

**Data Collection Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab F**

Agenda Item IV: **Final Action:** Abbreviated Framework Action to Modify For-hire Trip Declaration Requirements

Timeline Status: Discussion and consideration for final action

Council input and next steps: Since the implementation of the Southeast For-hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program, participants described the hail-out provision as overly burdensome. The requirement stipulates a captain must hail-out whenever the vessel leaves the dock even for short non-fishing activities (e.g., fueling, obtaining bait). The Committee has selected a preferred option to only require federally-permitted for-hire vessel owners and/or operators to submit a trip declaration for trips that engage in fishing or chartered activity. Staff will present public comments, the document, and codified text. The Committee should review the provided materials, ask questions of staff, and consider potential final action for the document.

Agenda Item V: Modification to Commercial Coastal Logbook Reporting Requirements and Advisory Panel Recommendations

Timeline Status: Information update

Council input and next steps: The Committee will be provided an update on the progress of modifying the southeast commercial coastal logbook program. The modification would stipulate electronic submission of logbooks rather than mailing paper forms. SEFSC staff provided a presentation and a comparison spreadsheet on program data filed modifications to the Council’s Coastal Migratory Pelagic Advisory Panel (AP) in December 2022. The AP agreed that the transition to an electronic reporting platform would be beneficial for the program and fishermen. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council received a draft document at its December 2022 meeting. The document is in its initial stages and provided for review; however, more work will be done on the document to prepare for the South Atlantic Council’s March meeting. A public hearing draft is slated for the June Councils’ meetings. At this time staff recommends a mailout to federal commercial reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics permit holders in the Gulf followed by a couple of virtual public hearings. To date, numerous Advisory Panel members have had the opportunity to review and provide comment on this effort. The Committee should review the AP’s comments, the draft document, ask questions of staff, and provide input.

Agenda Item VI: Overview of State Specific Private Angler Licensing and Reporting Requirements

Timeline Status: Presentation and Committee feedback

Council input and next steps: Council staff will provide a presentation that reviews information on each of the five Gulf states' private angler licensing and reporting requirements. Each state has their own licensing database and programs that help define their universe of offshore recreational anglers. A recommendation provided by the Joint Council Workgroup on Section 102 of the Modern Fish Act has prompted discussion on the use of a recreational federal permit to identify the universe of private snapper grouper fishermen in the South Atlantic, with subsequent reporting approaches that would provide private recreational catch and effort estimates. The Workgroup also discussed the merits of federal versus state permit approaches. Based on this discussion, the Workgroup recommended that the Gulf Council consider a federal recreational permit concurrently with ongoing efforts with the Gulf states, to define the universe of recreational anglers and consider whether this permit should be for all offshore species or focus on reef fish species. The Committee should review the information provided in the presentation, ask questions of staff, and provide feedback.
