

Data Collection Committee Report August 22, 2018 Greg Stunz – Chair

The agenda was modified to add a discussion of unique trip identifiers for reporting and tracking of commercial fishing trips. The amended agenda was adopted and the minutes of the June 7, 2017 Committee meeting were approved as written.

Gulf of Mexico 2017 Headboat Summary Report (Tab F, No. 4)

Mr. Brennan (SEFSC) gave a presentation summarizing the activities of the Gulf headboat fleet in 2017. The report is a standardized summary of biological and fishery information for 50 species. He stated that this presentation was intended to inform the Committee and about trends in the headboat fleet and to solicit feedback on this report. This report will be updated annually, available in quarter two of each year, and will include the most recent landings and fishery information. The intent is to distribute this information to stakeholders, managers and other interested parties. The Committee requested that future reports include a summary of trips on a regional rather than Gulf-wide basis.

Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) Implementation (Tab F, No. 5)

Ms. Gerhart (SERO) provided an update on the status of for-hire reporting implementation in the Gulf of Mexico. She stated that the proposed rule to implement electronic for-hire reporting in the Gulf is anticipated to publish on September 14, 2018 and ‘Decision Day’ is September 19, 2018. Implementation could occur April 1, 2019 although the GPS portion of the program may be implemented after this date. The Committee discussed that a start date later in the year when fishing activity is lower may be a better time to begin a new reporting program and address any unanticipated challenges.

Other Business: Discussion of Unique Trip Identifiers for Commercial Fishing Trips

Ms. Bosarge stated that there is not a single trip identifier for commercial fishing trips that could be used to track trip information from initial harvest to sale of the product. She also noted that the Ad Hoc Red Snapper/Grouper-Tilefish IFQ requested the development of a unique trip identifier for the trips. Mr. Strelcheck stated that this is an on-going topic of discussion and that NMFS staff can prepare a presentation and lead a discussion about this issue at a future Council meeting. The Committee also requested that staff query other Councils about how they have addressed the need for unique trip identifiers in their regions.

Madam chair, this concludes my report.