



Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program



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SEFHIER Background Information

- Federal for-hire electronic reporting began in Jan. 2021
- Applicable permits
 - Charter/headboat Reef Fish
 - Gulf Charter/headboat Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish
 - For-hire historical captain permits

Anticipated Benefits

- ❖ Census-based reporting
- ❖ Increased accuracy of data
- ❖ Reduction in recall bias
- ❖ Near real-time preliminary data





Gulf Timeline

- Initially developed in conjunction with South Atlantic (2013)
 - Same logbook fields across regions, same database to receive data
- Separated amendments (2014)
 - Gulf added built-in validation components (2014)
 - Declaration, VMS positioning, and validation survey
- Final rule to implement the program published (2018)
 - Reporting requirement effective separate from VMS positioning
- Logbook and declarations effective January 2021
- Validation survey started in October 2021
- VMS position reporting is effective March 1st, 2022



Program Goals

- Produce reliable estimates of catch and effort for federally permitted for-hire vessels
- Immediate data uses
 - Validate minimum catch & effort estimates
- Future data uses
 - Requires independent dockside survey (in progress)
 - Requires calibration and benchmarking to existing data collections



Reporting Requirements

Approved software applications work on a variety of platforms (iOS, android, computer)

Declaration

- Submitted prior to leaving a dock for *any* trip
- Trip activity determines whether additional information is required
- Fishing Trips:
 - Estimated return time
 - Estimated return location
 - Must land only at approved landing location
 - Landing location is selected in declaration

Logbook

- Submitted prior to fish offload
- Trip information – vessel, captain, trip date, etc.
- Catch data – all species landed and discarded
- Effort data – anglers, hours fished, gear, depth, target species, etc.
- Economic data – amount of fuel used & cost, charter fee
- *Southeast Regional Headboat Survey (SRHS) vessels only report using VESL's SRHS form*

VMS requirement

- Begins March 1, 2022
- Cellular and satellite VMS units approved for use
- Some units contain reporting forms
- Some units work with Commercial Reef Fish permits
- Power-down exemptions
 - Min. 72 hr off
 - Vessel cannot move on water for any reason
- Equipment failure exception
 - On-going Council action



Vendors

Logbooks and Declarations

- eTrips by ACCSP
 - Windows 10, iOS, Android
 - Cost = free
 - Also compliant with GARFO, HMS
- VESL by Bluefin Data LLC
 - Webpage, iOS, Android
 - Cost = free
 - Also compliant with SRHS, SC

VMS Positioning

- AddValue iFleetOne (S, F, GRF)
- Faria Watchdog 750 (S, F, GRF)
- Faria FB Eterm-C (C)
- MetOcean OmniCon VMS & Global (S, F, GRF)
- Skymate m1600 & i1500 (S, F, GRF)
- CLS Triton (S, F, GRF)
- CLS Leo (S, F, GRF) [no new purchase]
- CLS Thorium TST (S, F, GRF) [no new installs]
- Nautic Alert Insight X3 (S or C, GRF)
- CLS Nemo EMTRU-C (C)

S = Satellite unit
C = Cellular unit
F = Forms included
GRF = Compatible with Gulf Reef Fish



Validation Survey

- For-hire Methods Workshop (2019) recommends robust complemented census and sampling survey design
 - Mandatory logbook census with dockside survey
 - Estimates final landings using capture (logbook)/recapture (survey) statistical method to account for unreported or misreported catch and effort
- Validation Survey designed in collaboration with Office of Science & Technology
- Validation Survey conducted through GulfFIN and state partners
 - Brief survey on vessel catch/effort; includes biological sampling
 - Permit holders required to answer Validation Survey questions
- Calibration & benchmark to existing data collections
 - Vessels still need to report to MRIP



Data Usability

- Requires effective enforcement and compliance
- Logbooks are monitored for outlier values
- Declarations
 - Characterizes effort and may indicate pending logbooks
- Positioning
 - Replaces boots on the ground to ground-truth trips taken
 - May indicate pending logbooks
- Survey
 - Used to calculate final landings
 - Accounts for misreporting and/or under-reporting
- Equipment failure options weighed in relation to validation of data

Constituent Questions?



Start on our [website](#):

- News and announcements:
 - Sign up to receive SEFHIER-specific Fishery Bulletins:
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new>
- Guides and Tools:
 - Informational videos and the Gulf-specific toolkit online
- Upcoming webinars dates (will also be sent via SEFHIER Fishery Bulletins)
- Find forms: landing location, power down exemption and VMS install certification
- Contact SEFHIER customer service:
 - Customer Support Toll Free: 1-833-707-1632
 - Customer Support Email: ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov
 - Contact me directly: michelle.masi@noaa.gov





What Can fisherman Do Now?

1

Select a reporting software; select & install a VMS unit before the effective date

2

Create a reporting account for each vessel/user

3

Review the website; watch informational videos, read SEFHIER toolkits

4

Check that your landing location is approved. If not, submit a landing location request form for approval

