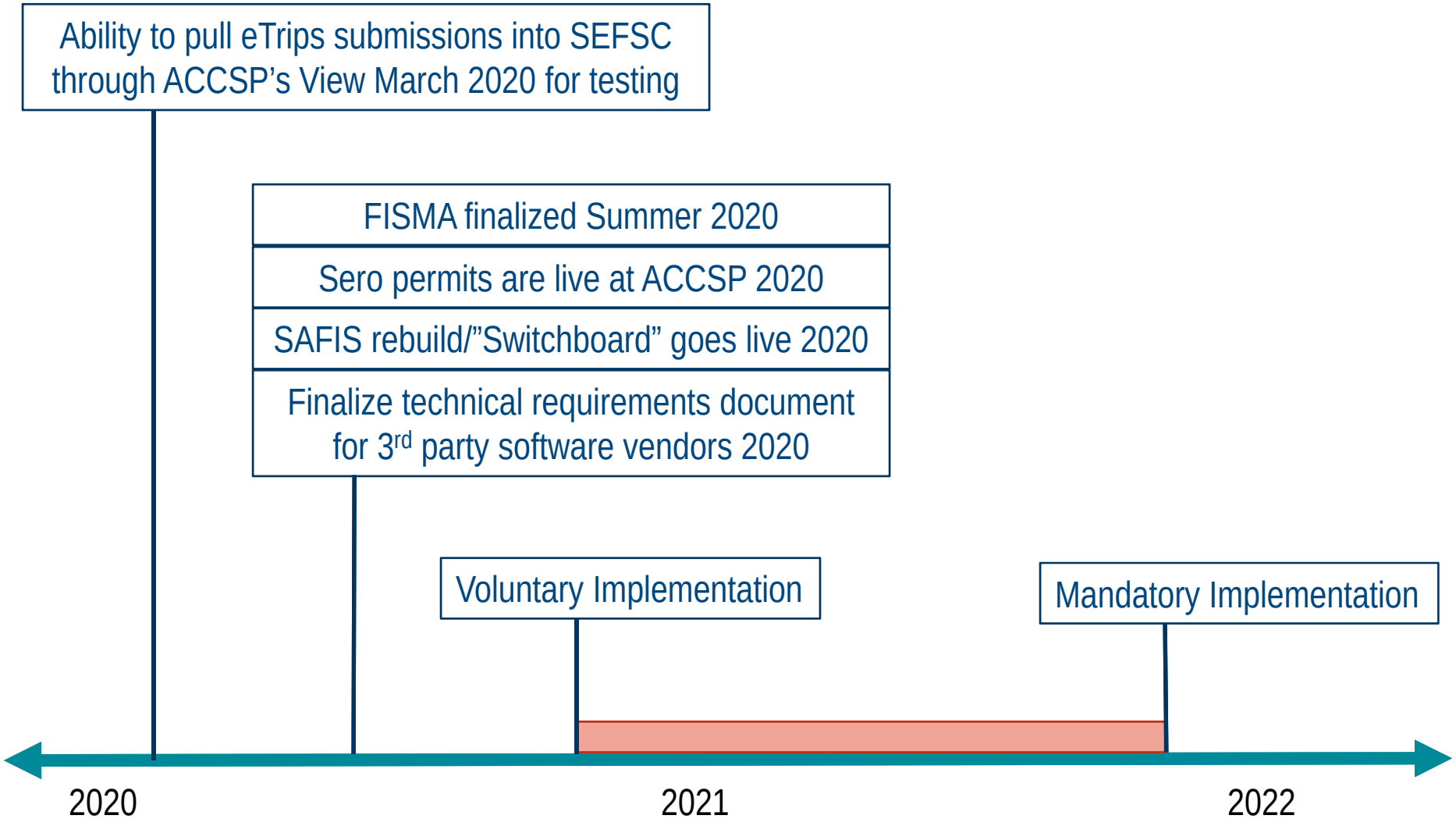
Compliance is granted instantaneously.

Current eTrips (ACCSP) is working to incorporate our standards for No Fishing Reporting.

Timeline


Volunteer recruitment for Pilot 2014
Testing eLogbook Pilot April 2015
SEFSC Staff given Admin privileges in SAFIS Management System in 2015
Infrastructure Development at ACCSP and SEFSC 2015 - 2019
FER Launch 2018
Updated API available 2019
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019

Timeline cont.



Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are (or will be) required on commercial Gulf reef fish vessels, South Atlantic rock shrimp vessels, various Highly Migratory Species (HMS) vessels, and for-hire charter vessels.

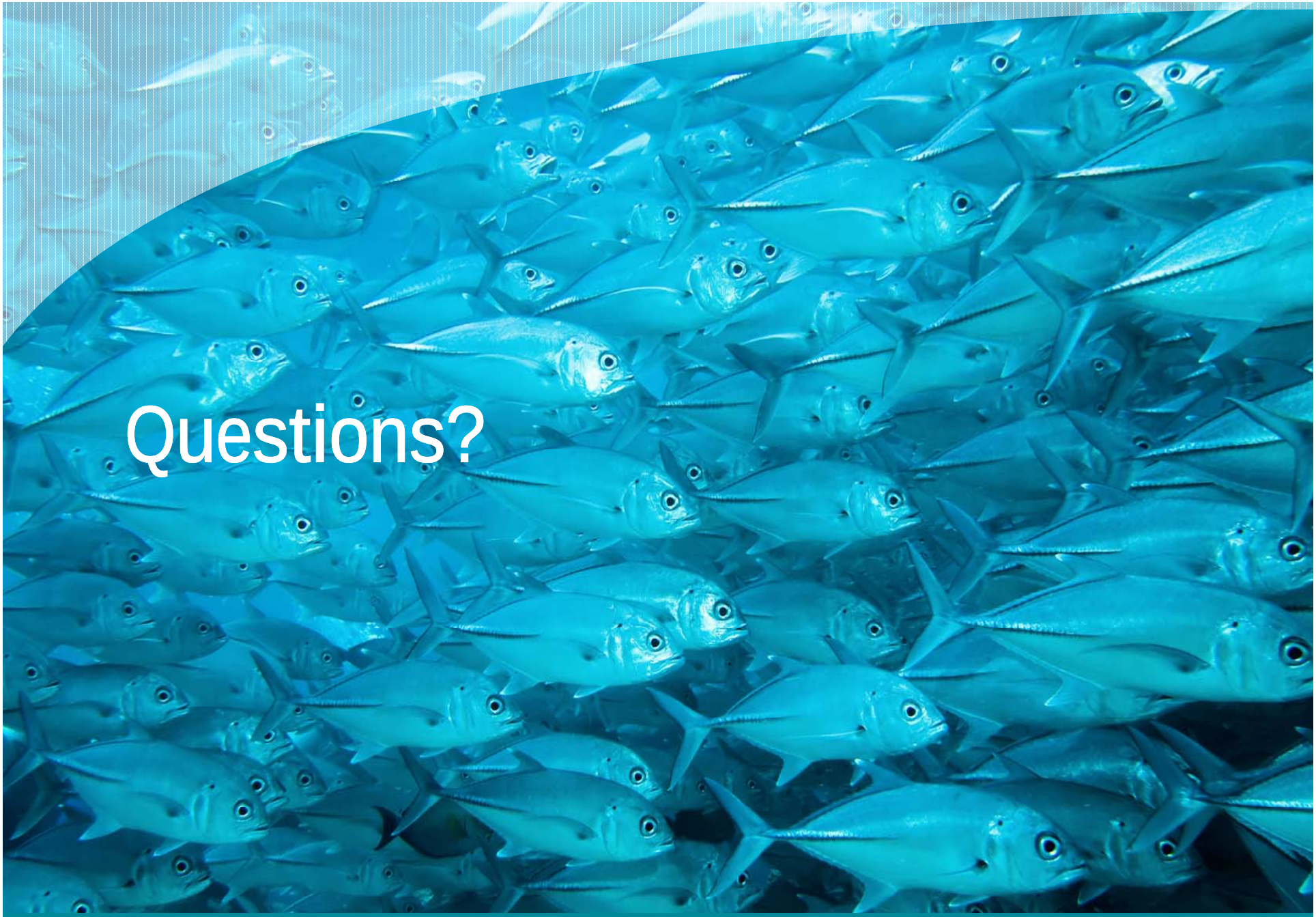
All potential software vendors, including ones producing VMS, are eligible to develop eLogbook software, once FISMA and Technical Requirements Document are complete.

VMS vendors must clear any form change with VMS HQ staff

Action Guide

- Updates from SEFSC for DECEMBER 2020 meeting

- Once database infrastructure can accept electronic commercial logbooks, and we begin voluntary submissions, then Council(s) can begin drafting resolution(s)



Questions?