



Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program



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Quantifying Program Compliance



As of March 25th, 2022:

- 1,328 Gulf for-hire federally permitted vessels
- 951 VESL and eTrips reporting accounts setup by Gulf for-hire permitted vessels
- >291k Gulf & S. Atl. trip reports submitted (for all trip types and activity types)
- >35k logbooks & >46k declarations received from Gulf for-hire permitted vessels
- >8k SEFHIER program and compliance-related, customer service calls





SEFHIER VMS Updates

- 10 satellite & 4 cellular VMS units are now type-approved ([link](#))
- **VMS requirement effective as of March 1st, 2022**
- Discussed VMS supply chain with vendors – no ongoing issues
 - Isolated issues arose with some local dealers
 - Note: if dealer does not have stock, vendor can overnight (~\$100)
- VMS compliance statistics (as of March 25th):
 - 178 dual commercial reef fish & for-hire permitted vessels
 - 601 Gulf for-hire permitted vessels with VMS
 - 727 Gulf for-hire vessels (out of 1328) without VMS



VMS Reimbursement



- SEFHIER VMS reimbursement requests are being prioritized through April 30th, 2022 – after April 30th reimbursements will be first come, first serve for all requests
- The cVMS reimbursement maximum has been decreased to \$950 after analysis of cellular unit costs
- Satellite VMS reimbursement maximum is undergoing review
- Vessels that received a Triton VMS unit from the third phase of the NFWF/CLS America grant will not be eligible for reimbursement, as they received a free unit



VMS and Federal Permits

- Permit refresher: federal permits are associated with vessels and the permit holders listed on the permit
 - Any changes to permit holders and vessel associated with a specific permit constitutes a permit transfer
 - Any permits associated with a specific vessel must have the same permit holder
- VMS must be installed and activated to renew or transfer a permit
 - For transfers, the receiving permit holder needs to have the VMS activated on the vessel that is associated with the permit(s)
- Once activated, a vessel may get a power-down exemption (PDE)
 - PDE is for the vessel under that permit, and applies to any VMS-required permit on that vessel (e.g. for dual commercial reef fish and Gulf for-hire permitted vessels, one PDE covers both fisheries)



Power Down Exemption (PDE)



PDE form is now available for online submission:

- Go to [PDE link](#) & then click the PDE icon on that page
- Fill out form (including vessel ID and permit #) & click “Confirm” to submit the PDE request
 - This can be used for commercial reef fish & Gulf for-hire PDE requests
- Vessels showing an active VMS status in Permits will be automatically approved. If active status is not listed in Permits, NMFS staff will manually check for an activated VMS before approving PDE request

A screenshot of the NOAA PDE form submission page. The form is titled "Power Down Exemption (PDE) Request" and contains several fields for user input. The fields are: "Name of Person Submitting", "Vessel Official #", "USCG Documentation number or, if not documented, State Registration Number", "Permit # (please list one of your permits that requires VMS; e.g. permit CHS-1234 then enter 1234 below)", "Turned Off Date & Time (24 hr. clock)", "Estimated Date & Time VMS to be Turned On (24 hr. clock)", "Vessel Location During VMS Power Down", and "Reason for VMS Power Down". Below the form, there is a "NOTE" section, a "Public Burden Statement", and a "Privacy Act Statement". At the bottom of the form, there is a checkbox for "I'm not a robot" and a "Confirm" button.

General Discussion Items



Updated [FAQs on SEFHIER website](#)

- Industry asked for clarity on Trip Fee and Fuel Price questions
- Consulted with SERO economists; these fields are critical to accurately estimate the value of the fishery
 - **Trip Fee:**
 - An accurate value is critical for cost-benefit and economic impact analyses; reimbursement after a disaster & required for proposed regulatory changes
 - Note: for any “charity” trips (no revenue received) enter trip fee as \$0
 - **Fuel Price:**
 - An accurate value is critical for representing economic performance of for-hire vessels and how/why it differs between vessels
 - Note: provide best estimate of price paid for fuel on each trip

Declaration Burden



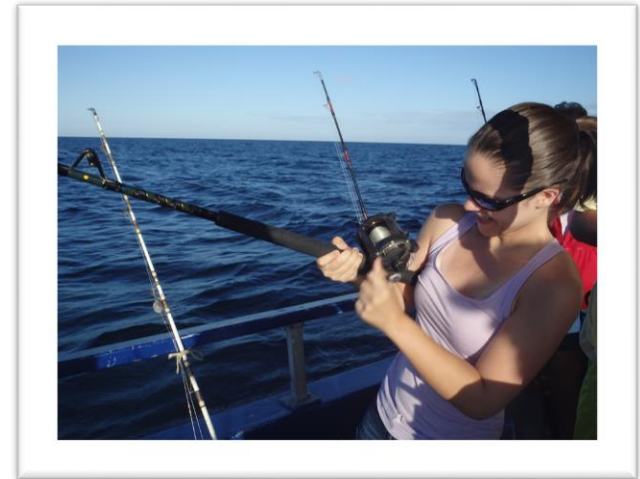
- NMFS searched for *simple, easy to implement* (non-technical) and easy to understand solution
- Regulations could be modified to require a declaration under the following circumstances:
 - Fishing trip – always require declaration, regardless of fishing trip type (i.e., charter, recreational – including bait harvest, commercial) or duration
 - Non-intended fishing trip – if the intended trip duration is less than 60 minutes, a declaration would not be required. For example, moving the vessel to get fuel or ice/bait from a marina.
 - 60 minute time frame selected based on input from enforcement about feasibility of tracking and enforcing
- Next steps:
 - Feedback from Council/stakeholders through public comment
 - Regulation change requires Council action





Declaration Burden for Dually Permitted Vessels

- Request: 1 declaration for dual federally permitted comm. reef fish & for-hire vessels
- Challenges
 - Declarations collect different information fields & have different submission methods (commercial – phone or VMS; SEFHIER – app or VMS)
- Proposed Solution
 - Only applicable to those vessels that have a VMS unit type-approved in both programs
 - 10 satellite units are approved in both sectors with forms
 - Must use the VMS to submit the declaration
 - Not applicable to vessels in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (declarations submitted using the VESL app)





Declaration Burden for Dually Permitted Vessels



- For applicable vessels
 - Strict pathway for submission based on trip type
 - Commercial and out-of-fishery trips (fuel, bait, sunset cruises, ecotours, etc.) would be reported using the commercial declaration (most simplistic)
 - For-hire trips would be reported using the for-hire declaration (requires 'hail-in' information)
- Next Steps – modify regulations to allow 1 declaration for both programs
 - We believe this can be handled administratively (without Council action)



Acknowledgements

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



SEFHIER customer service: 1-833-707-1632 (8:00-4:30 pm EST) or ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov