

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2  
3 DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE

4  
5 Omni Hotel Corpus Christi, Texas

6  
7 August 22, 2022

8  
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

10 Susan Boggs.....Alabama  
11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama  
12 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC  
13 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana  
14 Bob Gill.....Florida  
15 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana  
16 Andy Strelcheck.....NMFS  
17 Greg Stunz.....Texas  
18 C.J. Sweetman (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida  
19 Troy Williamson.....Texas

20  
21 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

22 Billy Broussard.....Louisiana  
23 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi  
24 Phil Dyskow.....Florida  
25 Tom Frazer.....Florida  
26 Dakus Geeslin (designee for Robin Riechers).....Texas  
27 Michael McDermott.....Mississippi  
28 Bob Shipp.....Alabama  
29 Joe Spraggins.....Mississippi

30  
31 **STAFF**

32 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director  
33 Beth Hager.....Administrative Officer  
34 Lisa Hollensead.....Fishery Biologist  
35 Ava Lasseter.....Anthropologist  
36 Mary Levy.....NOAA General Counsel  
37 Natasha Mendez-Ferrer.....Fishery Biologist  
38 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer  
39 Ryan Rindone.....Lead Fishery Biologist/SEDAR Liaison  
40 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager  
41 Charlotte Schiaffo.....Administrative & Human Resources Assistant  
42 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative & Communications Assistant  
43 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director  
44 Carly Somerset.....Fisheries Outreach Specialist

45  
46 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

47 Julie Brown.....NOAA  
48 Tim Griner.....SAFMC  
49 Peter Hood.....NMFS

1 Michelle Masi.....NOAA  
2 Clay Porch.....SEFSC  
3 John Walter.....SEFSC  
4 Geoff White.....ACCSP  
5 Kate Zamboni.....NOAA GC

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7  
8

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TABLE OF MOTIONS

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1 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
2 Management Council convened at The Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi,  
3 Texas on Monday morning, August 22, 2022, and was called to  
4 order by Chairman Susan Boggs.

5  
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**  
9

10 **CHAIRMAN SUSAN BOGGS:** I would like to call the Data Collection  
11 Committee to order. The members of the committee are myself,  
12 Susan Boggs, as Chair, Dr. Greg Stunz is Vice Chair, Chris  
13 Schieble, Kevin Anson, Dave Donaldson, J.D. Dugas, Bob Gill, Dr.  
14 Sweetman, Andy Strelcheck, and Troy Williamson. The first item  
15 on the agenda is the Adoption of the Agenda.

16  
17 **MR. BOB GILL:** Madam Chair, are you looking for a motion?  
18

19 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Gill.  
20

21 **MR. GILL:** I move that we adopt the agenda.  
22

23 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** I will second that.  
24

25 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you. The next item on the agenda is the  
26 Approval of the June 2022 Minutes. I did have some corrections,  
27 but I will look to anyone else first. Seeing none other, I had  
28 emailed them to Bernie, and I had a couple of corrections, and I  
29 apologize that I lost my email. On page 29, line 42, I believe  
30 "formwork" should be "framework", and, on page 32, line 18, I  
31 think they were missing a word, and I think it should have been  
32 "when they are doing something", and the word "are" needs to be  
33 added. Then, on line 18, on page 32, "Boggs" I believe should  
34 be "Bosarge". Any other additions? May I have a motion?  
35

36 **DR. STUNZ:** So moved.  
37

38 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dave, were you seconding?  
39

40 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Yes, ma'am.  
41

42 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you. Okay. Any objections to the  
43 motion? Seeing none, the motion passes. The next item is our  
44 Action Guide and Next Steps, and I will turn it over to Dr.  
45 Hollensead.  
46

47 **DR. LISA HOLLENSSEAD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The first thing  
48 before the committee will be discussions of the Southeast For-

1 Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program, or SEFHIER, and  
2 so, since the rollout of this program, several participants have  
3 described that the hail-out provisions are overly burdensome,  
4 and so an abbreviated framework action has been developed to  
5 address this issue, and council staff will clarify the purpose  
6 of the document and present a preliminary draft of the framework  
7 action to address the issue.

8  
9 The committee should review the associated materials, ask  
10 questions of staff, and provide guidance on perhaps selecting an  
11 appropriate exemption timeframe for those considered in the  
12 draft. Madam Chair.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, and so we're going to go item-by-  
15 item. There's only two agenda items, but, since we'll be  
16 breaking for lunch, we're going to go ahead and address this  
17 item, and then, Mr. Chair, after lunch, we'll address our second  
18 item, and is that okay?

19  
20 **MR. DALE DIAZ:** Yes, ma'am, Ms. Boggs.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, and so I believe that Ms. Somerset will  
23 be making the presentation.

24  
25 **MS. CARLY SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am.

26  
27 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Please proceed.

28  
29 **ABBREVIATED FRAMEWORK ACTION TO MODIFY FOR-HIRE TRIP DECLARATION**  
30 **REQUIREMENTS**

31  
32 **MS. SOMERSET:** I will let Bernie bring up that presentation, and  
33 then I will move through that, first. Thank you, Bernie. All  
34 right, and so this is just a brief presentation, kind of to  
35 recap what occurred at the last meeting and the impetus behind  
36 drafting this framework option, framework draft, relating to  
37 trip declarations.

38  
39 First, just the current regulations, and trip declarations are  
40 required every time a vessel departs from a dock, berth,  
41 seawall, or ramp. The trip declaration will indicate whether  
42 the vessel is departing on a commercial, charter, headboat,  
43 private, recreational, or non-fishing type of trip, and so this  
44 is out of the federal CFR, but then I've added, as an example,  
45 that a non-fishing type of trip would be trips for ice,  
46 transportation to or from marinas and private docks, sunset  
47 cruises, and these trip declarations are used to validate  
48 information collected by the SEFHIER program, and declarations

1 for all trips allows NMFS to delineate between fishing and non-  
2 fishing activity and the associated effort with each, and  
3 there's also the ability to collect socioeconomic data for the  
4 for-hire industry as a whole, and so just some background on why  
5 trip declarations are used in this program.

6  
7 I will put up some required data elements, and I won't go  
8 through all of these. You can see them, and, basically, the  
9 trip activity is defined, when you're doing this declaration, to  
10 whether it's commercial, a charter trip, headboat, or private  
11 recreational, and then also the trip type, and so that's whether  
12 that intent is to go fishing or is a non-fishing trip, and I  
13 will just note that some of these data elements are only  
14 required if the declaration is noted as a for-hire trip, and so  
15 not all of these on the left-hand column are asked every time  
16 you're doing a trip declaration.

17  
18 Stakeholders have expressed concern regarding the burden that's  
19 placed upon them by some of these reporting requirements,  
20 especially when multiple trip declarations are necessary. As a  
21 whole, they understand why the for-hire electronic reporting was  
22 implemented, but some of the reporting components seem to be  
23 unduly burdensome, namely the number of times that you have to  
24 do a trip declaration, and so multiple hail-outs for these non-  
25 fishing trips, especially if it's a short movement from dock-to-  
26 dock.

27  
28 At the last meeting, a request was made to discuss whether there  
29 is a potential option for possibly having something relative to  
30 declarations for the for-hire fishery, as it applies only when  
31 going on a fishing trip, and so I think this was discussed at  
32 the last meeting, but just to go through that again, whether  
33 that would potentially require, you know, any regulatory text  
34 change or maybe a definition of a fishing trip, and so, if Ms.  
35 Levy is online, General Counsel, I would look to her to see if  
36 she has any additional comments on that.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Levy, did you have any comments to make?

39  
40 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Not really. I mean, I guess that there are  
41 still questions about it, and so, yes, you would need to change  
42 the regulations, if you want to limit the declarations to just  
43 fishing trips, but I think we had a discussion about why the  
44 program requires more than that and that the document that  
45 you're going to look at next addresses this idea of not having  
46 to declare every trip, as long as it's not fishing and the trip  
47 is a certain amount of time, and so, I mean, I don't know if you  
48 need any other information, but, if anyone has questions, I can

1 certainly try to answer them.

2  
3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** I don't see any hands up, and so, Ms. Somerset,  
4 if you would like to go ahead with your presentation.

5  
6 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so I do have one more  
7 infographic that pertains to the document, and so this probably  
8 is a good time now to move forward with the document as we have  
9 it, but I just wanted to present this first, and I think it  
10 gives some good context related to how it's drafted, and it  
11 hopefully helps everyone understand better some of the text in  
12 the document.

13  
14 This is an infographic that shows essentially an example  
15 scenario of a no hail-out, as it pertains to what we've drafted  
16 with these different options of allowing a certain amount of  
17 time to not have to make a hail-out for non-fishing activity,  
18 and so, if we're going from left to right here, your boat leaves  
19 the dock, and, as it transitions to the -- Say you're going for  
20 fuel, and so you have to move over to the fuel dock, and there  
21 would be no hail-out required if the transit time is less than a  
22 specified amount of time from dock-to-dock, and so, I think, at  
23 the last council meeting, we had a discussion of it pertains to  
24 round trip or dock-to-dock, and so this is just clarifying that  
25 it is a dock-to-dock transition time and not that the exemption  
26 time would pertain to round trip, and so that timer starts when  
27 you leave your slip, and then it ends again when you get to the  
28 fuel dock.

29  
30 There is no limit on the fueling time, if you have to sit there,  
31 if you're able to get fuel immediately or if you have to sit  
32 there for a certain amount of time, if you're in line waiting,  
33 and that exemption time does not pertain there, and it's just  
34 when you're transiting from one dock to another dock, and so,  
35 once you leave the fuel dock, that exception time, whatever that  
36 is, would start over, and so then you would have that amount of  
37 time to leave the fuel dock and go back to your slip, and so  
38 that's what we're trying to convey in this infographic, and so I  
39 just wanted to bring that up first, to clarify, and, if there's  
40 no questions on this, I can move into the document.

41  
42 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Somerset, was there not one more slide?

43  
44 **MS. SOMERSET:** This one is specific to the document. I do have  
45 two other infographics there, but they are more examples  
46 pertaining to certain scenarios on the SEFHIER program, and  
47 we've received some feedback, and so council staff was going to  
48 integrate some of the feedback, since putting those up, and so I



1 did have "draft" on those, and I think it would be helpful to  
2 move to the document, just from this one right now, and we can  
3 come back to those, if we need to.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Thank you, because I was going to  
6 comment on the next slide, but that's fine, if you want to move  
7 into the document. Dr. Hollensead.

8  
9 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, Madam Chair. The intent is -- What we  
10 wanted to do with this infographic was just to give everybody  
11 context of, you know, in selecting a time, what might that be,  
12 and we had heard some public testimony stating that sometimes  
13 I'm waiting for an hour to get fuel, and so I don't want that  
14 necessarily counted against me, and so that was to sort of  
15 clarify what would be done in this document, and it sort of just  
16 counts as the steaming time.

17  
18 Now, when we were crafting these infographics, we started  
19 thinking about some of the other scenarios, you know, of when do  
20 I hail-out and when do I not, and so we have done some -- While  
21 we were in this, and have the mindset for doing this, we had  
22 some preliminary infographics, which we did, in this case what  
23 to do if you're getting bait, specifically.

24  
25 Now, that did not pertain exactly to this document, and so what  
26 we were thinking of doing is just going right into the document,  
27 discussing that, but absolutely coming back and looking through  
28 those, taking any input that the committee may have on that, as  
29 well as any perhaps ideas of doing perhaps another series of  
30 these things, if there's questions that have come up that might  
31 be better visually explained, that we could start to create some  
32 of those.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So I'm going to play devil's advocate, I guess,  
35 on this, and Carly kind of alluded to this, and, I mean, we've  
36 seen it at our fuel dock, and so you leave your slip, and you  
37 come to our fuel dock, and you're having to hold off to get to  
38 my dock, and so, when you say dock-to-dock, does that mean you  
39 are tied to the dock, because, if you're standing out waiting,  
40 and you're not tied to the dock, this still doesn't solve that  
41 problem, because I believe one of the captains is in the  
42 audience that said that sometimes he's got to wait an hour, or  
43 two hours, and so that doesn't alleviate his problem, and so I  
44 just was trying to get to -- I mean, just food for thought.

45  
46 **MS. SOMERSET:** That's a great point, Madam Chair, and the intent  
47 of this infographic was to, overall, get at that. I think, at  
48 the last meeting, and probably prior to that, when we first

1 started this discussion, was maybe some confusion on -- Well, so  
2 we have -- You will see in the document that, right now, we have  
3 three options of sixty, ninety, or 120 minutes, and you would  
4 have to encompass all of your non-fishing activity, whenever you  
5 left your dock, in a round trip.

6  
7 As soon as leave mine, I have to get everything done before I  
8 come back, and, essentially, it's when you leave yours to when  
9 you get to the next slip, and I know you were saying you  
10 physically have to tie up, or that's something we can, you know,  
11 talk about, or I'll look to Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen for that,  
12 but we can -- That's a good question, and we can move through  
13 the document, if you're amenable to that.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** No, that's absolutely fine, and let's go ahead  
16 and go to the document, I mean, I'm just -- Like I said, the  
17 decisions this council makes, unfortunately, always seems to  
18 have unintended consequences, and you don't want to have a  
19 captain penalized because, well, we thought this would work,  
20 realizing that, well, no, it doesn't, after the fact, and that's  
21 the only reason I bring that point up, and so, yes, if you would  
22 like to go ahead and start through the document.

23  
24 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, ma'am. Bernie, could you bring up the  
25 document? Thank you. We'll move to the background. Madam  
26 Chair, I believe Ms. Levy has her hand up.

27  
28 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** I'm sorry. Ms. Levy.

29  
30 **MS. LEVY:** Thanks. I mean, I did put it down, because we can  
31 come back to it, but I guess I just wanted to understand what  
32 you were saying, in terms of are you saying that some people  
33 might be waiting kind offshore, and like are they -- Are you  
34 just saying they're not tied up to the dock? I guess I'm just  
35 trying to get a handle on kind of what -- Specifically what you  
36 were talking about when you were talking about having to wait in  
37 line and such.

38  
39 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, you wouldn't be offshore. You would be  
40 within the perimeter of the fuel dock, I suppose, but, at our  
41 fuel dock, if I have four or five boats tied up to the dock, and  
42 you can't get to my dock, and you're just having to hold off,  
43 and so that's why I'm just trying to understand, when you say  
44 dock-to-dock, to make sure we have a definitive understanding of  
45 what that is, so that law enforcement doesn't come out and say,  
46 well, this guy has been holding out there for an hour-and-a-  
47 half, and, I mean, he's not doing anything but just holding up  
48 and trying to wait to get in line for the fuel dock, and that's

1 probably a very rare circumstance, but I understand there's a  
2 couple of boats that might be in that very situation, and so I'm  
3 just trying to determine -- When you say dock-to-dock, does that  
4 mean they have to be physically tied to the dock, or can they  
5 just be holding off, waiting their turn?

6

7 **MS. LEVY:** Okay. Thanks.

8

9 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, Ms. Somerset.

10

11 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Bernie, could we go to  
12 the background? Thank you. Just to remind everyone, this was  
13 discussed at the last meeting, and I believe that General  
14 Counsel provided the explanation that this would be an  
15 abbreviated framework, should we move forward with it the way it  
16 was discussed at the last meeting and drafted currently, and it  
17 is an abbreviated framework with options.

18

19 Right now, we have the first chapter, with the options, and so I  
20 won't go through the background, but, if anyone has any  
21 questions, I am happy to answer them. If there's any questions  
22 right now, I can take them, but, if not, I was going to move to  
23 the purpose and need, and we can look at that.

24

25 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Phil.

26

27 **MR. PHIL DYSKOW:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a general  
28 question, and it's probably right to bring up now, and I'm not a  
29 member of this committee, but, eventually, we all have to vote  
30 on this, and why is it even necessary to have this non-fishing  
31 trip information? It just seems like an obscene overreach to be  
32 harassing all these fishermen for information that doesn't help  
33 us manage the fishery. It just -- I can imagine, if I was one  
34 of these fishermen, that I would just be just incensed over the  
35 fact that you're asking for all this information -- We are  
36 asking for all this information that has nothing to do with  
37 their fishing activity. Can somebody answer that, in a short  
38 sentence or two?

39

40 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Are Dr. Stephen or Dr. Masi, either one, on the  
41 line? Would one of you all like to answer that for Mr. Dyskow?

42

43 **MS. SOMERSET:** Bernie, is Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen on the line?

44

45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Well, Andy, do you want to answer that?

46

47 **MR. ANDY STRELCHECK:** Yes. I mean, I can certainly start, and  
48 then, if Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen want to comment, and so, you

1 know, I think, with the purpose and need, it states the issue  
2 well, right, and so it's a balance here between trying to  
3 alleviate an administrative burden, or a burden on the industry,  
4 that might not be all that beneficial for us or them, with the  
5 maintenance of the data integrity of the data reporting system,  
6 right, and so the industry came to us and said we want a logbook  
7 program, and we want to, obviously, have more rigorous  
8 accountability, and so we put that in place.

9  
10 At this point now, we have, obviously, some restrictions that  
11 might be overly burdensome, and so where do we find the balance  
12 there, and, in terms of reporting -- Not reporting non-fishing  
13 trips, where do we end with that, because a non-fishing trip  
14 could be a boat going well offshore for days at a time, or the  
15 length of normal fishing trips, and it becomes considerably more  
16 difficult then to determine whether that boat is actually  
17 fishing or not fishing, in order to validate whether or not they  
18 should be reporting data. The intent here is, obviously, to  
19 look at where we could alleviate some burden, while maintaining  
20 that data integrity.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill and then Mr. Dugas.

23  
24 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so I have a question  
25 regarding terminology. In the document, we have things called  
26 options, and, you know, that's not the normal terminology we  
27 have for frameworks, et cetera, and is that because it's  
28 abbreviated, and do we treat them the same as we treat actions  
29 and alternatives, and, in the prologue, the request was for the  
30 committee to weigh-in on preferences, and do we do that with  
31 preferred options? What's happening here?

32  
33 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, sir, and that's a good question, and so it  
34 is related to the type of document, because it's an abbreviated  
35 framework, and I believe Ms. Zamboni spoke to this at the last  
36 meeting, that you would have -- You have options, rather than an  
37 action and alternative, and so it has to do with how the  
38 document is structured, but it is similar, in that you would  
39 discuss, and you could pick a preferred to move forward, if  
40 that's your will.

41  
42 **MR. GILL:** Thank you. It's obviously testimony to my short  
43 memory. Thank you, Carly.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Zamboni, would you like to add to that?

46  
47 **MS. KATE ZAMBONI:** Carly summarized it well, but the main  
48 difference in terminology is that, in a framework action, it's

1 often an integrated document, with like an environmental  
2 assessment, and the term "alternatives" is something that comes  
3 from the NEPA law that requires an analysis of alternatives.  
4 The abbreviated framework doesn't require a NEPA document, and  
5 so, to avoid confusion with implicating NEPA, we use the term  
6 "option", but it has -- It's similar, for your point of view, in  
7 terms of selecting the option that you would prefer to go  
8 forward with.

9  
10 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Dugas.

11  
12 **MR. J.D. DUGAS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I agree with Mr.  
13 Dyskow's comments and questions. We have some of the same  
14 similar issues in Louisiana that you have at your marina, and I  
15 don't think any of these options are good for the fleet in  
16 Louisiana.

17  
18 I am concerned, or I'm wondering why we are concerned, about the  
19 non-fishing trips, and I think it's irrelevant, and we shouldn't  
20 even be discussing this. If you're going on a fishing trip, you  
21 hail-out. When you come in, you hail-in, and why are we  
22 concerned about the dock and the time at the dock? There is no  
23 reason for that. I would like to take this document and put it  
24 in the garbage.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So, Andy, will you help me a little bit? I do  
27 know that, when this SEFHIER program started, I was at the first  
28 meeting, and I argued about why is zero a number, and I still  
29 don't completely understand it, but I do understand -- Enough to  
30 understand some validity that the people are not fishing. When  
31 I see DCNR sitting at our dock for eight hours in the pouring-  
32 down rain and every boat is in the dock, but it's important to  
33 know that no one went fishing that day.

34  
35 I understand your frustration, but I also understand NMFS' side,  
36 is the validation, and so how do we alleviate the burden on the  
37 charter fishermen to give NMFS what they need, and I don't know  
38 if, some way, we can use the VMS unit to help alleviate some of  
39 this, and I do have some ideas that I would like to throw out  
40 there, once we finish up this discussion, but I agree that it is  
41 burdensome, but I also see the side of NMFS that they need this  
42 data to understand what these fishermen are doing, and so, where  
43 we find that middle ground, I don't know. Mr. Strelcheck.

44  
45 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I get back to my comments about where is the  
46 balance there, and what we don't want to do is create large  
47 loopholes in the program, where it's going to undermine the  
48 integrity of the data. We also don't want to overly burden the

1 industry, for them to report data that may be not necessary to  
2 report, right, and so there's a balance.

3  
4 You know, one of my concerns with the conversation is I feel  
5 like we have talked about this with several actions in the last  
6 year, and we're trying to solve an issue for every single person  
7 that participates in our fishery, and we have so many unique and  
8 diverse participants, and their situations are so unique and  
9 different that we're not going to solve this for everyone, and  
10 so can we solve it for most people, in terms of alleviating the  
11 burden, and, if so, what does that look like, and what change  
12 can we make that's going to benefit the industry as a whole,  
13 knowing that there might be still some people impacted, and  
14 they're going to have to report a little bit more often, because  
15 their situation is a little more unique and different than  
16 others.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** J.D., I will get to you in just a moment, and,  
19 to Andy's point, and I'm going to kind of throw a kink into this  
20 situation, because we're using the terminology "exemption".  
21 Well, we just used, or did the document, about the failure  
22 exemption, equipment failure exemption, where you have to get a  
23 form, or a validation, from law enforcement that you're exempt,  
24 and so are we adding additional burden, so that you have to now  
25 apply for this exemption, because how are you going to know?  
26 Are you just going to say, well, if you're not going to be there  
27 for an hour, we're exempting you, but that's the other part that  
28 I need to understand, is is this going to add some burden to the  
29 fishermen to get the exemption? J.D.

30  
31 **MR. DUGAS:** So I guess a question would be I feel there's a  
32 group of charter guys that want to do this, and there's a larger  
33 group that does not want to do this, and so what about voluntary  
34 reporting? If the guys want to let NMFS know they're going to  
35 put fuel in their boat, or get bait or ice, and they want to  
36 voluntarily tell you all, go for it. There's nothing wrong with  
37 that, and you can use the data, for whatever reason, but,  
38 instead of mandating it, maybe make it voluntary.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Ms. Somerset, let's go ahead and proceed  
41 through the document. I think there's going to be a lot of  
42 questions and not a lot of answers.

43  
44 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am. Thanks, Madam Chair. I can continue  
45 through this, and then, if there's discussion on whether you  
46 want to move forward with it, or have any other, you know, ideas  
47 for options, then we can do it after discussing what we have  
48 right now. I believe Ms. Levy's hand is up.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes, Ms. Levy. Sorry.

3  
4 **MS. LEVY:** Sorry, and I feel like I'm stopping you when you when  
5 you're actually getting to the document, and NMFS can speak to  
6 this as well, but you were asking about, you know, a burden to  
7 the permit holders, or operators, for the purpose of this  
8 exemption, and I don't think that that's what would happen,  
9 because this would just say, if you are going on a non-fishing  
10 trip that is less than sixty minutes, ninety minutes, whatever,  
11 you don't need to do the declaration, right, and so, to me, it  
12 would be more of a burden on NMFS to try and, you know, figure  
13 out -- Or look at the data and make sure that the declarations  
14 that they're not getting were done in a proper way, but I don't  
15 think the intent was to come up with another form that people  
16 submit in lieu of the declaration, and that just seems like more  
17 work for everybody.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Ms. Levy. Mr. Anson.

20  
21 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Well, I appreciate Ms. Levy's comments, but I  
22 would say that it would be more work, but it could be less work  
23 than what would be required based on the current situation, and  
24 the current situation is that they would have to submit a  
25 declaration every time a boat left the dock, and so I don't want  
26 to necessarily muddy-up the waters here, and I know, as Andy  
27 mentioned, we've been talking about this for a while, but, you  
28 know, I can certainly understand, and appreciate, the agency's  
29 desire to know that a vessel is away from the dock, and then  
30 certainly their job is to try to document the fishing trips, and  
31 then ultimately the catch, through the validation of the  
32 dockside surveys, to validate against what's been reported.

33  
34 You know, in one respect, I can certainly see the need for  
35 having a declaration of some kind. Now, what could happen is  
36 that there is an exemption form, or a trip activity status, that  
37 just designates that it's non-fishing, and then there is a time  
38 period, of which the boat can do a non-fishing activity within a  
39 certain time period, and then NMFS would have notification, on  
40 record, that says this vessel is going to be away from the dock,  
41 but its status is it's not fishing, and then there is a time  
42 period on there, to kind of get at Andy's point, was just making  
43 sure that folks just don't operate a fishing trip within the  
44 designated time period that they are not fishing.

45  
46 Right now, we're talking about something that they can just go  
47 do whatever, and the boat is away from the dock, but perhaps it  
48 might be more burdensome than not having to report, but it would

1 certainly kind of tie the loose end, if you will, of the agency  
2 knowing that the boat is not fishing and to have just a  
3 declaration that states, within this time period, I'm going to  
4 be engaged in, you know, activities with the boat, and it's  
5 going to be away from the dock, and it's not going to be  
6 associated with fishing.

7  
8 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Kevin, currently, that is an option, when you  
9 hail-out. You can do fishing trip with fishing effort, no  
10 fishing intended, or no -- I mean, there's three options that  
11 you can choose, and that is there now. The issue at-hand for  
12 these fishermen is every time they leave the dock to do  
13 something that's not fishing related, but, before I get into my  
14 ideas and thoughts, I am going to let Ms. Somerset continue,  
15 unless there's any more comments or questions at this time.  
16 Okay, Ms. Carly.

17  
18 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you. Bernie, could you go to the  
19 background and need, please? To Ms. Levy's point, I think, you  
20 know, if there is a better word, besides "exemption", I'm happy  
21 to modify this document to reflect that.

22  
23 For the purpose and need, I will just read this for the record,  
24 and then if there's any questions or modifications that the  
25 council wishes to make. The purpose of this action is to reduce  
26 the number of non-fishing trip declarations required to be  
27 submitted by Gulf reef fish and/or coastal-migratory-pelagic-  
28 permitted for-hire vessels while conducting on-the-water  
29 activities in a manner that maintains the data integrity of the  
30 for-hire electronic reporting program in the Gulf.

31  
32 The need for this action is to reduce the burden associated with  
33 submitting non-fishing trip declarations without negatively  
34 impacting data needed to manage these fisheries. I can pause  
35 here, if there's any questions or comments.

36  
37 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Seeing none, please proceed.

38  
39 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you. Bernie, if you could scroll down to  
40 the options. That's it, and if you could just scroll down a  
41 little. Great. Thank you. Within this section is, as Ms.  
42 Zamboni explained, and to Mr. Gill's question, we have three  
43 options, and they are -- They were discussed at the last council  
44 meeting, and that was to proceed with this abbreviated framework  
45 action, and so, Bernie, if you could scroll down a little more,  
46 and, essentially, we have laid out -- Option 1 is the exemption  
47 from the trip declaration requirement, and it would apply to  
48 non-fishing trips that are completed in sixty minutes or less.



1  
2 Option 2 is the exemption from the trip declaration requirement  
3 would apply to non-fishing trips that are completed in ninety  
4 minutes or less, and Option 3 is the exemption from the trip  
5 declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that  
6 are completed in 120 minutes or less, and so we currently have  
7 these three options, and, again, I just wanted to reiterate that  
8 this applies dock-to-dock, and this is not round trip, and so  
9 the sixty minutes would be leaving, you know, for example, a  
10 dock, and you can leave from other -- A berth or a seawall, but  
11 you would leave, and the time would start, and then it would end  
12 when you reach your destination, and then it would start again  
13 when you leave that slip, or wherever you are, and move back,  
14 and so it would either be a sixty-minute window, a ninety-minute  
15 or less window, or 120 minutes or less. I will pause there for  
16 any question or comments.

17  
18 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. I don't see any hands up, and so I've  
19 thought a lot about this, and a couple of thoughts that I have,  
20 and, of course, it would be the agency that would have to give  
21 some ideas, because the one hour -- The sixty, ninety, and 120  
22 minutes, as Andy pointed out, that's going to help some, and  
23 it's not going to help all, and you can't help everybody, but I  
24 do -- First, I have a question, and it would be for either Mara  
25 or Ms. Zamboni, and I will recognize you in just a moment, Mr.  
26 Williamson.

27  
28 The definition, Subsection 622.26, Record Keeping and Reporting,  
29 would we have to redefine what a trip is, because, based on the  
30 statute, a trip begins any time a vessel departs from a dock,  
31 berth, beach, seawall, or ramp and terminates with return to a  
32 dock, berth, beach, seawall, or ramp, regardless of the duration  
33 or purpose, including non-fishing activities, and so what  
34 happens with that definition if we do something different with  
35 this document?

36  
37 **MS. LEVY:** I can take it, and Kate can jump in if she wants, and  
38 so that's the definition that we used for this program. I think  
39 maybe it would be helpful, you know, when we were talking about  
40 this internally, before -- You know, when we presented these  
41 options to the council, we were kind of thinking about, well,  
42 how would we need to change the regulations to accomplish this,  
43 and it can be a fairly easy fix, right, and so, right now, the  
44 regulations say --

45  
46 They define the trip, like you indicated, and then they say,  
47 prior to departure for each trip, you have to do this  
48 declaration, right, and you could potentially say, prior to the

1 departure for each fishing trip, and each non-fishing trip in  
2 excess of sixty minutes, ninety minutes, whatever, you do this  
3 declaration, and so that means, if you're not going on a fishing  
4 trip, and you're going on a non-fishing trip that's less than  
5 the time we've said, then you don't do the declaration.

6  
7  
8 I don't think it's a complicated regulatory fix to do this type  
9 of thing, and, again, that doesn't envision anybody filling out  
10 a form or anything like that, and so I don't know if that's  
11 helpful to consider it in that way, when you're thinking about  
12 these various options, and I do see that Kate has her hand up.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Zamboni.

15  
16 **MS. ZAMBONI:** Thank you. I agree with Mara, and the only thing  
17 I would add is another potential regulatory way to implement  
18 this is you have another provision that says the requirement in  
19 Section 622.374 and 622.26 don't apply to non-fishing trips that  
20 are completed within the time period selected, and, again,  
21 that's just a self-effecting exemption that says that  
22 requirement doesn't apply.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Williamson.

25  
26 **MR. TROY WILLIAMSON:** Well, to carry out with Phil's comment, if  
27 you don't hail-out, and you come back in with a load of fish,  
28 what's the penalty there? It seems like everybody would --  
29 Common sense would tell them that they needed to hail-out,  
30 rather than go on a non-fishing trip and come back with fish.

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So the purpose of hailing-out is to notify law  
33 enforcement that you're essentially moving, and, if you don't  
34 hail-out, you may or may not get caught, if you've actually been  
35 on a fishing trip, because law enforcement wouldn't know that  
36 you were away from the dock. Andy.

37  
38 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I don't know where to start. Kind of the 90/10  
39 rule here, right, and there's going to be 90 percent of people  
40 that are going to be doing the right thing, right, and there's  
41 going to be a small fraction that maybe don't want to do the  
42 right thing, and, you know, we are trying to build a program, a  
43 better data system, and, in doing so, obviously, through  
44 implementation, we've added some burden to the industry that  
45 we're now looking at, and so I get back to the fact that there  
46 has to be a balance here between believing in that burden and  
47 making sure we maintain that data integrity, and so, if we just  
48 say, you know, you don't have to report if you're not going on a

1 fishing trip, well, that's a pretty substantial loophole,  
2 because now a lot of people might say they're not going on a  
3 fishing trip, and then it adds the enforcement burden, as well  
4 as the administrative burden, on the agency to track down and  
5 determine whether or not those in fact were non-fishing trips or  
6 fishing trips.

7  
8 To me, I think we have to strike that balance in figuring out  
9 kind of what's reasonable for them to report, what's maybe not  
10 necessary for them to report, in order to achieve that goal of  
11 improving the data collection system and ultimately having a  
12 system that we're going to be using to manage this fishery with.

13  
14 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill.

15  
16 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I think, as Andy has  
17 mentioned, the coverage of these potential options will not  
18 manifest themselves amongst everybody. You know, perfection is  
19 the enemy of good, and trying to find that sweet point -- I  
20 don't know that we have the real data for that, and what we do  
21 know is that some of the industry requested that we consider  
22 this, because of current regs, and I don't know that we know the  
23 extent of those that are for it and those that oppose it.

24  
25 **You know, J.D. asserted that the opposition was greater than the**  
26 **support, and that might be true, and I don't know that, and**  
27 **we've had a lot of discussion on this, and I'm not sure there's**  
28 **an answer that works for everybody, but, in order to focus the**  
29 **discussion a little bit, I move that we set Option 1 as the**  
30 **preferred option.**

31  
32 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. We have a motion. I will give Bernie a  
33 chance to get it up on board, and then we'll read it into the  
34 record. Is there a second for the motion?

35  
36 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I will second.

37  
38 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill, would you like to read your motion  
39 into the record, please?

40  
41 **MR. GILL:** Yes, Madam Chair. **The motion is to make Option 1 the**  
42 **preferred.**

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Option 1 is the exemption from the trip  
45 declaration requirement would apply to non-fishing trips that  
46 are completed in sixty minutes or less. Mr. Williamson.

47  
48 **MR. WILLIAMSON:** I would like to make a substitute motion.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes, sir.  
3  
4 **MR. WILLIAMSON:** That we make Option 3 the preferred.  
5  
6 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Is there a second? Mr. Dugas. Option 3 is the  
7 exemption from the trip declaration requirement would apply to  
8 non-fishing trips that are completed in 120 minutes or less.  
9 Any discussion? **Those in favor, please raise your hand; those**  
10 **opposed, please raise your hand. The motion passes five to**  
11 **three.** Ms. Somerset, do you have anything else? Ms. Somerset,  
12 one moment. Mr. Dugas.  
13  
14 **MR. DUGAS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I am not prepared to make  
15 another motion, but I would, maybe by Full Council, like to see  
16 another option in here that is open-ended, that's not  
17 constrained to a certain amount of minutes, but I'm not prepared  
18 now, but if someone would like to maybe speak outside, during  
19 the recess, to craft a motion, and I would like to add an  
20 option. Thank you.  
21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Dugas, we look forward to hearing from you  
23 on Thursday. Ms. Somerset.  
24  
25 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am, and so I was listening to J.D.'s  
26 comment, but there is still, I guess, other potential avenues to  
27 explore, if that's the council's will, or to move forward with  
28 this document as-is, with the preferred option, but just know  
29 that it could potentially -- That would impact the time that it  
30 would take to move this document forward, and so I just wanted  
31 to make that note, but, currently, I don't have anything else in  
32 the document, and I think we do have about -- I know we have  
33 some time after lunch as well for Data Collection, but we could  
34 go back to those other infographics, if you would like.  
35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Before we do that, and I know we don't have a  
37 SEFHIER update on our agenda, but, Dr. Masi or Dr. Stephen, do  
38 we know -- Or maybe, Andy, you could address this, or if there's  
39 law enforcement in the audience, but are we seeing a problem  
40 with this? Is there metrics to see if people are reporting or  
41 not reporting or if they're just disregarding that, hey, I'm  
42 going to the fuel dock to get fuel, and, I mean, is there  
43 anything that can justify that we're taking the time to do this  
44 and put, I guess, this burden on these fishermen? Mr.  
45 Strelcheck.  
46  
47 **MR. STRELCHECK:** I mean, I can't speak to the actual numbers.  
48 Jessica or Dr. Masi can speak to that. If you recall, this came

1 up during an advisory panel meeting, as an idea, and,  
2 originally, it was a geofence for, essentially, once you cross  
3 that boundary, you're having to report. We went back and looked  
4 at the regulations and thought this might be a more simplistic  
5 approach, which may not be the case here.

6  
7 While I have the microphone, I think there's a couple of things  
8 here. I think it's really important that we get feedback from  
9 constituents and the industry on this. We have heard a number  
10 of complaints about situations where people are having to do  
11 multiple hail-outs, moving to fuel docks, and they're frustrated  
12 that they have that burden, and so this is definitely a real  
13 issue.

14  
15 How widespread it is, it's hard to know, but I think, also, it's  
16 really important, with the motion that we just passed, to hear  
17 from law enforcement as well, and their perspective on this, and  
18 so, maybe at Full Council, when we brief on this report, we can  
19 have law enforcement talk to us as well about their thoughts and  
20 concerns. Thanks.

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, Ms. Somerset. Do you want to go back to  
23 your infographics?

24  
25 **MS. SOMERSET:** Yes, ma'am. I can do that. Bernie, could you  
26 pull up the presentation again, please? These are just two  
27 other preliminary drafts of some other scenarios that we thought  
28 of, as it pertains to the hail-outs, and so, again, if you're  
29 moving from the left, counterclockwise, and I think I got that  
30 right, and so this Scenario Number 2 would be a single hail-out  
31 that you would, you know, load passengers, and that would be --  
32 You would have to hail-out.

33  
34 Say, for example, you were going to get bait, and so you have  
35 your passengers onboard, and then you would get your bait, and  
36 then you would go fishing, and then you would return to the  
37 dock, and that fishing that you're doing for bait, because that  
38 is a fishing activity, you would have to include that on your  
39 report, but, essentially, getting back to the hail-out, this  
40 would be a single hail-out, because you are loading passengers  
41 before you are going on a fishing trip.

42  
43 Then I will do the third one, and then, if there's any  
44 questions, I can stop there, and so the third scenario would be,  
45 as opposed to single hail-out, it would be a double hail-out.  
46 Again, this is a preliminary draft, and, if we have feedback  
47 from the council or agency members, we're happy to include that  
48 and modify these, and so, essentially, here, you have a -- If

1 you were say a captain that's going to get bait before putting  
2 passengers onboard, then you would have your first hail-out for  
3 that -- We're calling it a bait trip, with no passengers, and so  
4 you would get your bait and then return to the dock.

5  
6 Your passengers are waiting, and so you load the passengers on  
7 your boat, and then, at that point, you would make a second  
8 hail-out for a fishing trip, and then, when you return to the  
9 dock, you would be reporting everything that was caught on that  
10 trip, not including the bait fish, because that was on the  
11 previous trip, and so, essentially, a look at three different  
12 scenarios of the number of hail-outs required, is what we were  
13 trying to get at, and so I will stop there for any questions.

14  
15 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Any questions for Ms. Somerset? Mr. Anson.

16  
17 **MR. ANSON:** Then, for the purposes of fishing, as it pertains to  
18 the regulation dealing with reporting, it's only fishing that is  
19 conducted, or completed, by people who pay to have access to the  
20 trip, and it's not fishing activities that occur with the crew?

21  
22 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, so that was going to be my question on  
23 Slide 3, or Scenario 3, and, I mean, if you're fishing, to me,  
24 it doesn't matter what you're fishing for. If you're bait  
25 fishing, you should be reporting your fishing, because they can  
26 say they were bait fishing, but maybe they were trolling for  
27 king and Spanish. I mean, I think, if you have a hook in the  
28 water, you should be reporting it.

29  
30 **MS. SOMERSET:** Right, and so that's a good question, and so  
31 fishing activity versus non-fishing, and so, you know, we were  
32 trying to get at how many hail-outs would be required, if it is  
33 fishing activity, and that does include -- For bait, then that  
34 does require a hail-out, and so I will speak on this generally,  
35 and, if Dr. Stephen or Dr. Masi have anything to add, or Ms.  
36 Levy, but, essentially, if you are going fishing, then you have  
37 to hail-out.

38  
39 Pertaining to bait, if you are going to a dock where the bait  
40 has already been caught, and you're buying it from say a bait  
41 shop, that is not considered fishing activity. If you were  
42 going out with a sabiki, or to check traps or something, that is  
43 fishing activity.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay, and I think I didn't understand that,  
46 with that slide, and so now I understand. Okay. Ms. Levy and  
47 then Mr. Dugas.

48

1 **MS. LEVY:** The hail-out thing, correct, in terms of what you're  
2 considering, right, and so, if it's fishing for bait or  
3 whatever, you would have to hail-out regardless, but I guess my  
4 point is just that the regulations don't require the submission  
5 of the logbook, right, with all of the fish caught during that  
6 trip, unless it's a for-hire trip, and so that's why you're  
7 seeing, on this scenario, that the logbook doesn't include the  
8 bait trip, because the bait trip was not a for-hire trip. You  
9 didn't have any passengers on it, and so there's no requirement  
10 to report that under this for-hire logbook reporting  
11 requirement.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Dugas.

14  
15 **MR. DUGAS:** Thank you. I think that's a good example of why  
16 this system is not going to work. You know, maybe we consider  
17 the nine-mile-line boundary. Once you cross that line, you're  
18 fishing, and, if you're inside of it, you're not fishing,  
19 whether it's bait or not. I mean, I can't speak for every state  
20 around the table, but I don't have a concern if a charterboat is  
21 catching cobia in the river in Venice. I mean, that's not a  
22 concern to me, and so maybe we draw a line somewhere.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** I am sitting here trying to figure out -- I am  
25 looking at the VESL app right now, and so, if I'm going bait  
26 fishing -- I guess, Mara, I don't understand, because, I mean,  
27 we have to select some kind of activity. Fishing trip with  
28 effort, no fishing intended, trip no effort, and so, if you're  
29 fishing for bait, you would still have to declare fishing trip  
30 with effort, and am I not correct, whether or not you have  
31 paying customers onboard, and, I mean, my understanding is, if  
32 you've got a line and a hook, line in the water, excuse me, and,  
33 if you're fun fishing with your family -- If that charter vessel  
34 is fishing, you have to -- You have to report.

35  
36 **MS. LEVY:** Well, the regulations say that you have to submit the  
37 electronic fishing report of all the fish harvested and  
38 discarded when you're operating as a charter vessel or headboat,  
39 and so actual logbook reporting requirement is for for-hire  
40 trips. You might be fishing, like with your family, right, but  
41 that's not a for-hire trip, and so you declare out like a  
42 private fishing trip or whatever, but you're not reporting it as  
43 a for-hire trip, in terms of the logbook.

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Dr. Sweetman.

46  
47 **DR. C.J. SWEETMAN:** Just a quick clarification question for me,  
48 and it's related to Scenario Number 2, the single hail-out, for

1 must report all fish caught, including bait fish, and I'm just  
2 wondering what level of specificity it's looking at, in terms of  
3 -- Are we looking down to the individual number of bait fish  
4 that are going to be reported here? I'm just trying to figure  
5 out how that plays in with the other scenarios. Thank you.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Somerset.

8

9 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe it is to an  
10 individual level, as far as, you know, the program would like to  
11 know essentially everything that you caught, and so that is my  
12 understanding. If Dr. Stephen -- If I'm incorrect, then I will  
13 look to Dr. Stephen or Dr. Masi to correct me, but I believe it  
14 is individual fish, the count.

15

16 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Anson.

17

18 **MR. ANSON:** Just for my two-cents here, having worked with the  
19 federal survey for some time, that's essentially what's being  
20 done right now with the APAIS dockside survey, is that they will  
21 try to get estimates down to the angler, including baitfish, to  
22 the extent that the fishermen can recall that they caught  
23 baitfish, and it's not a too exciting part of your day, but it  
24 is a necessary function if you want to catch big fish, but they  
25 certainly try to get down to that level and try to get estimates  
26 of those fish for the recreational survey.

27

28 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Stunz.

29

30 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** Thanks, Susan. I have a question, or a comment  
31 and kind of a question. The comment is kind of for Andy, and,  
32 as a scientist, I'm thinking about this, and depending on --  
33 It's obviously confusing, and, depending on if you hail-out,  
34 whether you're bait fishing or not, or getting fuel, and I'm  
35 wondering about what happens on the backend, when you have a  
36 scientist looking at this, and this has big implications,  
37 obviously, for effort calculations in that fishery, and is your  
38 office really going to be able to tease out that kind of  
39 information from this, when you're sitting in front of a bunch  
40 of data, and the trip has occurred, and it's like, well, I'm not  
41 sure if that's bait, and I'm not sure if they were really  
42 fishing, and that sort of thing, and I don't know, and it's just  
43 kind of a little bit of a word of caution, and I see a lot of  
44 issues with really interpreting what these trips mean, at the  
45 end of the day, when we're really trying to get what we're  
46 after, in terms of catch and effort data.

47

48 That's the comment, Andy, but, also, I didn't follow your



1 comment earlier about the geofence, and it seems, to me, that --  
2 You know, at least the way I kind of envisioned this, early on,  
3 was that, if you cleared some threshold, like J.D. is talking  
4 about, of nine miles, three miles, the jetties, whatever we  
5 decide, there would be some trigger. At that point, if you  
6 haven't hailed-out, and that vessel is out there, then you know  
7 that there is some problem, but is that -- Maybe I'm missing it,  
8 or is that not planned to occur?

9  
10 **MR. STRELCHECK:** May respond?

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes. Go ahead, Mr. Strelcheck.

13  
14 **MR. STRELCHECK:** To the two points, one, yes, we don't want lots  
15 of excess data that we're not going to use, right, and so we  
16 want to essentially be able to monitor, from start to finish, a  
17 fishing trip and ensure that there's a hail-out and a hail-in  
18 and a logbook that are associated with that fishing trip, right,  
19 to close the loop.

20  
21 Right now, obviously, we're getting a lot of hail-outs for boats  
22 that are just moving that aren't fishing, right, and so those  
23 are fairly obvious when you look at VMS data, in terms of what's  
24 happening, because it's inshore, nearshore, but we do,  
25 obviously, have the system of VMS that allows us to then look at  
26 a trip, and a boat went offshore, and it should have a  
27 corresponding logbook, because it said it was going to be  
28 fishing, and they did or didn't hail-out or hail-in, but they  
29 need to be reporting, right, and so we're working, obviously, to  
30 make sure that that loop can be maintained and then closed, in  
31 terms of making sure the system is reporting all logbooks.

32  
33 In terms of the geofence, I don't recall all of the discussion  
34 around it, and I think there was some complications, in terms of  
35 where you would define the boundary in certain areas of the  
36 Gulf, and keep in mind that's also a huge technological cost to  
37 the agency, right, and so we would have to figure out exactly  
38 how much that would cost, and we moved away from it, thinking  
39 that this could be a much more simplistic solution, just  
40 redefining what is a trip, and that would solve some of the  
41 concerns and problems, and that's the path we've gone down, and  
42 we haven't gone back and revisited the geofencing.

43  
44 **DR. STUNZ:** All right. Thanks, Andy.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. We're getting into our lunchbreak. Mr.  
47 Anson.

48

1 **MR. ANSON:** It is related to Dr. Stunz's question, Andy, and so,  
2 I guess, considering cost and staff time, resources to kind of  
3 look at this data as it's coming in -- I mean, you have -- You  
4 know, the dockside survey is a tool for validation, and I think  
5 that was mentioned at the beginning of this presentation, and so  
6 trying to then look ahead, if we were to implement a situation  
7 where there is an exemption just for any trip, as long as it's  
8 conducted within a sixty-minute, or 120-minute, as it stands  
9 right now, timeframe, and, I mean, trying to then reconcile  
10 those trips -- You would, obviously, look for that vessel, or  
11 compare if it had any dockside validations, potentially, and if  
12 there were some conflict there, and there will be some  
13 reconciliation, I guess, is my question, relative to any  
14 inconsistencies that you would find in trips being shown, or  
15 showing up, in the actual dockside landings portion of the  
16 SEFHIER program, relative to, you know, no report being -- I  
17 guess to try to get at that 10 percent, and is the 10 percent  
18 really 10 percent of those that don't want to, you know, report,  
19 or do all those things, but there is some cost for the agency to  
20 try to determine that and such, and I'm just trying to think of,  
21 you know, that cost, under the current motion, versus what I  
22 mentioned earlier about maybe just a single declaration that  
23 says we're taking the boat out, and there's going to be no  
24 fishing, and then whatever that time period is.

25  
26 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Anson, to your point, I mean, that is  
27 available now. You just hail-out, no fishing intended, and  
28 there is no more -- There is no additional requirement, and, I  
29 mean, that is already available.

30  
31 **MR. ANSON:** I guess I was going to the point of, right now, it's  
32 every dock-to-dock trip that you make has to have a declaration,  
33 and so, for the examples, the situations, that we're trying to  
34 account for now, where they're just going to get, you know, ice,  
35 or going to get gas at another dock, or bait at another dock,  
36 and that's three declarations, versus, if you can get that done  
37 in 120 minutes, you only have to do one, and it's one trip  
38 declaration that says I'm just not going fishing, and you just  
39 try to get it done within 120 minutes, and that's all.

40  
41 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Ms. Somerset.

42  
43 **MS. SOMERSET:** Thank you, and sorry to delay, but I believe Dr.  
44 Masi has her hand up, and she may have wanted to address the  
45 comment earlier about the bait.

46  
47 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you for drawing that to my attention.  
48 Dr. Masi.

1  
2 **DR. MICHELLE MASI:** Good afternoon. I just wanted to clear up  
3 one quick point that Carly made, and so, if you're out on a  
4 charter trip, and you have passengers onboard, and you're  
5 fishing, so you would need to submit a logbook if you caught  
6 bait species while you were out, and then you do need to report  
7 that. However, we realize that bait species -- That you would  
8 catch a ton at once, and so it's hard to count, and we don't  
9 require that you give an exact number for each species, but an  
10 estimate. Thank you.

11  
12 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Any other questions or comments for this  
13 document? Seeing none, Mr. Chair.

14  
15 **MR. DIAZ:** Thank you, Ms. Boggs. We're going to go ahead and  
16 break for lunch, and we're going to take our full hour-and-a-  
17 half, and we will resume at 1:45. Thanks.

18  
19 (Whereupon, the meeting recessed for lunch on August 22, 2022.)

20  
21 - - -

22  
23 August 22, 2022

24  
25 MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

26  
27 - - -

28  
29 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
30 Management Council reconvened at The Omni Hotel in Corpus  
31 Christi, Texas on Monday afternoon, August 22, 2022, and was  
32 called to order by Chairman Susan Boggs.

33  
34 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** The next item on our agenda is Agenda Item  
35 Number V, and, Dr. Hollensead, if you would like to take us  
36 through our Action Guide and Next Steps.

37  
38 **DRAFT OPTIONS ON JOINT AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE ELECTRONIC REPORTING**  
39 **FOR COMMERCIAL LOGBOOKS**

40  
41 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, ma'am. Continuing some discussions from  
42 the last meeting, today, the committee is going to look at a  
43 draft options joint amendment, and this amendment would require  
44 electronic reporting for the commercial coastal logbook program,  
45 and so that would encompass the Gulf reef fish and coastal  
46 migratory pelagic fisheries.

47  
48 Since the CMP fishery is cooperatively managed with the South  
49 Atlantic, a joint amendment is required, and so I will provide

1 an overview of the plan, to engage with various advisory panels,  
2 and we've got a draft of Chapter 1, and we've also got some -- A  
3 spreadsheet looking at some of the data elements, and as well as  
4 a presentation, and so, if there's no other questions with that,  
5 I will get started on the presentation.

6

7 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Please proceed.

8

9 **DR. HOLLENSHAD:** Okay. Bernie, if you wouldn't mind pulling up  
10 that presentation for me, please. A little bit of background.  
11 The commercial coastal logbook program collects commercial data  
12 from the commercial vessels in the Gulf of Mexico, and also  
13 throughout the Atlantic, and so it goes all the way up through  
14 Maine, and so it's a pretty big program.

15

16 Commercial fishermen holding a Gulf reef fish or coastal  
17 migratory pelagic permit are required to fill out this coastal  
18 paper logbook within seven days of completing their fishing  
19 trip, and then they physically mail that logbook into the  
20 Southeast Fisheries Science Center as well as a subset, 20  
21 percent, of those program participants are selected by the  
22 Science Center, and they also fill out an economic or discard  
23 survey, and they have to do that for a year. Otherwise, it's  
24 voluntary, but, if you are selected, it must be mandatory, and  
25 this is mailed out to the participants separately, and, again,  
26 it is mandatory if selected.

27

28 The Southeast Fisheries Science Center is transitioning into an  
29 electronic reporting format, rather than continuing the current  
30 paper logbook submissions through the mail, and, actually, the  
31 Gulf Council passed a motion to begin work on this in February  
32 of 2013, and so that was a while ago.

33

34 The Science Center has proposed moving towards that electronic  
35 platform. At the moment, it's looking to be within -- They have  
36 recommended in cooperation with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative  
37 Statistics Program, or ACCSP, and doing that through eTRIPS, and  
38 so that's currently the platform that has been proposed.

39

40 We gave a couple of presentations to our Reef Fish AP and CMP  
41 APs on this subject, and we had representatives from the Science  
42 Center sort of field questions and go through those  
43 presentations, and, from those APs, there was some support for  
44 moving towards an electronic platform. However, if there is any  
45 transition towards any more high-precision-level reporting, such  
46 as set level, it was suggested by the AP that they instead hold  
47 some workshops before any of those sorts of things are  
48 integrated, but, for now, taking the coastal logbook from paper

1 to electronic is supported by those APs.

2  
3 As I mentioned a little earlier, this needs to be a joint  
4 document with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and  
5 so the South Atlantic covers the Snapper Grouper, Dolphin Wahoo,  
6 and then, cooperatively, the CMP, FMPs. The Coastal Migratory  
7 Pelagic FMP is jointly managed, and so that's why we have to  
8 have a joint document. At its June 2022 meeting, the South  
9 Atlantic Fishery Management Council made a motion to work  
10 cooperatively with the Gulf to implement this electronic  
11 submission.

12  
13 However, the South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo FMP does not have a  
14 consideration for using an abbreviated document, and I know we  
15 had talked about that at the last meeting, since this is largely  
16 an administrative change, that it could be an abbreviated  
17 document, but, because the Dolphin Wahoo FMP does not have any  
18 considerations for abbreviated documentation within its  
19 framework procedures, this must be an amendment.

20  
21 It doesn't necessarily put too much of a hitch in our get-along,  
22 but it's just that we're going to have to have a couple more  
23 sections for considering in that document, and the NEPA  
24 requirements would still probably be a CE, or a categorical  
25 exclusion, and I just wanted to let you all know that this will  
26 be an amendment, because then it would satisfy the needs for all  
27 of the considered FMPs.

28  
29 Like I said, we began sort of drafting the document, but one  
30 thing that the IPT has gone through, and sort of got an initial  
31 draft of, is the purpose and need, and so the purpose is to  
32 modify reporting for commercial fishing vessels issued South  
33 Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico permits and currently reporting  
34 through the Southeast Coastal Logbook Program, and they're all  
35 listed there. Then to require that the reports be submitted  
36 electronically.

37  
38 The need is to improve the timelines and efficiency of the  
39 commercial logbook data collection and management program, which  
40 will improve monitoring and compliance of the federally-  
41 permitted commercial vessels participating in the Southeast  
42 Coastal Logbook Program. Are there any questions on the purpose  
43 and need for this action, before I move forward?

44  
45 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Does anyone have any questions? All right, Dr.  
46 Hollensead. Please go ahead.

47  
48 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Okay, and so, again, this document would look

1 to move from the paper form to the electronic, and on the left  
2 is an image of the current paper logbook form, and on the right  
3 is how that might be translated electronically, through some  
4 sort of sort of software platform.

5  
6 As I have mentioned, the Science Center has proposed using  
7 ACCSP's database, as well as their eTRIPS software program. In  
8 order for the current paper logbook to be compatible with that  
9 database, there are a few data fields that are to be added.

10  
11 The voluntary portions of the commercial electronic program, the  
12 economic and discard surveys, also have a little tweaking. The  
13 economic survey is going to have some additional data fields, to  
14 be compatible with ACCSP, and discards, if you're selected for  
15 that survey, will be reported when completing the commercial  
16 logbook, and so you'll report those as discards. Those two  
17 surveys would still remain voluntary, unless the participant has  
18 been selected.

19  
20 Going into a little bit of why -- What's up with these new data  
21 fields, and so, if I understand it, and I believe actually Geoff  
22 White is on the call, and he's from ACCSP, and he can help me  
23 here, but my understanding is that ACCSP has a standardized  
24 database. As I mentioned, the Coastal Logbook Program goes all  
25 the way up through the Gulf and the Atlantic seaboard, and so  
26 it's a lot of participants, and so, in terms of standardizing  
27 your datasets, you would want to have standardized data fields.

28  
29 They can sort of manipulate what's already existing in the paper  
30 logbooks, but adding a couple of the fields would allow that  
31 electronic submission to talk with its existing database, is  
32 basically -- Now, some of those added data fields are just  
33 various waivers of questions that are already being asked, and I  
34 do have a spreadsheet, in the background material, and we can  
35 walk through that, what those actually are, to give you an  
36 example of what they are.

37  
38 As well as a list of questions that the IPT has for NMFS staff,  
39 when we were sort of working through this, and that's also  
40 available in the background. Certainly, if you all have any  
41 other questions -- We've also got Dr. Julie Brown and Ray  
42 Murdock. They are online as well, to answer any questions that  
43 you might have about the program that weren't included in that  
44 list, or anything else that the committee may think of, but,  
45 Geoff, I'm going to put you a little bit on the spot. If you're  
46 available to speak, to answer sort of this initial question of  
47 why are these data fields a little different for the ACCSP  
48 database as they are from the paper coastal logbook.

1  
2 **MR. GEOFF WHITE:** Thanks for raising this in the presentation,  
3 and I appreciate the opportunity to speak here. Essentially,  
4 because there are multiple reporting platforms, and eTRIPS was  
5 developed, over the last ten years, to meet federal fishery  
6 needs in commercial reporting, as well as for-hire reporting, as  
7 well as state requirements, it's been built as a committee  
8 process, and with common fields and data elements, with some  
9 ability to extend into additional data fields, but changing the  
10 way that we built the system, without working through the  
11 committee process, is kind of like taking away something that  
12 we've built for folks, and they've been using for years, and so  
13 we do need to kind of take it as a group partner approach and  
14 not have the software tailored to any particular agency or FMP  
15 regulation approach.

16  
17 It was built to be comprehensive and cover all the ACCSP  
18 standards, as well as the flexibility for various partner needs,  
19 and there is a fair amount of customization that can be done,  
20 almost on the fly, but it can be done very quickly, without any  
21 programming, and so I think that's the starting point.

22  
23 A lot of our committee process, when we want to add a field, or  
24 make sure that we're collecting the same data, goes the Standard  
25 Codes Committee, even things as detailed as adding a particular  
26 code for an existing field, making sure that those types of  
27 items are not duplicated, but it is built for a variety of  
28 partners, and, therefore, it isn't kind of recast as each  
29 regulation, or each fishery's particular requirements, and it's  
30 probably 99 percent standardized across, and is that enough, or  
31 do you have other questions?

32  
33 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Does anyone have any questions for Geoff? All  
34 right. Seeing none -- Excuse me. Dale.

35  
36 **MR. DIAZ:** I don't know if I've got a question, but I've got a  
37 comment, and so, when we started this presentation, what I was  
38 kind of thinking in my mind is, you know, this might be an  
39 opportunity to streamline stuff, to maybe make sure we only are  
40 collecting the data we need.

41  
42 Having been around data collection programs for a long time, I  
43 hate to look at a data collection program and look at data that  
44 you've been collecting that you haven't used, and we're going to  
45 need a lot of buy-in on this. A lot of people is going to have  
46 to use this, and so, I mean, we want to try to build it where we  
47 can get buy-in, and so I hear us talk about adding fields, and I  
48 don't know if that means we're going to collect additional data,

1 or exactly what that means, but I would urge us to just look at  
2 what we need and make sure we only collect what we need, and try  
3 to make the burden on the industry as light as we can, and try  
4 to get as much buy-in as we can and not try to expand it into  
5 something that's unwieldy, where we can't get buy-in.

6  
7 I think the charter boat system is kind of an example of that,  
8 and we built a Cadillac, and we sent it out there, and we're  
9 having a hard time getting acceptance in the industry with it,  
10 and, you know, I just -- I don't want to repeat that here.  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Hollensead.

14  
15 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Madam Chair, maybe this would be a good time to  
16 open that spreadsheet that's got the data fields in it, so that  
17 you can get an idea of what is being modified.

18  
19 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Hollensead, while we're opening that data  
20 fields, and I'll recognize you in just a moment, Mr. Gill, and,  
21 to Dale's point, and my understanding, and I read the documents  
22 and the minutes from the last meeting, and re-read it, because  
23 it says, basically, what's on that form is what's going to be  
24 reported, and nothing else, and, talking about the buy-in,  
25 talking to the commercial industry, as long as you stick to  
26 that, they don't have a problem with it, because they're tired  
27 of filling out the papers and sending them in, and it's time-  
28 consuming, and it's just not practical, in this day and age, and  
29 I think, as long as we stick to that sheet, and nothing else --  
30 Now, down the road, later, if we feel like there is something  
31 else that needs to come along, we'll fight that battle then, but  
32 I think right now, like you said, Dale, to get the buy-in, we  
33 stick with what we've got. Mr. Gill.

34  
35 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so, to Dale's point, I  
36 don't know what the rollout plan for this program is, but, to  
37 help address the points that Dale makes, I would hope that it  
38 would include a pilot program that allows some realistic testing  
39 that would identify those issues from the user groups, and I  
40 think that's an important factor to minimize the disruption, but  
41 help with that stakeholder buy-in.

42  
43 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, correct me if I'm wrong, Dr. Porch, but  
44 was there not some kind of a pilot, at some point, for this, and  
45 we're just waiting to see the report to come out of that?

46  
47 **DR. CLAY PORCH:** Yes, there was, and I would emphasize that some  
48 of these questions are necessary for us to use the system with



1 ACCSP. Otherwise, you're not going to be able to fill out the  
2 form, but I think we could defer to Dr. Brown to give you some  
3 more detail.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Mr. Gill, and then, Dr. Hollensead,  
6 we'll go through your spreadsheet.

7  
8 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and I was going to mention  
9 that separately, but, since you brought it up, the previous  
10 pilot, which was, what, 2015, or thereabouts, and the final  
11 report yet remains not available, and it seems, to me, that we  
12 went through that effort, and we spent the time, and we spent  
13 the resources, and we know nothing about the results. We don't  
14 know what it found good and was bad, and, seven years later, I  
15 suspect that a bunch of it might be out-of-date and no longer  
16 germane.

17  
18 This, and I will be as diplomatic as I can, unusual delay  
19 basically cuts out part of the purpose of doing that pilot, and  
20 so, A, I think it's a necessary ingredient for this program,  
21 going forward, that we don't have that I think it's incumbent on  
22 the agency to get it, to help us shape this program, with  
23 whatever knowledge we can glean, given its outdated nature, to  
24 make this one better.

25  
26 The follow-up on that is so, if you are going forward with a  
27 pilot program, which, again, I would strongly recommend, I sure  
28 hope that that report will be timely and useable to help us put  
29 this together and get it into implementation, because the  
30 program is, inherently, I think a good one, and I support it,  
31 but, you know, missing some of the ingredients, and it's very  
32 difficult for me to understand a rationale that makes any sense,  
33 and I conclude that maybe it isn't a priority with the agency.

34  
35 You know, the report can't be that difficult, and so I wish  
36 that, A, we had the report, before we vote on this program in  
37 its entirety, and I'm not sure when that's going to be, but I'm  
38 not sure that we're going to have the report at any time  
39 certain, and then, finally, if we do that pilot program for the  
40 current status, that the agency does better in getting the  
41 results out, so we can use them as part of the decision-making.  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Porch.

45  
46 **DR. PORCH:** Thank you, and so the report is available, and it  
47 was published as a technical memorandum, and I will send the  
48 link onto council staff, so they can make it available to you.

1  
2 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Dr. Porch. Dr. Hollensead.  
3  
4 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** This form, and I will just sort of walk you  
5 through the layout of the spreadsheet, and, if you have any real  
6 specific questions, I might defer those to Julie or Geoff, but,  
7 in that far-left column, you will have what the logbook data  
8 field is, and so the name of that.

9  
10 Column B is going to show what was currently being used, and  
11 that will be in the white cells, and then the green is the  
12 addition, and so you will see, for example, that first sort of  
13 block of additions, or a similar flavor of what's been asked,  
14 when the trip starts, the date and the time, and those sorts of  
15 things, and, if you're familiar, I think, with the SEFHIER  
16 program, that might look a little familiar to you.

17  
18 Column C denotes that -- You know, it basically reiterates  
19 what's being seen in the green, in case some folks have trouble  
20 seeing that, but that is an added data field. Then the next  
21 column gives a little bit of a description of what that is,  
22 Column D, and so it just talks a little bit about what that is  
23 and what that would entail, so you can maybe get a little idea  
24 of perhaps how long it would take to fill out that data field,  
25 or that sort of thing, and then the entry type is just what kind  
26 of category that would be for the database, if it's numerical or  
27 a character or something like that.

28  
29 Then, Bernie, if you wouldn't mind scrolling down, that top part  
30 that I have just highlighted as the coastal logbook, and, as  
31 Bernie scrolls down, Row 41 begins the economic survey, and so,  
32 again, it's following the same format as above, with the titles  
33 and the columns and those things, but this would be specific to  
34 the economic survey, and, again, that is one that is mandatory,  
35 if selected, but then otherwise voluntary, and so, again, if  
36 anybody has any questions about the specific fields, I might  
37 defer those to Dr. Brown and Geoff, but that's how to interpret  
38 the sheet.

39  
40 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Does anybody have any questions for Dr. Brown?  
41 So, I don't know that this would be a question to Dr. Brown,  
42 but, as kind of my point back to Dale, as long as we're  
43 emulating what we currently have, which is not what we're doing  
44 here, are we intending, in the Gulf, to take this to our APs and  
45 to ask them -- Because, again, like with the SEFHIER program --  
46 The charter fishermen, they wanted data collection, and they  
47 didn't ask for all that other stuff that came with it, and I see  
48 that here we're going down this path with commercial fishermen,

1 and that's where we get bogged down.

2  
3 We start adding stuff that wasn't there, and I really hate to  
4 see us go down this road, because I think we're going to get  
5 bogged down, but Dr. Sweetman and then Mr. White.

6  
7 **DR. SWEETMAN:** Thank you, Madam Chair. A quick question. I am  
8 curious about the possibility of potentially adding like a  
9 depredation question to this field, to try and get at the  
10 frequency for which this is occurring in some of these  
11 fisheries, and we, obviously, hear about this all the time, at  
12 the council level, and here in Florida, mostly anecdotally, and  
13 so I'm just wondering if this is a possibility, to add this into  
14 this commercial reporting logbook, to try and get some more  
15 information that we can actually use for management. Thank you.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. White.

18  
19 **MR. WHITE:** Thank you, Madam Chair. A couple of points on this.  
20 Number one, I wanted to point out that the ACCSP is part of the  
21 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and this software  
22 has actually already been developed and is functional. We've  
23 been working in partnership with the Southeast Fisheries Science  
24 Center, for quite some time, to make the technology available.

25  
26 One of the benefits is for multi-permitted fishermen, and so the  
27 intent is, if you've got a commercial permit between the Gulf  
28 and the South Atlantic, or possibly even through GARFO, there is  
29 a number of vessels that have that situation, and they could use  
30 one report to report to satisfy all of those federal permits,  
31 whether they were commercial or for-hire trips, and so that's  
32 kind of built into the system already.

33  
34 Many of these fields, while the users will see there is maybe a  
35 longer list, many of them are based on favorites, and so there's  
36 kind of a user-defined short list of items, and so, instead of  
37 selecting that vessel out of a really long list, you're  
38 selecting the vessel out of the one, two, or three that you use  
39 all the time, and so those are just some usability items.

40  
41 In terms of the flexibility of the system to add questions such  
42 as depredation, there is the ability to add optional questions  
43 that are not mandatory, and that is based on the desire of the  
44 partner agencies, and so partner-specific questions can be  
45 added, and they can be optional, from a technology standpoint,  
46 but, again, we build the software to meet the requirements of  
47 the partners, and so certainly ACCSP can's just add a question  
48 without the partners being part of that process, and so thank

1 you for your time.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Gill.

4

5 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so, on the spreadsheet,  
6 and I guess this question goes to Lisa, Item 49 has no  
7 explanation, but what, pray tell, is a light cost?

8

9 **DR. HOLLENSHAD:** I believe that is the cost for the light sticks  
10 on a longline, but I would let Dr. Brown -- But I believe that's  
11 what that is.

12

13 **MR. GILL:** I was thinking light bulbs, or energy to power them.

14

15 **DR. HOLLENSHAD:** Well, yes, and I don't necessarily want to make  
16 any assumptions, and I think we all know that little detail, and  
17 so, Dr. Brown, if you would like to comment on that.

18

19 **DR. JULIE BROWN:** Yes, that is indeed the cost of light sticks  
20 that were used, and that's a perfect example of something that  
21 is not required if you don't use light sticks, and there is a  
22 lot of instances, on this spreadsheet, where we have basically  
23 merged the HMS logbook, which is also managed by the Southeast  
24 Fisheries Science Center, with the coastal commercial logbook,  
25 and, if the question doesn't apply to you, you don't answer it.

26

27 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Dr. Brown. Dr. Hollenshad, can you  
28 scroll back toward the top of the spreadsheet, please, ma'am? I  
29 am only looking to try to get a feel of some of the additional  
30 questions that are being asked, but, again, I caution -- So here  
31 we go, and we've added these, and now can we add shark  
32 depredation, and can we add this, and can we add that, and this  
33 is where this council gets in trouble, is we start saying, well,  
34 while we're doing this, let's do this, this, and this, and then  
35 you start losing industry support, and so I don't know what  
36 action we need to take today, but that might be a problem, and I  
37 would certainly like to hear from the APs before we do anything  
38 else at this council. Mr. Gill.

39

40 **MR. GILL:** Thank you, Madam Chair, and so that brings up a point  
41 that I think is also important, that I hope is a no-brainer and  
42 part of the thinking and the rollout, and that is there an  
43 extensive outreach program to minimize the lack of  
44 understanding, et cetera, and enhancing, if you will, the  
45 stakeholder buy-in and not just pop it out there. We don't have  
46 a good track record, recently, of new program introduction, and  
47 I would hope that the thinking here is there's going to be a  
48 significant outreach effort to bring all the stakeholders

1 aboard. Thank you.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Mr. Anson.

4

5 **MR. ANSON:** I don't know, and maybe Dr. Brown can answer this  
6 question, but, regarding your comment, Dr. Brown, about some of  
7 these fields are kind of self-selected, if you will, or,  
8 depending upon the response of the fishermen, they may not need  
9 to provide information, and so is that -- Are these electronic  
10 logbooks kind of set up, or intuitive enough, to know that, if  
11 you select a certain species, or a certain gear, that it will  
12 then bring up those data fields that only pertain to that gear,  
13 so the fisherman doesn't have to kind of skip through, you know,  
14 blank, or empty, fields, or fields they wouldn't be filling out?  
15 Then I have another question.

16

17 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Brown, to that point?

18

19 **DR. BROWN:** Yes, you're absolutely right, and so some of these  
20 questions are gear-specific. If you're using a gillnet, then  
21 you answer the mesh size, but, if you're fishing with hook-and-  
22 line, you're not even going to see the mesh size question, and,  
23 as for some of these other highlighted fields, I should point  
24 out that we really just have one question that is replacing  
25 another question that was on the paper logbook, and so, for  
26 example, end port isn't really a new question, and that's just  
27 going to be replacing the county of landing, and so I would say  
28 that that's not really a new field. The same thing with trip  
29 end time and date, and that's really just replacing us asking  
30 you how many days you were at-sea. Start port, the same thing.  
31 Any other questions?

32

33 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Just quickly to that point, so I don't know if  
34 we can shade that yellow, so that we know that it's not a really  
35 a new field, because, I mean, it kind of puts it in context  
36 that, okay, we're changing what it -- It was this, and now it's  
37 this, and it's not actually a new field. Dr. Hollensead.

38

39 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Yes, ma'am. We can go through and say what's  
40 being added, and we could do a different color, to modify it,  
41 but, yes, we can do that.

42

43 **DR. BROWN:** Some of these questions too, to get to Geoff's point  
44 earlier, are -- They're new because we're trying to accommodate  
45 people who have multiple permits, and so, for instance, trip  
46 type -- We need you to tell us whether you are commercial or  
47 recreational fishing on that particular trip, because some  
48 vessels have both types of permits, and, in order for the

1 software to show you the correct questions, subsequently, we  
2 just need you to tell us whether you're commercial or  
3 recreational fishing.

4  
5 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Dr. Brown, and, to that point, if we  
6 -- Like I said, if we kind of knew what's being modified, versus  
7 what's being added, because if half of -- If 95 percent of these  
8 are modified, then I'm like, okay, you're adding one field, and  
9 no big deal. Mr. Anson.

10  
11 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a second question,  
12 just kind of taking off of what Mr. Gill had mentioned about  
13 doing kind of an inventory of information that is collected and  
14 whether or not it's used or not, or the veracity of the data,  
15 and, on this one slide here, that is in the presentation, it  
16 talks about the discards will be reported, when completing the  
17 commercial logbook, on a voluntary or selected -- Unless  
18 selected, and I'm just wondering, and I thought that we have  
19 heard, at a previous presentation, a few meetings ago, that any  
20 of that discard information was not very useful, or helpful, or  
21 really representative, and I'm just wondering if that is the  
22 case elsewhere, or is just specific to the Gulf, or what.

23  
24 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Porch.

25  
26 **DR. PORCH:** One, just a reminder that it would be same sub-  
27 selection, that 20 percent, that would actually have that, and  
28 so it's not that everybody is going to have to report it, and  
29 it's still useful at that point. Eventually, especially if we  
30 had enhanced observer coverage, then probably it would be  
31 somewhat redundant, and we could stop collecting that  
32 information. This plan doesn't quite recommend that, but,  
33 ultimately, especially if we can increase observer coverage,  
34 then I would like to discontinue that.

35  
36 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Hollensead, is there any -- Excuse me. Mr.  
37 Strelcheck.

38  
39 **MR. STRELCHECK:** You forgot about me, Susan. One, I think,  
40 point I would like to make, and so we're talking, to me, fairly  
41 in the weeds here, in terms of the details and the specifics of  
42 what is on the logbook form. Pulling us back out of that, keep  
43 in mind that, yes, if we go with this, and there is more data  
44 fields, that's an increased burden, but I would venture to guess  
45 that this is actually going to be a significant decreased  
46 burden, in the long run, in terms of timeliness to enter the  
47 data, and you're not going to have to mail the logbooks in, and  
48 the Science Center won't have to return them, if there's errors,

1 and so there's going to be a number of efficiencies, just on the  
2 fishermen's standpoint, let alone the agency's standpoint, and  
3 we'll benefit, obviously, from more timely entry of that data  
4 into the system.

5  
6 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Thank you for that, Mr. Strelcheck, and I  
7 understand what you're saying. It's just the conversation we  
8 had before lunch, and we're bogged down in do you hail-out for  
9 this, and do you not hail-out for that, and I just don't want us  
10 to get there with this, and, like I said, I think, once we see  
11 what's been modified, versus what's been added, that's going to  
12 be painting a whole different picture here, because, I mean,  
13 when you tell me that this was this, and that was that, okay,  
14 we're still reporting the same information, and you just changed  
15 the header for it. Any other questions or comments? Dr.  
16 Hollensead.

17  
18 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** I have one last slide, if we're ready for that.

19  
20 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes, ma'am.

21  
22 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Okay, and so this last slide is just talking a  
23 little bit about the next steps. Again, I've got a really rough  
24 draft of Chapter 1 in the briefing book, and that's still being  
25 developed, and I certainly appreciate the committee's reviewing  
26 at least the purpose and need, as the IPT had worked through  
27 that, and so I appreciate that review.

28  
29 Then to also let you know that the South Atlantic Council meets  
30 September 12 through 17, and they will be looking at some of the  
31 similar information, and so I'm curious to see what their report  
32 is, from viewing some of this as well, and then, Madam Chair, as  
33 you had mentioned, we are looking to convene the Reef Fish and  
34 CMP APs in the fall of this year, to get their feedback on some  
35 of this information, and certainly, like you had mentioned --

36  
37 I think some of the question I've heard around the committee  
38 table of what are these fields exactly doing, and is it that  
39 much different from what I've been doing in the past, and maybe  
40 some folks are kind of sick of mailing envelopes, or whatever  
41 the case might be, but they would give us some good feedback  
42 that we could then report back to the committee, so you could be  
43 informed as we continue discussing and developing the document,  
44 and that's all I had.

45  
46 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** So would there be a way, and I'm not looking at  
47 it, and so I'm not going to get this right, but the Reef Fish  
48 and the -- Because I am thinking about snapper grouper and

1 tilefish IFQs, because, I mean, that's your commercial  
2 fishermen, and I understand you've got dual-permitted, but, to  
3 get to the crux of your commercial fishermen, can we -- I mean,  
4 it seems like we would need to convene those four committees, or  
5 -- Do you understand what I'm saying, because this is a  
6 commercial issue, and, yes, I know we have some dual-permitted  
7 vessels that would be on these other APs, probably, but I am  
8 just wondering -- Are we missing the group that we really need  
9 to be asking about this? Any feedback or thoughts?

10  
11 **DR. HOLLENSHAD:** I am just talking with council staff, and we  
12 had perhaps talked about getting together the IFQ AP, and I  
13 guess potentially Data Collection as well, and those are the  
14 ones, off the top of my head, but certainly I think we're  
15 working towards scheduling the Reef Fish and the CMP.

16  
17 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Well, I know that's a lot to ask, and, if it's  
18 just this one item, you know, maybe we use our virtual setting  
19 to do something like that, but I think it's important, because,  
20 I mean, this is a commercial issue, and I think we really need  
21 to get the feedback from the commercial fishermen. Any other  
22 questions or comments? Dr. Simmons.

23  
24 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just had  
25 a general question, I believe about the approved software, and  
26 it looks like VESL is what has been approved for this program,  
27 or eTRIPS. Sorry, and so is there a plan to approve more  
28 software programs, moving forward, as this is developed?

29  
30 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Dr. Brown.

31  
32 **DR. BROWN:** Sorry. I was stuck on mute, and could you repeat  
33 that question again?

34  
35 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Okay. Go ahead.

36  
37 **DR. BROWN:** What was the question?

38  
39 **DR. HOLLENSHAD:** Hi, Julie. The question was that eTRIPS is  
40 being suggested by the Science Center as a platform to use, and  
41 do you know of any other software that is in the process of  
42 being, you know, proposed?

43  
44 **DR. BROWN:** Yes, and the VESL, the Bluefin company, is trying to  
45 develop software that would also be compatible, but they still  
46 need to go through the ACCSP database, and so they still need to  
47 have all of the required fields that will play nice with the  
48 other partners that are involved in the ACCSP database, if that



1 makes sense.

2

3 **CHAIRMAN BOGGS:** Yes. Thank you, Dr. Brown. Are there any  
4 other questions relating to this issue? Seeing none, that take  
5 us to Other Business. Does anyone have any other business to  
6 come before the Data Collection Committee? Seeing none, I will  
7 adjourn the Data Collection Committee.

8

9 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on August 22, 2022.)

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