



Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program

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Gulf & South Atlantic SEFHIER Permit Accounts as of August 1st



Reporting Platform	Gulf Permit Accounts (change since 6/15/21)	S. Atl. Permit Accounts (change since 6/15/21)	Gulf/S. Atl. Dual Permitted Accounts
eTrips	172 (+23)	587 (+94)	76
VESL	495 (+104)	414 (+99)	111
Headboat (VESL)	68 (+0)	64 (+0)	_____
VMS	106 (+0)	_____	_____
South Carolina (VESL)	_____	144 (+0)	_____
Total	841 (+127) *511 have yet to register	1,209 (+193) *968 have yet to register	187 *179 have yet to register



Gulf & South Atlantic Permit Accounts

- 1,658 permit holders have yet to register with approved vendor
 - Following June fishery bulletin: +332 accounts
 - August 1st = 2,050 registered accounts
 - Accounts include both permit holders & captains (not 1:1)
- Expect 20-30% permit latency
- Some surrendered permits due to increased restrictions (*S. Atl.)
- SERO and Council staff enhancing outreach efforts to improve industry understanding of For -Hire regulations
- SERO anticipates increased participation as permits come up for renewal



SERO Hosted Outreach Webinars

Upcoming Webinars

- Sept: VMS requirements webinars
 - Sept 7th @ 6:30-7:30 pm; Sept 16th @ 2-3 pm; Sept 22nd @ 6:30-7:30 pm; Sept 28th @ 10:00-11:00 am ET)
- Oct 7th: Gulf SEFHIER constituent call with Andy Strelcheck (Oct 14th for S. Atl.)

Past Webinars

- June 15th: monthly evening webinar (0 attendees)
- June 18th: FWC agents webinar (2 sessions, ~20 attendees @ each)
- July 20th: FWC agents make-up session (4 South Atlantic attendees)
- ❖ Webinar feedback/suggestions? Email me @Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov



Continued Outreach

- July 12th: reporting requirements letter sent to GARFO/SERO permitted vessels
- eTrips and VESL are now sending notifications to app users when an updated is pushed out
- SEFHIER program toolkits mailed on request and can be found electronically on our webpage (under Guides and Tools).
- Regular website updates and improvements are ongoing
 - E.g. updated answers to FAQs will be added to our website

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational-fishing-data/southeast-hire-integrated-electronic-reporting-program>



VMS Update

cVMS (cellular -based VMS) Type Approvals for Gulf For -Hire

1. Faria ETERMC cVMS approved
 2. CLS NEMOcVMS approved
 3. Nautic Alert cVMS is currently undergoing sea trials for approval
- ❖ VMS rule to publish around Sept 1st, with an effective date around Dec 1st

Link to all type-approved VMS Units:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-vessel-monitoring-system-vms-units-reporting-southeast-hire-electronic>



Setting Up a VMS Unit

- Select a Gulf For-Hire approved VMS unit (listed on website); contact a vendor; set up and install with certified installer
- Vessel owners will need to verify with their VMS vendor the unit is operational
 - For problems with the unit contact the vendor. The vendor may contact the SE VMS helpdesk to work through any technical issues
- Future online permit applications/renewals will allow for self-
-verifying that a certified electrician installed the VMS unit
- ❖ You must have an operating, Gulf For-Hire approved VMS unit to move on the water
 - The Council is considering a limited equipment failure exemption



Declaration Discussion

- Per the regulations, a declaration is required every time a vessel leaves the dock (e.g. getting gas, ice, bait, home stop)
 - Must select appropriate trip activity on the declaration (e.g. trip no intention of fishing)
- Some vessels that were reporting consistently have now stopped reporting
- Some logbooks are missing a declaration





General Discussion Items

- Dually permitted vessels (Commercial Reef Fish & For -Hire):
 - Must complete both a commercial reef fish and for -hire trip declaration when going on a for -hire trip
 - NMFS is investigating how to stream line for these dually permitted vessels
 - These notifications serve different purposes for each sector, and have different regulatory text
- HMS caught species:
 - Using VESL app: still need to complete the HMS electronic logbook report
 - Using eTrips/mobile app: prompts for HMS required questions



What Can fisherman Do Now?

1

Select a reporting software; select & install a VMS unit before the effective date

2

Create a reporting account for each vessel/user

3

Review the website; watch informational videos, read SEFHIER toolkits

4

Check that your landing location is approved. If not, submit a landing location request form for approval



Constituent Questions?



Start on our webpage (web link on slide 5):

- News and announcements:
 - Sign up to receive SEFHIER-specific Fishery Bulletins:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new>
- Guides and Tools:
 - Informational videos and the Gulf-specific toolkit online
- Upcoming webinars dates (will also be sent via SEFHIER Fishery Bulletins)
- Find forms: landing location, power down exemption and VMS install certification
- Contact SEFHIER customer service:
 - Customer Support Toll Free: 1-833-707-1632
 - Customer Support Email: ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov
 - Contact me directly: michelle.masi@noaa.gov





Acknowledgements

- SEFHIER program staff
- Council staff assisting with outreach
- ❖ **Special thanks to our For-Hire constituents!**

