



Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program



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Quantifying Program Compliance



As of March 25th, 2022:

- 1,217 Gulf for-hire federally permitted vessels
- 951 VESL and eTrips reporting accounts setup by Gulf for-hire permitted vessels
- > 74k total Gulf & S. Atl. trip reports submitted (for all trip types and activity types)
 - ~ 72k charter, 2k headboat trips & 400 recreational trips
- >35k logbooks & >46k declarations received from Gulf for-hire permitted vessels
- > 8k SEFHIER program and compliance-related, ingoing and outgoing customer service calls





SEFHIER VMS Updates

- 10 satellite & 4 cellular VMS units are now type-approved ([link](#))
- **VMS requirement effective as of March 1st, 2022**
- Discussed VMS supply chain with vendors – no ongoing issues
 - Isolated issues arose with some local dealers
 - Note: if dealer does not have stock, vendor can overnight (~\$100)
- VMS compliance statistics (as of March 25th):
 - 178 dual commercial reef fish & for-hire permitted vessels
 - 601 Gulf for-hire permitted vessels with VMS
 - 727 Gulf for-hire vessels (out of 1328) without VMS





VMS Reimbursement



- SEFHIER VMS reimbursement requests are being prioritized through April 30th, 2022 – after April 30th reimbursements will be first come, first serve for all requests
- The cVMS reimbursement maximum has been decreased to \$950 after analysis of cellular unit costs
- Satellite VMS reimbursement maximum is undergoing review
- Vessels that received a Triton VMS unit from the third phase of the NFWF/CLS America grant will not be eligible for reimbursement, as they received a free unit



VMS and Federal Permits

- Permit refresher: federal permits are associated with vessels and the permit holders listed on the permit
 - Any changes to permit holders and vessel associated with a specific permit constitutes a permit transfer
 - Any permits associated with a specific vessel must have the same permit holder
- VMS must be installed and activated to renew or transfer a permit
 - For transfers, the receiving permit holder needs to have the VMS activated on the vessel that is associated with the permit(s)
- Once activated, a vessel may get a power-down exemption (PDE)
 - PDE is for the vessel under that permit, and applies to any VMS-required permit on that vessel (e.g. for dual commercial reef fish and Gulf for-hire permitted vessels, one PDE covers both fisheries)





PDE form is now available for online submission:

- Department of Commerce // National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration // 6

General Discussion Items



Updated [FAQs on SEFHIER website](#)

- Industry asked for clarity on Trip Fee and Fuel Price questions
- Consulted with SERO economists; these fields are critical to accurately estimate the value of the fishery
 - **Trip Fee:**
 - An accurate value is critical for cost-benefit and economic impact analyses; reimbursement after a disaster & required for proposed regulatory changes
 - Note: for any “charity” trips (no revenue received) enter trip fee as \$0
 - **Fuel Price:**
 - An accurate value is critical for representing economic performance of for-hire vessels and how/why it differs between vessels
 - Note: provide best estimate of price paid for fuel on each trip



Declaration Burden

- NMFS searched for *simple, easy to implement* (non-technical) and easy to understand solution
- Regulations could be modified to require a declaration under the following circumstances:
 - Fishing trip – always require declaration, regardless of fishing trip type (i.e., charter, recreational – including bait harvest, commercial) or duration
 - Non-intended fishing trip – if the intended trip duration is less than 60 minutes, a declaration would not be required. For example, moving the vessel to get fuel or ice/bait from a marina.
 - 60 minute time frame selected based on input from enforcement about feasibility of tracking and enforcing
- Next steps:
 - Feedback from Council/stakeholders through public comment
 - Regulation change requires Council action





Declaration Burden for Dually Permitted Vessels

- Request: 1 declaration for dual federally permitted comm. reef fish & for-hire vessels
- Challenges
 - Declarations collect different information fields & have different submission methods (commercial – phone or VMS; SEFHIER – app or VMS)
- Proposed Solution
 - Only applicable to those vessels that have a VMS unit type-approved in both programs
 - 10 satellite units are approved in both sectors with forms
 - Must use the VMS to submit the declaration
 - Not applicable to vessels in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (declarations submitted using the VESL app)





Declaration Burden for Dually Permitted Vessels



- For applicable vessels
 - Strict pathway for submission based on trip type
 - Commercial and out-of-fishery trips (fuel, bait, sunset cruises, ecotours, etc.) would be reported using the commercial declaration (most simplistic)
 - For-hire trips would be reported using the for-hire declaration (requires 'hail-in' information)
- Next Steps – modify regulations to allow 1 declaration for both programs
 - We believe this can be handled administratively (without Council action)



Acknowledgements

- SEFHIER program staff
- Council staff assisting with outreach
- ❖ **Special thanks to our For-Hire constituents!**



SEFHIER customer service: 1-833-707-1632 (8:00-4:30 pm EST) or ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov