

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

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**Agenda Item IV:** Discussion on For-hire Data Collection

**Timeline Status:** Information, discussion, and feedback

**Council input and next steps:** During the January 2024 Council meeting, the Data Collection Committee discussed initial steps for creating a new charter for-hire data collection program for the Gulf of Mexico. During those discussions, the Committee requested further information on how fisheries economic data are collected and how it is used in management considerations. Council, NOAA’s Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and Southeast Regional Office staff will provide an overview of the methods used to collect economic fisheries data and discuss how these data inform management decisions. The Committee should ask questions and provide staff direction for next steps related to possible inclusion of economic data collection for the new program.

Council staff will provide an overview of an initial draft amendment (Chapters 1 and 2) for the Committee’s review. The Committee should read the meeting materials, ask questions, and provide staff direction for the purpose and need and range of options considered for the new program in the draft document.