

1 GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

2
3 DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE

4
5 Perdido Beach Resort Orange Beach, Alabama

6
7 January 28, 2019

8
9 **VOTING MEMBERS**

- 10 Greg Stunz.....Texas
- 11 Kevin Anson (designee for Scott Bannon).....Alabama
- 12 Susan Boggs.....Alabama
- 13 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
- 14 Dave Donaldson.....GSMFC
- 15 Martha Guyas (designee for Jessica McCawley).....Florida
- 16 Paul Mickle (designee for Joe Spraggins).....Mississippi
- 17 John Sanchez.....Florida
- 18 Chris Schieble (designee for Patrick Banks).....Louisiana
- 19 Ed Swindell.....Louisiana

20
21 **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

- 22 Leann Bosarge.....Mississippi
- 23 Doug Boyd.....Texas
- 24 Dale Diaz.....Mississippi
- 25 Jonathan Dugas.....Louisiana
- 26 Phil Dyskow.....Florida
- 27 Tom Frazer.....Florida
- 28 Robin Riechers.....Texas
- 29 Bob Shipp.....Alabama

30
31 **STAFF**

- 32 Assane Diagne.....Economist
- 33 Matt Freeman.....Economist
- 34 John Froeschke.....Deputy Director
- 35 Morgan Kilgour.....Fishery Biologist
- 36 Mara Levy.....NOAA General Counsel
- 37 Emily Muehlstein.....Public Information Officer
- 38 Ryan Rindone.....Fishery Biologist & SEDAR Liaison
- 39 Bernadine Roy.....Office Manager
- 40 Camilla Shireman.....Administrative and Communications Assistant
- 41 Carrie Simmons.....Executive Director

42
43 **OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

- 44 Darryl Boudreau.....Milton, FL
- 45 Ryan Bradley.....MS Commercial Fisheries United, MS
- 46 J.P. Brooker.....Ocean Conservancy, St. Petersburg, FL
- 47 James Bruce.....Magnolia, MS
- 48 Nikki Burch.....Magnolia, MS

1 Ron Chicola.....Ruston, LA
2 Bubba Cochrane.....Galveston, TX
3 Mike Colby.....Clearwater Marine Association, FL
4 Chris Conklin.....SAFMC
5 Traci Floyd.....MDMR, MS
6 Troy Frady.....AL
7 Johnny Greene.....AL
8 Ken Haddad.....ASA, FL
9 Bill Kelly.....FKCFA, FL
10 Laura Picariello.....

11
12
13

- - -

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1
2
3 Table of Contents.....3
4
5 Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes.....4
6
7 Action Guide and Next Steps.....4
8
9 SEFHIER Implementation Update.....6
10 SEFHIER Outreach Meeting Schedule.....6
11
12 Adjournment.....12
13
14 - - -
15
16

1 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened at the Perdido Beach Resort, Orange
3 Beach, Alabama, Monday morning, January 28, 2019, and was called
4 to order by Chairman Greg Stunz.

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

10 **CHAIRMAN GREG STUNZ:** I would like to call the order the Data
11 Collection Committee. The members of that committee are me as
12 the Chair, Mr. Anson as Vice Chair, Mr. Schieble, Ms. Boggs, Dr.
13 Crabtree, Mr. Donaldson, Ms. Guyas, Mr. Sanchez, Dr. Mickle, and
14 Mr. Swindell, and all of those are present.

15
16 The first, if you're following along, is, on Tab F, we have a
17 little bit of a light agenda today, as the shutdown is
18 preventing Mr. Strelcheck from talking about the unique trip
19 identifiers that we have been talking about for a meeting or so,
20 and so, with that, our first item of business is a motion to
21 approve the agenda. Has everyone had a chance to look at the
22 agenda and if there is any changes? Not seeing any changes --
23 Did you have a change, Kevin? Go ahead.

24
25 **MR. KEVIN ANSON:** Not so much a change, but just a question. I
26 know, with the shutdown and everything, obviously it prevented
27 Andy and others from attending the meeting, but is there any
28 need to make sure this gets done during this meeting, and can
29 Andy present remotely the presentation, or -- I mean, is it not
30 that important and where it can wait until the next meeting?

31
32 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Well, I might defer to our Chair and staff
33 about the timing on that. I'm not real sure.

34
35 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Kevin, I think we don't have a presentation,
36 just because of the shutdown. There wasn't an opportunity to
37 prepare one, and so I think, out of necessity, we'll have to
38 defer that.

39
40 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Donaldson.

41
42 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** Kevin, this has been an ongoing issue. I
43 mean, when you were still on the FIN Committee, we were talking
44 about this, and it's something that Andy and I and others have
45 talked about, but, without the presentation, I don't know that
46 we can really move forward, and, while there is some people that
47 think that we should have addressed it yesterday, I think
48 waiting until April is probably the best approach.

1
2 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Chairman.
3
4 **DR. FRAZER:** Just to clarify, we'll make sure that it's on the
5 agenda for the April meeting.
6
7 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Well, if that's okay with the committee,
8 then, Kevin, we'll move on. Is there any other changes to the
9 agenda? Seeing none, would someone like to make a motion to
10 approve the agenda? So moved by Mr. Donaldson, second by Ms.
11 Boggs. Any opposition to that? Seeing none, we'll move on to
12 the next item of business, and that's Approval of the Minutes.
13 Any changes or edits to the minutes? Seeing none, a motion to
14 approve the minutes?
15
16 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** So moved.
17
18 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Moved by Ms. Guyas, and it's seconded by Mr.
19 Donaldson. Any opposition? Seeing none, the minutes are
20 approved. The next item of business is -- There's really just
21 one item, but, John, would you like to brief us on the action
22 guide, please?
23
24 **DR. JOHN FROESCHKE:** Yes, I can go through this briefly. As we
25 discussed, the commercial unique trip identifiers will be pushed
26 back. On the SEFHIER implementation, there is two items here.
27 The first part of this, we have SERO on the agenda, and this was
28 really intended for the Regional Office to give an update on
29 their implementation plan and deadlines and things.
30
31 They really haven't had time to work on this, and I think the
32 shutdown has modified some of this, and so the plan for that is
33 we're going to defer on this. If there is specific questions, I
34 do think -- I have been in contact with Rich Malinowski from the
35 Regional Office this morning, and I think I could reach out to
36 him and find out any questions, if we have any. Otherwise, I
37 think we should push this back, with the understanding that
38 previously-established deadlines may be moved back a little bit.
39 The second part of this, Emily is just going to give us an
40 update on the SEFHIER, the outreach meeting schedule that we
41 started last week.
42
43 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Thank you, Dr. Froeschke. Dr. Crabtree.
44
45 **DR. ROY CRABTREE:** I mean, obviously, everything is delayed at
46 this point. Electronic reporting is going to be delayed, and
47 the red snapper TAC increase is delayed, the red grouper
48 emergency rule is delayed, all of these things are delayed.

1
2 Because staff is just today coming back in the office, no one
3 has had time to really figure out -- I mean, they're trying to
4 get the computers to come up and other type of administrative --
5 So we're going to be a little bit of time to figure out what the
6 plan is and what's the priority and what do we need to do and
7 how long are things going to take, and so I just ask for some
8 patience.

9
10 I know I'm getting a lot of questions about the Permits Office
11 and when are we going to start issuing permits, and I don't have
12 answers to any of that yet, and so we'll come up with an
13 alternative timing, and the concern with the electronic
14 reporting is we're going to start running up into the beginning
15 of red snapper season, and so we're going to have to have a
16 conversation about that, but I don't think we are going to be
17 able to do it in a meaningful way right now.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Thank you, Dr. Crabtree. On all of those
20 positive notes, maybe Ms. Muehlstein would like to share with us
21 her briefing on the SEFHIER.

22
23 **SEFHIER IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**
24 **SEFHIER OUTREACH MEETING SCHEDULE**

25
26 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. I certainly will. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman. Just to sort of dial this all back, because SEFHIER
28 is kind of a scary acronym, I just want to put in context what
29 we're talking about, and this is sort of the implementation
30 program for the for-hire reporting requirements that the council
31 voted to approve in the beginning of 2017, and so there has been
32 an implementation team that has been working to figure out the
33 logistics of the reporting requirements for those federally-
34 permitted for-hire vessels.

35
36 At the council, we have participated in different parts of that
37 implementation process. One of the things that we did was enter
38 into a contract with NOAA Fisheries to help them outreach the
39 new reporting requirements, and, just really quickly, to go over
40 sort of what we committed to doing with them, we decided that we
41 would hold between twelve and fourteen in-person outreach
42 meetings across the region to inform captains about what the
43 requirements were, and we were going to do that sometime before
44 December of 2019.

45
46 The next thing is we committed to holding at least five webinar
47 meetings to educate fishermen and other partners about the
48 upcoming requirements, and then we also committed to providing

1 the council and the implementation team and folks at NOAA with
2 detailed reports of each one of those meetings that we host.

3
4 With that said, we went ahead, and this was sort of before we
5 knew that everything would be delayed, and we started to plan a
6 series of outreach meetings for the beginning of this year.
7 It's my understanding that implementation for these reporting
8 requirements will come in two phases.

9
10 The first phase will include the hail-out requirements as well
11 as the electronic reporting requirements, and, before the
12 shutdown, we had planned to put that into place by April 15, and
13 I suspect that that will be moved back, and then the second
14 phase is going to require owner-operators to have some sort of
15 device permanently affixed to their vessel that will, at
16 minimum, archive their GPS location, and so what we had planned
17 was to do this first round of meetings to talk about Phase 1,
18 the hail-out requirements and the electronic reporting
19 requirements, and we decided to move on and continue to host
20 those meetings, despite losing our federal partners for a
21 temporary time.

22
23 We did have our first meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, and
24 that happened last Thursday night, and it went pretty well. We
25 had sixty-one operators at that meeting, and they all came and
26 sort of shared some of their fears and asked some questions, and
27 it was a pretty productive meeting.

28
29 We have a number of meetings scheduled moving forward, including
30 one tonight that will be happening at the Community Center in
31 Orange Beach, right before the social that is also planned in
32 the same place, and so hopefully we'll see you guys there if
33 you're interested in seeing how we're hosting these meetings and
34 what we're telling folks.

35
36 What's next? We're going to complete this first series of
37 meetings, and we expect to also send out a packet that is full
38 of all the information that captains will be needing. That
39 packet will go to all of our permit holders, our federal permit
40 holders. We already sent out a postcard to notice these
41 meetings, and so hopefully all the federal permit holders are
42 sort of aware that we are starting this outreach opportunity.
43 We will follow up with a packet.

44
45 Then the Phase 1 will be implemented. After Phase 1 becomes
46 implemented, we're going to host a series of webinars to do some
47 troubleshooting, and we also want to engage our state partners
48 during those webinars, both law enforcement and also the data

1 collection folks in each state, and then we plan to host another
2 series of outreach meetings before this permanently-affixed
3 hardware needs to be put on the vessel that archives location,
4 and so we will be hosting another set of meetings, probably in
5 August, and we plan to send out another postcard to notify our
6 permit holders that we will be doing that. I guess that's kind
7 of a broad overview of what we're up to, and I'm happy to
8 entertain any questions.

9
10 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Well, thank you, Emily. There's a few
11 questions, and I've got a few for you, too. Mr. Schieble, go
12 ahead.

13
14 **MR. CHRIS SCHIEBLE:** We talked about the romantic Valentines
15 evening that you set up for our charter captains at the Hale
16 Boggs Federal Building. Is there the potential that we could
17 maybe have a second meeting, or workshop, prior to
18 implementation of Phase 1? Is that possible at all?

19
20 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** You know what, especially since we'll be
21 pushing back the implementation date, I think that's something
22 that we can definitely consider, and he is referencing that we
23 have planned Valentine's Day as the meeting for the Louisiana
24 folks. Apparently I am not a romantic, and so I didn't even
25 notice.

26
27 **MR. SCHIEBLE:** I am not either, but I really don't want to go to
28 the Federal Building no matter what.

29
30 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** No, I completely understand, and so that is
31 certainly something that we can consider, yes.

32
33 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Ms. Boggs.

34
35 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Emily, you had mentioned that you sent out
36 postcards noticing these meetings. How was that information
37 pulled, the reason being the permit holders -- I have three
38 permits, and I have not received any postcard.

39
40 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Well, that's fascinating. I am going to have
41 to look you up. Typically, what we do is we ask the Regional
42 Office for their most recent list of federal permit holders and
43 those addresses that are associated with them. Because we were
44 not able to do that, we pulled the most recent one that was
45 posted online, and so it's fascinating that you didn't get one.
46 I will have to look on the database and see if you're on there.

47
48 **UNIDENTIFIED:** She is on there.

1
2 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. You're on there, and so we might have to
3 look at your address and make sure that it's all right.
4

5 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** One more question, Ms. Boggs?
6

7 **MS. BOGGS:** Just one more comment, and I know that I have
8 expressed this at prior meetings, but I would like, tonight, to
9 make sure that we express to the charter fleet the delay that
10 may be caused because of the federal shutdown, so they
11 understand why, because that's going to be critical. They need
12 to understand that there is going to be a delay.
13

14 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Yes, and you'll see on the presentation tonight
15 that we actually have April 15 with a big-old question-mark
16 everywhere, because, when we gave the first one on Thursday, we
17 didn't know when it was going to reopen, and so we're still in
18 that question-mark, and it's pretty clear.
19

20 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Anson.
21

22 **MR. ANSON:** I'm sure this will be addressed tonight as well,
23 Emily, but I'm just curious as to the two phases relative to the
24 different data aspects. The first phase is going to deal with
25 hail-out reporting requirements, and the second phase is going
26 to deal with locational information, and so is the unit that
27 they will be using for the locational information the same unit
28 that they're going to be reporting the hail-out information, or
29 is the hail-out going to be done by phone, and then they're
30 going to have the unit installed later on, and then they'll be
31 using that? Is that how it's going to work?
32

33 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** It's a fabulous question, and so the answer is
34 it depends. I think folks who have VMS already on their vessel
35 or are already signing up. There is some pilot programs where
36 you can get a VMS for free, and there is a federal reimbursement
37 program, and so anglers will -- The short answer is anglers will
38 have the option to do it either way, and so some of those
39 devices that we know are going to qualify, and the VMS folks are
40 working with it, you'll be able to just have that unit, and you
41 can report from there and do that all -- You can rip the Band-
42 Aid and do it immediately.
43

44 For folks who don't get the VMS in time for the reporting, or
45 don't want a VMS, there is -- Currently, the one approved vendor
46 that we already have in the Gulf, and there is plenty that are
47 planning to be approved, but the one approved vendor is actually
48 working on a mobile reporting platform. They have a tablet-

1 based platform now, but you will be able to report from your
2 phone, and so, for the first phase, if somebody didn't want to
3 jump in and get a device that was permanently affixed to their
4 vessel, for the first phase, they would be able to use a free
5 reporting app from their cellphone, and so it wouldn't have any
6 cost associated with it.

7

8 **MR. ANSON:** Thank you.

9

10 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** All right. Are there other questions? Emily,
11 I've got two questions for you. One is just for clarity,
12 because I think there are some questions, maybe, around this
13 table and then just to get it on the record of how this relates
14 to the headboats that are currently reporting in the current
15 system they have versus this. Of course, obviously, there is
16 headboats that aren't in that system, and this includes
17 everyone, and, obviously, the typical for-hire guys, but
18 headboats as well.

19

20 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Yes, and so both components of, I guess, the
21 for-hire fishery, both the headboats and the charter vessels.
22 Now, as you mentioned, the headboats are already reporting to
23 the Southeast Region Headboat Survey, and so they will continue
24 to report to the same people, but the frequency of reporting is
25 going to change. Right now, they only report once a week, and
26 Susan is shaking her head. It's daily reports, but they are
27 submitted weekly, I thought. Is that right?

28

29 **MS. BOGGS:** My understanding is it's daily.

30

31 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. Yes, but John is confirming that they
32 are daily reports, but they don't have to be submitted every
33 day. The difference is the new requirements will require that
34 they submit every trip before offloading fish, and so they will
35 have to have some new type of device.

36

37 I think a lot of those captains are currently reporting on a
38 desktop computer at the end of the day, and so they will
39 continue to report to the same survey, but they will have to
40 change the frequency and method with which they're doing that.

41

42 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Right. Thank you, Emily, and I think there may
43 be some -- Just, as you're talking to people, that's very clear,
44 because I think there's still a little bit of confusion on that.

45

46 The last question I have for you, Emily, is it strikes me a
47 little bit in the discussion we're going to have in Mr. Dyskow's
48 session coming up here regarding barotrauma, and you're going to

1 be interacting with a lot of anglers, particularly leaders in
2 the fishery and charter captains, and it might be a good idea to
3 reiterate the stuff that's going on with barotrauma.

4
5 I mean, obviously, don't dominate the meeting, but it's a good
6 opportunity to reach those people outside of the other
7 activities that we have planned, and that was just a comment
8 that I had.

9
10 **MS. MUEHLSTEIN:** Okay. Great. Yes, thank you for reminding me
11 of that. We have also, I think, at the first meeting we hosted,
12 there was an opportunity -- Some captains had asked about the
13 historical captain endorsement document, and so we definitely
14 are trying to leave some time at the end to have some stuff, but
15 that's a good comment, and I will make sure that we mention it.

16
17 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Okay. Any other -- Dr. Mickle.

18
19 **DR. PAUL MICKLE:** Yes, and thank you, Dr. Stunz. I just wanted
20 to bring up, and I think this maybe the right time or not, and
21 I'm not quite sure, but, with just the regionality, and I'm glad
22 these meetings are focused in on the regions, to get some real
23 customized education out there for the captains and then have
24 the captains, obviously weigh-in on Phase 1 and Phase 2 and how
25 it will be affected region-specific.

26
27 Now, as far as Mississippi, our fleet is very small, since
28 Katrina, and, potentially right now, with this implementation,
29 they would have to report through multiple systems. Tails 'n
30 Scales is mandatory reporting.

31
32 Essentially, we're not going to have Phase 2. Phase 1 is pretty
33 much exactly what Tails 'n Scales is mandatorily making them do
34 right now, and so, as far as Phase 1 goes of this program, they
35 will be identical to Tails 'n Scales, and I hate to add that
36 much reporting burden to this fleet, but, again, having parallel
37 datasets isn't all a bad thing, but it's burdensome for,
38 obviously, the user group, and so I'm just giving early warning
39 that there will be a lot of concerns from our state, and that
40 reflection of kind of userability, and I hope that -- Down the
41 road, I see kind of hybridizing datasets and making things more
42 efficient, and, if one dataset is different from another, I am
43 going to believe ours. Thank you.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Mr. Donaldson.

46
47 **MR. DONALDSON:** Along those lines, there is concern among
48 several states about -- You mentioned that they're going to get

1 buy-in from or work with the states in terms of data collection
2 and law enforcement at these meetings now, and I think that it
3 might have been a little more efficient to do it ahead of time,
4 and it could have addressed some of Paul's issues, and so
5 hopefully, in the future, when we're doing these things, to
6 include the states early on in the process and not later, and so
7 one of the issues we're going to be talking about at our
8 commission meeting is this program and some of those issues, and
9 so just something to consider in the future.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN STUNZ:** Thank you. That's a very good point, Dave. Is
12 there any other questions regarding this agenda item? Seeing
13 none, that takes us to Other Business. Is there any other
14 business that needs to come before this committee? Seeing none,
15 then we will adjourn.

16
17 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on January 28, 2019.)

18
19 - - -
20