



Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program

Tab F, No. 5



Overview of Gulf Program

Electronic reporting program for federally permitted charter and non-Southeast Regional Headboat Survey (SRHS) headboat vessels.

New requirements apply to the following charter/headboat permits:

Gulf reef fish

Historical captain gulf reef fish

Gulf coastal migratory pelagics

Historical captain Gulf coastal migratory pelagics



Gulf requirements apply to all federal permit holders regardless of where you fish or what you target.

Overview of Gulf Program

PHASE 1:

- Declare each time vessel leaves the dock with expected return date/time and verified landing location
- Submit fishing report before offloading
- Respond to Dockside Intercept Survey
- Headboats will continue to report through VESL for the Headboat reporting program. Headboats will declare their fishing trip and report before offloading.

PHASE 2: (No effective date yet): Permanently affixed position reporting unit (satellite or cellular) device that is always "on" and transmitting (power down exemptions are possible). Applies to vessels when the requirement becomes effective.

Electronic Reporting

- Reporting must be done using approved software/hardware
 - Currently these software programs are approved for the program
 - eTRIPS/mobile – Windows 10, iOS, Android, Free, compatible with GARFO and HMS requirements
 - VESL – computer-based web portal, iOS, Android, Free, compatible with the SC State Charter program, and the Headboat Survey
 - Approved software and hardware is listed on the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Electronic Technologies website
- Currently some satellite VMS units and one cellular unit have been approved with forms. A [table](#) is available on the website for more information. VMS reporting is not yet required, but captains may choose to begin using a VMS with forms beginning in January 2021.



Outreach Webinars

Council and NOAA Fisheries Webinars:

December 9th 2020: Gulf State Agencies (24 attendees)

December 15th: Gulf Permit Holders (193 attendees)

December 16th: South Atlantic Permit Holders (103 attendees)

December 17th: Gulf and South Atlantic Communicators/Outreach (41 attendees)

January 19th and 20th: Gulf NOAA Fisheries OLE Agents (44 attendees)

February 9th, 16th, 23rd: JEA (60 plus attendees at each webinar)

February 2, 9, 16, 23 & March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Public Q&A sessions

March 18th & 25th: Louisiana Charter Boat Association (25 Captains)

Upcoming Outreach Webinars

Public Q & A Webinars: Looking for input on frequency from industry (e.g., monthly, bimonthly)

SRFH Training for OLE and Partners: May - June

FWC Law Enforcement: April

Any Additional Recommendations?

Roll Out Numbers

Total Number of GOM and South Atlantic Permit Accounts as of **March 2, 2021**:

VESL :

- SA permits: 253
- Gulf Permits: 285
- Dual Permits: 73
- **Total # 611**

eTrips:

SA Permits: 436
Gulf Permits: 124
Dual Permits: 77
Total # 637

VMS:

Gulf Permits: 66
Total # 66

Total Accounts: 1,304 (Does not include SC or SRHS vessels)

Jan 4th to March 31st Total Logbooks Submitted: 5,837 (19% from VMS)

Jan 4th to March 31st Total Declarations Submitted: 4,014 (23% from VMS)

Roll Out Issues

VESL Application:

- Account requests need to be manually verified and takes time
- Trip Declaration and Trip Activity
- New Landing Locations and End Ports getting added

Solution: Worked with VESL to fix issues. Communicated to fishermen

eTRIPS application:

- End Port and Landing Locations Updates
- Fishermen were confused on “area fished” fields and new map
- Validations not built into application

Solution: Working with ACCSP to fix issues. Communicated to fishermen

VMS Update

VMS agreements signed with NOAA Fisheries and ACCSP data
VMS and ACCSP are testing technical communication pathways for data
VMS Forms and Formatting Usability issues are being discussed

VMS Approvals

Faria ETERM-C is the first Cellular Based VMS unit to be approved for use
in the federally permitted Gulf For-Hire Sector
CLS NEMO hybrid unit is currently being tested for approval
Nautic Alert cellular unit currently being tested for approval

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

General Update

General Questions from Captains, Topics, and Issues:

- Target Species needs to be selected, species groups are available for selection
- Species Numbers being pre-populated with zero
- Port List and Landing Locations
- Trip Declarations being sent to local OLE and Port Agents
- A Letter was sent to Permit Holders that have not set-up a reporting account in April
- Staff is working on developing For-Hire Electronic Reporting specific Fishery Bulletin list to receive program specific information
- Staff is working on developing a What's New Announcement for the website
- Data Sharing with partners is not quite ready due to data streams not being incorporated fully

Discussion Topics

What options does a Captain have when the network, application, or machine fails?

- * Currently - *Vessel cannot leave the dock until the issue is resolved*
 - *Submit declaration through another app or means*

Discussion Topic: To provide the ability for vessel to complete the trip

Potential Option: Fishermen submit Issues Form electronically to SEFHIER

- * Fishermen submits Issues Form and must complete declaration and logbook for the trip upon return
- * Procedures and Validation
- * Regulatory Modifications Needed
- * Rule Making Required

Begin considering the VMS requirement implementation date of December 1, 2021.

SPECIAL THANKS TO CAPTAINS

Dylan Hubbard

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Resources

Electronic Reporting Phone Line:

1-833-707-1632

Hours: 6:30am-6:30pm M-F EST

Program email address:

ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov

Website

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/southeast-electronic-reporting-technologies>

Toolkit

<https://gulfcouncil.org/southeast-for-hire-electronic-reporting-program/>

What can you do now?

1

Select a [software](#) or [VMS](#) unit to use, create a user account, and install it.

3

Check that your landing location is [approved](#). If not, submit a landing location request [form](#) for approval.

2

Watch the [videos](#), read the [toolkits](#), and review the [website](#).

4

Begin reporting your declarations and trip reports.