Data Collection Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab F

Agenda Item IV: Update on Commercial Electronic Logbook Pilot Project

Timeline Status: Information and Discussion

Council input and next steps: The Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) will provide a presentation regarding the justification, development, and progress of a new electronic data collection program for commercial fisheries in the Gulf. The new data collection program would allow for commercial electronic reporting and eliminate paper logbooks in an effort to improve the precision and timeliness of data collection. To test the effectiveness of the new program, a pilot study was completed by the SEFSC in 2015 and the major results of this study will be presented. The Committee is encouraged to ask questions of SEFSC staff about the pilot study and the progress of transitioning to the commercial electronic reporting program. The Committee should use information provided from the SEFSC to discuss timeline and next steps for the development of an appropriate regulatory document that would support the new commercial electronic logbook program.

Agenda Item V: Update on Southeast For-hire Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER**)** Program

Timeline Status: Presentation and Discussion

Council input and next steps: The Southeast Regional Office (SERO) will provide an update on the SEFHIER program. The program is designed to be implemented using a phased approach. Phase I will require charter captains to make a trip declaration (hail out) and report catch before off-loading fish and is anticipated to become effective September 1, 2020. Phase II requirements for possessing vessel locational monitoring equipment is to be implemented at a later date. NOAA has funds in the vessel monitoring system (VMS) reimbursement fund that will cover the cost of new VMS units (satellite and cellular) purchased for use in this fishery. The VMS unit must be a device approved for use in this fishery and purchase must be made after the final rule implementing this program is published. SERO will detail these topics among others during the presentation. The Committee should be prepared to discuss this information, ask questions regarding details of the program, and offer insights on how these changes would affect the charter industry in the Gulf.