

Summary of Public Comment

Reef Fish Amendment 57 and Coastal Migratory Pelagic Amendment 35 Electronic Reporting for Commercial Vessels

Webinar: August 23, 2023

Council/Staff

Susan Boggs
Lisa Hollensead
Emily Muehlstein
Carly Somerset
Bernie Roy

6 Members of the public and 11 Agency staff attended.
0 comments were received.

Webinar: September 18, 2023

Council/Staff

Bob Gill
Lisa Hollensead
Emily Muehlstein
Carly Somerset
Carrie Simmons
John Froeschke
Camilla Shireman

6 Members of the public and 16 Agency staff attended.
1 comment was received.

Eric Brazer – Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance

The Shareholders Alliance is very supportive of the program and has advocated for this update for a long time. He acknowledged that this transition is complicated, and it takes a lot of effort to build and integrate this program. There are numerous fishermen ready to test the program when the time comes. He also emphasized the need for plenty of training and outreach opportunities during implementation to smoothly transition fishermen to the new platform. The transition period and training will ensure that the program launch is as clean as possible.

Webinar: September 19, 2023

Council/Staff

Billy Broussard

Lisa Hollensead

Emily Muehlstein

1 Member of the public and 8 Agency staff attended.

1 comment was received.

Brian Lewis – Commercial Fisherman

This program is a longtime coming. While he was one of those guys that had a flip phone for too long and was a late adopter of text messaging, he has adapted to the electronic world and believes it's about time that this transition to electronic reporting happens. He does ask that the rollout allow plenty of time for the fleet to adapt to the new platform. He likes the feature that will not let users submit incomplete reports because it will prevent the situation where logbooks are sent back months later. He also likes the favorites feature, and he is glad that the platform will be usable via App, tablet, and desktop.

Written Public Comment

49 Public Hearing video views

3 comments were received.

Support for the transition:

- Reporting on paper is archaic, slow, and fraught with errors.
- This is long overdue and will strengthen reporting.

Caution against the transition:

- It would adversely impact the older generation of fishermen that don't have access or desire to use new technology. The Council should, at the least, consider grandfathering-in older participants.