



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Status Update: Project to Modernize Shrimp Effort Data Collection

**Southeast Fisheries Science Center**

Gulf of Mexico Fisheries  
Management Council Meeting  
Austin, TX  
August 2023

## Objectives for at-sea component:

- **Recruit** five commercial vessels for the project.
- **Equip** the vessels with a set of vessel tracking/reporting systems.
- Each vessel to participate in one full shrimping trip of at least 18 days starting ~July 15th.

# Vessels and devices

- **14 vessels volunteered. 5 selected** on basis of existing equipment (one device). All are from Palacios. Caretta also used.
- **Secured Devices (6 types):** Boat Command VMS (5); new cELB (5); Insight X2 (1\*); NEMO (5); Tracker One (5\*\*); Zen VMS Lite (5)
- **New cELBs** were installed on industry vessels for additional comparisons. Existing cELBs were not removed.
- **Devices installed** by SEFSC and LGL between July 3rd-July 5th.
- **All vessels left port** around July 15th. Two vessel seems to be making a series of short trips. Caretta set out July 17th.

# Deployment Issues

- Unable to secure **Succorfish** SC2 due to manufacturing and shipping time.
- Only one **Insight X2** due to costs and it was deployed on the Caretta because a functioning Insight was not available until after fishing vessel deployments were completed.
- One of the **Tracker one** units was nonfunctional and was not deployed.
- We will need to **acquire all of the data** before we can fully evaluate data stream continuity.
- **NOAA constructed a new prototype API** to enable vendors to push data to a SEFSC database. This approach could potentially be used in Early Adopter Program Phase. Seems to be working, but it is still early in the process. Data formats seem to be workable for the testing project.

# Next Steps:

- **Continue monitoring** vessel/device/data status until vessels return.
- Encourage vendors to **continue trying the new API** (this was not part of initial testing plan).
- **Recover data** from existing cELB units and **recover other devices** from vessels.
- **Begin data analysis phase** (running data through SEFSC effort-estimation algorithm, conduct/compare data quality checks) when vessels return.
- **Assess the initial steps** for equipping vessels with devices as part of the Early Adopter Program phase.