



OTHER 2019 CARRYOVER ACTIVITIES

Development of Commercial Fishing Regulations Mobile APP – Fish Rules

Commercial Fishing Regulations APP Development Gulf portion	\$20,000
Annual maintenance (included in the 2020-2024 annual budget)	\$8,000

In 2018, following an effort to improve stakeholder interaction, the Council opted to implement hosting its recreational and commercial fishing regulations on the Fish Rules mobile app. The platform is designed specifically for recreational regulations and organizes regulations based on user location and species. To date, the Fish Rules mobile app has been highly successful. In the first half of 2019, Fish Rules was used 60,745 times to access federal regulations in the Gulf of Mexico compared to 2017, when the old Council app was used 14,450 times total.

Currently, the commercial regulations are communicated in the supplementary text for each species making them less accessible and become secondary to the recreational regulations on the current platform. The Council originally anticipated working with the app developer to modify the platform to allow for more effective presentation of commercial regulations. However, after a year of experience hosting the regulations on Fish Rules, it has become clear that it would be more appropriate to develop a new app specifically geared towards hosting commercial regulations. To best serve the commercial user, regulations would be sorted by permit, species, and location. The Council intends to work jointly with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to develop a separate Fish Rules mobile app specifically designed to host commercial regulations. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council would also contribute \$20,000 for the development of the app and \$8,000 for ongoing annual maintenance.

Improvements and planning for Gulf Council website

Part 1. Robust Planning and Long-term File and Website Solutions

Section 508, an amendment to the United States Workforce Rehabilitation Act of 1973, is a federal law mandating that all electronic and information technology developed, procured, maintained, or used by the federal government be accessible to people with disabilities. The Gulf Council website will need to undergo review and enhancement to ensure that it is an accessible 508 compliant website. Making the Council website 508 compliant involves developing a website that can be used by people with limited vision or blindness, deafness, seizure disorders, and other disabilities. A contractor with 508 compliance experience will be hired to complete this update and train staff how to ensure future compliance. The cost of this work is estimated to be **\$25,000**.

Part 2. Archival solution, structure corrections and maintenance

Currently, the Gulf Council website is administered using an archived site to store historical documents and materials. The Council would like to hire a contractor to migrate all of those

materials on to its new site to ensure that the unmaintained archive site does not become vulnerable to malicious attacks. The Council would also like to hire a contractor to create a “run-book” that outlines best practices and creates a maintenance calendar specific to the Council website. This will help ensure that the Council website continues to be administered in a logical, intentional manner. The estimated cost of these archival solutions, structure corrections and activities are \$70,000.

508 Compliance for Council documents

Since 2018, the Council has made final documents submitted to the NOAA library 508 compliant. However, older documents on the website that can be transitioned have not been made 508 compatible to date. The NMFS-SERO office has some funding to make some of the Council documents 508 compliant, but not all of them, such as the joint Gulf and South Atlantic Council FMPs for Spiny Lobster and Coastal Migratory Pelagics. The estimated cost to complete the 508 compliance requirements for the remaining documents that are not considered an “undue burden” is \$35,000.