Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program

Jessica A Stephen, Ph.D. – Branch Chief
Michelle Masi, Ph.D. - SEFHIER Program Manager
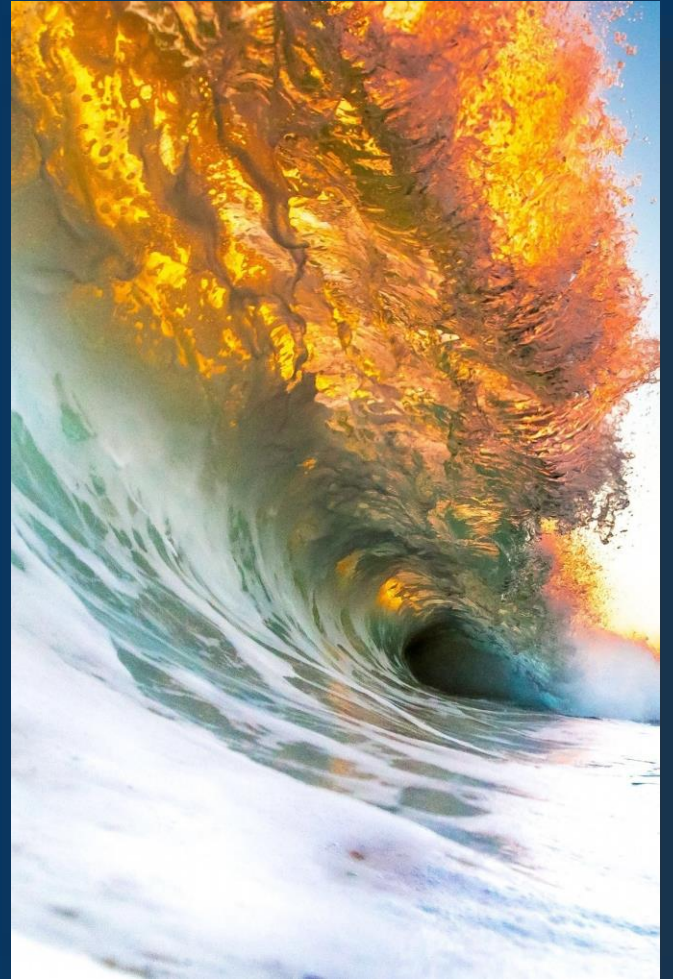NMFS|Southeast Regional Office
Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov

SEFHIER Background Information

- Federal for-hire electronic reporting began in Jan. 2021
- Applicable permits
  - Charter/headboat Reef Fish
  - Charter/headboat Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish
  - For-hire historical captain permits

Anticipated Benefits

- ❖ Census-based reporting
- ❖ Increased accuracy of data
- ❖ Reduction in recall bias
- ❖ Near real-time preliminary data

Gulf Timeline

- Initially developed in conjunction with South Atlantic (2013)
  - Same logbook fields across regions, same database to receive data
- Separated amendments (2014)
  - Gulf added built-in validation components (2014)
  - Declaration, VMS positioning, and validation survey
- Final rule to implement the program published (2020)
  - Reporting requirement effective separate from VMS positioning
- Logbook and declarations effective (January 2021)
- Validation survey (to start ~September/October 2021)
- VMS position reporting will begin mid-December 2021

Program Goals

- Produce reliable estimates of catch and effort for federally permitted for-hire vessels
- Immediate data uses
  - Validate minimum catch & effort estimates
- Future data uses
  - Requires independent dockside survey (in progress)
  - Requires calibration and benchmarking to existing data collections

Reporting Requirements

Approved software applications work on a variety of platforms (iOS, android, computer)

Declaration

- Submitted prior to leaving a dock for *any* trip
- Trip activity determines whether additional information is required
- Fishing Trips:
  - Estimated return time
  - Estimated return location
  - Must land only at approved landing location
  - Landing location is selected in declaration

Logbook

- Submitted prior to fish offload
- Trip information – vessel, captain, trip date, etc.
- Catch data – all species landed and discarded
- Effort data – anglers, hours fished, gear, depth, target species, etc.
- Economic data – amount of fuel used & cost, charter fee
- *Southeast Regional Headboat Survey (SRHS) vessels only report using VESL's SRHS form*

VMS requirement

- Begins Dec 13, 2021
- Cellular and satellite VMS units approved for use
- Some units contain reporting forms
- Some units work with Reef Fish Permits
- Power-down exemptions
  - Min. 72 hr off
  - Vessel can not move on water for any reason
- Equipment failure exception
  - On-going Council action

Vendors

Logbooks and Declarations

- eTrips by ACCSP
  - Windows 10, iOS, Android
  - Cost = free
  - Also compliant with GARFO, HMS
- VESL by Bluefin Data LLC
  - Webpage, iOS, Android
  - Cost = free
  - Also compliant with SRHS, SC
- Upcoming new vendor

VMS Positioning

- AddValue iFleetOne (S, F, RF)
- Faria Watchdog 750 (S, F, RF)
- Faria FB Eterm-C (C)
- MetOcean OmniCon VMS & Global (S, F, GRF)
- Skymate m1600 & i1500 (S, F, GRF)
- CLS Triton (S, F, GRF)
- CLS Leo (S, F, GRF) [no new purchase]
- CLS Thorium TST (S, F, GRF) [no new installs]
- Nautic Alert Insight x2 (S, NF, RF)
- CLS Nemo EMTRU-C (C, NF)

S = Satellite unit
C = Cellular unit
F = Forms included
GRF = Compatible with Gulf Reef Fish

Data Collection

- Currently: Vendor → ACCSP, ACCSP → NMFS database
  - ACCSP's data collection meets reporting requirements of all east coast NMFS reporting requirements (e.g., GARFO and HMS)
  - Referred to as One-Stop Reporting (OSR)
- Upcoming: Alternative reporting pathway for SERO only vessels
  - Build data collection pathway (in progress)
  - Modify database for new pathways (in progress)
  - Update vendor requirements to meet each pathway
- Data collection pathways under modification related to stakeholder feedback

Validation Survey

- For-hire Methods Workshop (2019) recommends robust Complemented Census and Sampling Survey design
  - Mandatory logbook census with dockside survey
  - Estimates final landings using capture/recapture statistical method to account for unreported or misreported catch and effort
    - Capture = Logbook; Recapture = dockside survey
- Survey designed in collaboration with Office of Science & Technology
- Validation survey through GulfFIN and state partners
  - Brief survey on vessel catch/effort; includes biological sampling
  - Permit holders required to answer survey questions
- Calibration & benchmark to existing data collections
  - Vessels still need to report to MRIP

Data Usability

- Requires effective enforcement and compliance
- Logbooks are monitored for outlier values
- Declarations
  - Characterizes effort and may indicate pending logbooks
- Positioning
  - Replaces boots on the ground to ground-truths trips taken
  - May indicate pending logbooks
- Survey
  - Used to calculate final landings
  - Accounts for misreporting and/or under-reporting
- Equipment failure options weighed in relation to validation of data

Updates & Outreach

of Gulf & South Atlantic SEFHIER Permit Accounts as of Aug. 27th

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	176 (+4)	624 (+37)	77 (+1)
VESL	495 (+0)	414 (+0)	111
Headboat (VESL)	68 (+0)	64 (+0)	_____
VMS	106 (+0)	_____	_____
South Carolina (VESL)	_____	144 (+0)	_____
Total	**845 (+4)** *511 have yet to register	**1,246 (+37)** *959 have yet to register	**188 (+1)** *178 have yet to register

Gulf & South Atlantic Permit Accounts

- 1,647 permit holders have yet to register with approved vendor
  - +41 Accounts (37 eTrips accounts) added since Aug. 1st
  - August 27th = 2,288 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 16th @ 2-3 pm; Sept 22nd @ 6:30-7:30 pm; Sept 28th @ 10:00-11:00 am ET
- Oct 7th: Gulf SEFHIER constituent call with Andy Strelcheck (Oct 14th for S. Atl.)

Recently Held Webinars

- Sept 7th @ 6:30-7:30 pm

Webinar feedback/suggestions? Email me @Michelle.Masi@noaa.gov

Continued Outreach

- Federal Port Agent VMS webinar August 31
- Updated permit renewal letter with SEFHEIR requirements coming soon
- Southeast for-hire intercept survey (SEFHIS) is scheduled to begin in late-Sept
  - 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 are being added to our website: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/southeast/recreational-fishing/frequently-asked-questions-southeast-hire-integrated-electronic

VMS Update

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

1. Faria ETERM-C cVMS approved

2. CLS NEMO cVMS approved

3. Nautic Alert cVMS is currently undergoing sea trials for approval

❖ VMS rule to publish in Sept, with an effective date of Dec 13th

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

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
  - SEFHIER staff attempt to reach out to constituents to remind them of their permit requirements

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

Acknowledgements

➢ SEFHIER program staff

➢ Council staff assisting with outreach

❖ **Special thanks to our For-Hire constituents!**

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