



Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program



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of Gulf & South Atlantic SEFHIER Permit Accounts as of Oct. 8th



Reporting Platform	Gulf Permit Accounts (change since 8/01/21)	S. Atl. Permit Accounts (change since 8/01/2021)	Gulf/S. Atl. Dual Permitted Accounts
eTrips	177 (+1)	630 (+6)	77 (+0)
VESL	521 (+26)	507 (+93)	115 (+3)
Headboat (VESL)	68 (+0)	64 (+0)	_____
VMS	128 (+22)	_____	_____
South Carolina (VESL)	_____	144 (+0)	_____
Total	894 (+49) *504 have yet to register	1,345 (+99) *902 have yet to register	192 (+3) *177 have yet to register



Gulf & South Atlantic Permit Accounts

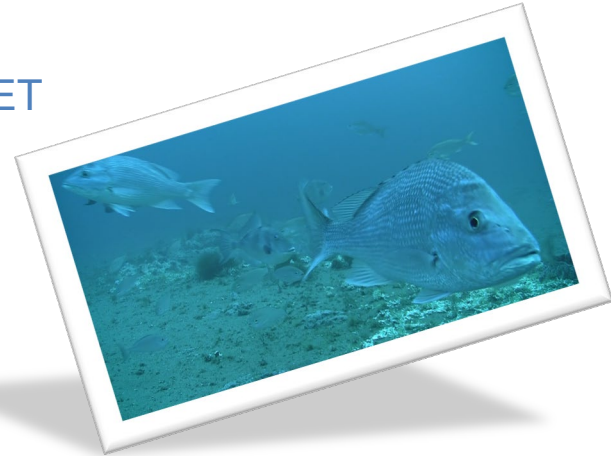
- 1,583 permit holders have yet to register with approved vendor
 - +151 accounts added since Aug 1st
 - Oct 8th = 2,431 registered accounts
 - Accounts include both permit holders & captains (not 1:1)
- Expect 20-30% permit latency
- SERO and Council staff enhancing outreach efforts to improve industry understanding of For-Hire federal regulations
- SERO anticipates increased participation as permits come up for renewal



SERO Hosted Outreach Webinars

Recently Held Webinars

- Weekly VMS requirement webinars in Sept (~10 permit holders at each)
- SEFHIER constituent calls with Andy Strelcheck:
 - Gulf constituents: Oct 7th @12-2 pm ET
 - South Atlantic constituents: Oct 14th @12-2 pm ET
- Gulf Council hosted VMS vendor webinars:
 - Oct 7th @10-1130 am & Oct 12th @6-7 pm ET
- SEFHIER Validation Surveyor training sessions:
 - Throughout October





Continued Outreach

- An updated permit renewal letter with SEFHIER requirements was posted to SEFHIER website:
 - https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/reports/cs/SEFHIER_VMS_Rule_Letter.pdf
- Southeast for-hire intercept survey (SEFHIS) begins (in some states) in October:
 - Rack card posted to the SEFHIER website:
https://portal.southeast.fisheries.noaa.gov/reports/cs/Better_Data_Better_Fishing.pdf
- Regular SEFHIER website updates:
 - E.g. updated answers to FAQs
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational_fishing/frequently_asked-questions_southeast_hire-integrated_electronic



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 stream line for these dually permitted vessels; but currently these notifications serve different purposes, and have different regulatory text
- HMS caught species and dually GARFO/SERO permitted vessels:
 - Gulf for-hire vessels can use eTrips to satisfy the reporting requirements for each program; VESL is not currently approved for HMS or GARFO

Acknowledgements

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



GCES Penalty Policy



- NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is working with industry to ensure compliance with SEFHIER.
- OLE is conducting outreach/education & initiating investigations on SEFHIER related referrals.
- Non-compliance is assessed on a case by case basis, and may result in compliance assistance, written warnings, and summary settlement penalties. Some cases may also be referred to NOAA's Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) for review and issuance of civil administrative penalties.
- The GCES penalty policy and schedules can be found at the following link:
https://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce_office3.html

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

