

**Shrimp Committee Report
November 30, 2020
Leann Bosarge, Chair**

The Committee adopted the agenda (**Tab D, No. 1**) and approved the minutes (**Tab D, No. 2**) of the September 2020 meeting as written.

Pilot Program to Evaluate Use of Vessel Navigation System to Measure Shrimping Effort (Tab D, No. 4)

Dr. Gallaway provided the committee with an overview of a pilot program that uses P-Sea WindPlot to collect shrimping effort data. The pilot program is being conducted as a result of the 3G network being phased out, which the current cellular electronic logbooks (cELBs) use. Of actively fishing permitted vessels that were members of the Southern Shrimp Alliance, 100% use P-Sea Windplot, and this supports the idea that this software is dominant throughout the Gulf shrimping fleet. P-Sea WindPlot has been contracted to modify their program to capture latitude and longitude data with a time stamp every 10 minutes during the entire length of each trip. This upgrade has been paid for by LGL, via funds from industry, and would be considered a free update for shrimpers. To match shrimping effort with landings, trips tickets will be paired with the data collected by P-Sea WindPlot using the same procedures as are currently in use with the cELB program. The pool of 577 actively fishing permitted vessels with a cELB will provide the universe for random selection, and also will be stratified by port into geographic regions. The modified P-Sea WindPlot program will provide the same information that both of the historical electronic logbooks (ELBs) and cELBs systems provided. At the end of the pilot program, the data and, hopefully, the paired landings data will be provided directly to a secure National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) server. The effort data will be provided directly to the Science Center.

Dr. Porch noted that initially, during the pilot program, data from P-Sea WindPlot would be collected manually, while electronic reporting is developed in Phase Two. Dr. Gallaway confirmed this and stated that they would also be training shrimpers on the new program.

Dr. Crabtree commented that funding would be needed for this program and that an amendment may be needed, which addresses that a vessel would be required to have the software if a vessel is selected to participate in the effort collection program. Mr. Diaz noted that the shrimping industry has already provided over \$300,000 towards the pilot program and asked if there is any funding from NMFS to support this program in the next few years. Dr. Porch responded that, currently, they do not have the level of funding needed to support the program. He added that it would be unlikely that they could justify a sole source contract for the proposed contract; as there are other entities in the region who could arguably perform the work, they would be obligated to obtain bids. Dr. Porch noted that the 3G units still collect information, even though they can't be transmitted via the 3G network, so the data could be manually collected. Mr. Diaz encouraged

Dr. Porch's staff to work closely with Dr. Gallaway to ensure that potential problems with the pilot program are resolved sooner rather than later. Ms. Bosarge commented that effort collection programs have been funded in the past and at comparable levels to what is included in Dr. Gallaway's presented budget. Dr. Porch responded that the past funding levels referred to by Ms. Bosarge were likely for the entire shrimp program, not just for the shrimp effort collection programs. He noted that there had been some reimbursements for some of the 3G units in the past.

Dr. Freeman provided a summary report and motions from the November Shrimp AP meeting. The first Shrimp AP motion requested that NMFS to fully implement a new shrimp effort data collection system based on Dr. Gallaway's pilot program; the second motion asked that the current reporting requirements not be changed.

Ms. Bosarge inquired if funds, such as those initially budgeted for travel that had not been used due to COVID-19, could be used to support the pilot program. Dr. Porch responded that there was no carryover available for that. Ms. Bosarge asked if thumb drives could be used to send the data from the 3G units to the Science Center. Dr. Porch stated that it would require additional work, but could be done. Council staff asked if permit holders had been informed that the 3G units should be kept on vessels. Dr. Porch replied that a letter would be sent soon to permit holders letting them know that the equipment needed to be kept on vessels.

With no opposition, the Committee recommends, and I so move:

For the GMFMC to send a letter to the SEFSC supporting the development, implementation and funding of the P-Sea WindPlot program.

Mr. Anson asked if there were unused funds from the Council that could support the pilot program. Dr. Simmons responded that it was up to the Council's discretion on how unused 2020 funds were used, but that those funds could not go to a federal agency. Ms. Bosarge noted that, at a future Shrimp Committee meeting, the Council would need to see the current regulations for the cELB program, to facilitate additional discussions on what type of document is needed (shrimp reporting regulations are attached at the end of this report). Ms. Bosarge also requested information on the shrimp program budget from Dr. Porch, additional budget information from Dr. Gallaway, and potential costs to industry. Ms. Levy stated that the details of the most recent framework that put the cELB in place need to be reviewed at a future meeting. Mr. Anson asked for information on how the Science Center's selection process for cELBs was established.

With no opposition, the Committee recommends, and I so move:

Request staff to initiate a white paper that explores the associated costs with an expanded number of shrimp vessels participating in the pilot effort collection program using P-Sea WindPlot.

Dr. Simmons noted that information on carryover funds from the Council would likely need to come back through a future Administrative/Budget Committee and that some information on the Science Center's shrimp budget may be able to be included in a white paper.

Ms. Bosarge asked that the remaining agenda items (**Tab D, No. 5a and No. 5b**) be discussed in Full Council. Dr. Crabtree asked that Ms. Levy discuss a recent court case on sea turtle takes during Full Council as well.

Mr. Chair, this concludes my report.

§622.51 Recordkeeping and reporting.

(a) *Commercial vessel owners and operators*—(1) *General reporting requirement.* The owner or operator of a vessel that fishes for shrimp in the Gulf EEZ or in adjoining state waters, or that lands shrimp in an adjoining state, must provide information for any fishing trip, as requested by the SRD, including, but not limited to, vessel identification, gear, effort, amount of shrimp caught by species, shrimp condition (heads on/heads off), fishing areas and depths, and person to whom sold.

(2) *Electronic logbook reporting.* The owner or operator of a vessel for which a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp has been issued and who is selected by the SRD must participate in the NMFS-sponsored electronic logbook reporting program as directed by the SRD. In addition, such owner or operator must provide information regarding the size and number of shrimp trawls deployed and the type of bycatch reduction device (BRD) and turtle excluder device used, as directed by the SRD. Compliance with the reporting requirements of this paragraph (a)(2) is required for permit renewal.

(3) *Vessel and Gear Characterization Form.* All owners or operators of vessels applying for or renewing a commercial vessel moratorium permit for Gulf shrimp must complete an annual Gulf Shrimp Vessel and Gear Characterization Form. The form will be provided by NMFS at the time of permit application and renewal. Compliance with this reporting requirement is required for permit issuance and renewal.

(4) *Landings report.* The owner or operator of a vessel for which a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf shrimp has been issued must annually report the permitted vessel's total annual landings of shrimp and value, by species, on a form provided by the SRD. Compliance with this reporting requirement is required for permit renewal.

(b) *Gulf shrimp dealers.* A person who purchases shrimp from a vessel, or person, that fishes for shrimp in the Gulf EEZ or in adjoining state waters, or that lands shrimp in an adjoining state, must provide the following information when requested by the SRD:

(1) Name and official number of the vessel from which shrimp were received or the name of the person from whom shrimp were received, if received from other than a vessel.

(2) Amount of shrimp received by species and size category for each receipt.

(3) Ex-vessel value, by species and size category, for each receipt.