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Tab F, No. 4

SEFHIER

Better Data, Better Management

Jessica Stephen
NMFS|Southeast Regional Office
Jessica.Stephen@noaa.gov

Original SEFHIER Program Goals

- Produce reliable estimates of catch and effort for federally permitted for-hire vessels
- Immediate data uses - validate minimum catch and effort estimates
- Future data uses require calibration and benchmarking to existing data collections
- Anticipated benefits of SEFHIER
 - Improved for-hire data for management, including:
 - Increased accuracy & timeliness of data
 - Census-based reporting
 - Reduction in recall bias
 - Improved monitoring & compliance



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Without SEFHIER



- Catch and effort estimates used in management in the Gulf continue to come from:
 - Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) For-Hire Survey for Effort
 - MRIP Access-Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) for Catch
 - LA Creel
 - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Coastal Creel Survey
 - Southeast Region Headboat Survey



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For-Hire Reporting Amendment

- Action 1: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Charter Vessels
 - **Preferred Alternative 4:** Require that the owner or operator of a charter vessel for which a Gulf charter/headboat permit for reef fish or CMP has been issued submit fishing records to NMFS for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to offloading fish.
- Action 2: Modify Frequency and Mechanism of Data Reporting for Headboats
 - **Preferred Alternative 4:** Require that the owner or operator of a federally permitted headboat for which a Gulf charter/headboat permit for reef fish or CMP has been issued submit fishing records to NMFS for each trip via electronic reporting (via NMFS approved hardware/software) prior to offloading fish.



For-Hire Reporting Amendment

- Action 3: Trip Notification and Reporting Requirements
 - **Hail-out Preferred Alternative 2:** Prior to departing for any trip, the owner or operator of a vessel issued a charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish or Gulf CMP is required to declare (hail-out) the type of trip (e.g., for-hire or other trip). When departing on a for-hire trip they must include the expected return time and landing location
 - **Preferred Option a:** Charter vessels
 - **Preferred Option b:** Headboats
- Action 4: Hardware/Software Requirements for Reporting
 - **Preferred Alternative 2:** Require vessel operators to submit fishing records via NMFS approved hardware/software with GPS capabilities that, at a minimum, archive vessel position data to NMFS. The GPS portion of the hardware is permanently affixed to the vessel.
 - **Preferred Option a:** Charter vessels
 - **Preferred Option b:** Headboats



Current & Next Steps

- No petition for further review was filed and the Fifth Circuit's decision is final.
- Council reviews original SEFHIER program goals and objectives to determine if changes are needed
- SERO staff evaluates existing SEFHIER data with respect to identified goals and objectives
 - Present preliminary work at the October meeting
- Based on analyses, Council then determines components of SEFHIER program that would be revised as well as those that would remain the same
- Council reviews Options Paper for new SEFHIER amendment – Jan 2024



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