



# Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program



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# Gulf & South Atlantic SEFHIER Permit Accounts as of August 1st



Reporting Platform	Gulf Permit Accounts (change since 6/15/21)	S. Atl. Permit Accounts (change since 6/15/21)	Gulf/S. Atl. Dual Permitted Accounts
eTrips	172 (+23)	587 (+94)	76
VESL	495 (+104)	414 (+99)	111
Headboat (VESL)	68 (+0)	64 (+0)	_____
VMS	106 (+0)	_____	_____
South Carolina (VESL)	_____	144 (+0)	_____
<b>Total</b>	<b>841 (+127)</b> *511 have yet to register	<b>1,209 (+193)</b> *968 have yet to register	<b>187</b> *179 have yet to register



# Gulf & South Atlantic Permit Accounts

- 1,658 permit holders have yet to register with approved vendor
  - Following June fishery bulletin: +332 accounts
  - August 1<sup>st</sup> = 2,050 registered accounts
  - Accounts include both permit holders & captains (not 1:1)
- Expect 20-30% permit latency
- Some surrendered permits due to increased restrictions (\*S. Atl.)
- SERO and Council staff enhancing outreach efforts to improve industry understanding of For-Hire regulations
- SERO anticipates increased participation as permits come up for renewal



# SERO Hosted Outreach Webinars

## Upcoming Webinars

- Sept: VMS requirements webinars
  - Sept 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30-7:30 pm; Sept 16<sup>th</sup> @ 2-3 pm; Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30-7:30 pm; Sept 28<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00-11:00 am ET)
- Oct 7<sup>th</sup>: Gulf SEFHIER constituent call with Andy Strelcheck (Oct 14<sup>th</sup> for S. Atl.)

## Past Webinars

- June 15<sup>th</sup>: monthly evening webinar (0 attendees)
- June 18<sup>th</sup>: FWC agents webinar (2 sessions, ~20 attendees @ each)
- July 20<sup>th</sup>: FWC agents make-up session (4 South Atlantic attendees)
- ❖ Webinar feedback/suggestions? Email me @[Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov](mailto:Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov)



# Continued Outreach

- July 12<sup>th</sup>: reporting requirements letter sent to GARFO/SERO permitted vessels
- eTrips and VESL are now sending notifications to app users when an updated is pushed out
- SEFHIER program toolkits mailed on request and can be found electronically on our webpage (under Guides and Tools).
- Regular website updates and improvements are ongoing
  - E.g. updated answers to FAQs will be added to our website

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational-fishing-data/southeast-hire-integrated-electronic-reporting-program>



# VMS Update

## cVMS (cellular -based VMS) Type Approvals for Gulf For -Hire

1. Faria ETERMC cVMS approved
  2. CLS NEMOcVMS approved
  3. Nautic Alert cVMS is currently undergoing sea trials for approval
- ❖ VMS rule to publish around Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, with an effective date around Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

Link to all type-approved VMS Units:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/rules-and-regulations/approved-vessel-monitoring-system-vms-units-reporting-southeast-hire-electronic>



# Setting Up a VMS Unit

- Select a Gulf For-Hire approved VMS unit (listed on website); contact a vendor; set up and install with certified installer
- Vessel owners will need to verify with their VMS vendor the unit is operational
  - For problems with the unit contact the vendor. The vendor may contact the SE VMS helpdesk to work through any technical issues
- Future online permit applications/renewals will allow for self -verifying that a certified electrician installed the VMS unit
- ❖ You must have an operating, Gulf For-Hire approved VMS unit to move on the water
  - The Council is considering a limited equipment failure exemption



# Declaration Discussion

- Per the regulations, a declaration is required every time a vessel leaves the dock (e.g. getting gas, ice, bait, home stop)
  - Must select appropriate trip activity on the declaration (e.g. trip no intention of fishing)
- Some vessels that were reporting consistently have now stopped reporting
- Some logbooks are missing a declaration







# General Discussion Items

- Dually permitted vessels (Commercial Reef Fish & For -Hire):
  - Must complete both a commercial reef fish and for -hire trip declaration when going on a for -hire trip
  - NMFS is investigating how to streamline for these dually permitted vessels
  - These notifications serve different purposes for each sector, and have different regulatory text
- HMS caught species:
  - Using VESL app: still need to complete the HMS electronic logbook report
  - Using eTrips/mobile app: prompts for HMS required questions



# 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



# Constituent Questions?



Start on our webpage (web link on slide 5):

- 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](mailto:ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov)
  - Contact me directly: [michelle.masi@noaa.gov](mailto:michelle.masi@noaa.gov)





# Acknowledgements

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

