

**Data Collection Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab F**

Agenda Item IV: Discussion on For-hire Data Collection

Timeline Status: Information, discussion, and feedback

Council input and next steps: Council staff will present the revised version of the draft amendment and introduce new alternatives regarding the collection of economic data in the federal for-hire sector. In a related effort, the Atlantic Office of Highly Migratory Species (HMS) has announced an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on HMS electronic reporting requirements which also considers collection of economic data for HMS permitted for-hire vessels. Dr. Michelle Masi (SERO) will also provide a presentation with various approaches for validation in addition to the trip declaration requirements included in the draft amendment for the new charter for-hire data collection program. Broadly, validation assists in assessing the number of latent permits or those not reporting and corroborating trip information. Vessel Monitoring Systems were used in the first iteration of the program and this as well as other approaches may exist to achieve this program objective. The Committee should review the amendment, the HMS materials, and the effort validation methods, ask questions of staff, and provide any feedback on range of alternatives in the document.

Agenda Item V: Discussion of NOAA Fisheries Guidance on MRIP-FES Transition Document

Timeline Status: Information and discussion

Council input and next steps: The Office of Science and Technology (OS&T) recently developed and released “NOAA Fisheries Guidance on MRIP-FES Transition”. This document was produced by OS&T as guidance for the MRIP-FES Transitions until the results of a pilot study is completed. This pilot study aims to gain a clearer understanding of the differences in effort estimates between the current survey design and a revised design that changes both the MRIP-FES question order and increases the frequency of sampling (monthly instead of every two months) to improve response accuracy. The follow-up study is being conducted over the full course of 2024 with the revised design administered alongside the current design. The timeline for the calibrated time series of catch and effort estimates (re-scaled to the revised design) becoming available for incorporation into stock assessments is anticipated no later than spring 2026, which is the normal release of final 2025 estimates. This is contingent upon successful development, implementation, and review of the updated MRIP-FES calibration model, as well as favorable results from the follow-up study. Dr. Evan Howell (OS&T Director) will be available to answer Committee questions regarding the guidance document. This presentation is informational, and no action is required by the Committee.

Agenda Item VI: Update on Status of Commercial Electronic Logbook Document

Timeline Status: Information

Council input and next steps: In early 2024, a joint amendment with the South Atlantic Council was officially transmitted to NMFS that will transition the commercial coastal logbook program from paper to electronic submission. NMFS staff will provide a verbal update on the progress of the program's transition. This update is informational, and the Committee should ask any clarifying questions of NMFS staff.