



# Southeast For-Hire Electronic Reporting Program



# Overview of Gulf Program

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

New requirements apply to the following charter/headboat permits:

Gulf reef fish

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 Intercept Survey
- Headboats will continue to report through VESL for the Headboat reporting program (SRHS). Headboats will declare their fishing trip and report before offloading.

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

# Potential Benefits of Electronic Reporting

- ✓ Increase accuracy of data
- ✓ Near real time data are available
- ✓ Census based data
- ✓ In season datasets more complete
- ✓ No legibility issues
- ✓ Reduce recall bias due to quick reporting time

Better data means better understanding of species, more accurate models, and more informed management decisions.

Better data means better fisheries management.

# 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 seven satellite VMS vendors 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.



### Trip Setup

Trip Type

Vessel

Permit

### Trip Details

Trip Type

Vessel

Trip Name

VTR #

Crew Count

Port

Notes

### Effort Details

Gear Type

Gear Quantity

Total Gears

Gear Sets

Average Depth (feet)

Location

Notes

### Start Your Trip

Trip Tracking

Trip Start Date

Trip Start Time

Trip End Date

Trip End Time



Cancel

## ≡ ← Trip Summary

SUMMARY

EDIT

### Trip

Trip starting at  
3/24/2019 9:27 AM

EDIT

Trip Type Commercial  
VTR  
Port Warwick (RR - Apponaug) (Kent), RI  
Vessel test1  
Permit RIFISHER  
Date Sun 27/24/2019

### Catches

2 HOOK AND LINE  
(03-24-09-27-42)

EDIT

8 General : Food ANCHOVY,BAY

### Offload

EDIT

No unreported catches  
Warwick (RR - Apponaug) (Kent), RI 3/24/2019  
No Sale/Retained  
8 Pounds ANCHOVY,BAY  
(UNCLASSIFIED / ROUND)

### Efforts


2 HOOK AND LINE  
(03-24-09-27-42)  
41° 36', -71° 26'  
3 hours fished

DELETE


TRIP REPORT



  
Reporting Status

  
Create Trip

  
Create No Fish Report

  
Find Trip

## New Trip

### Trip Details / Declaration

Vessel \* ⓘ

"ROD" BURGUNDY × ▾

Trip Start (EST) \* ⓘ

Ex. 01/01/21 01:00 PM 📅 ⌚

Trip Type \*

Charterboat × ▾

Landing Location \*

▾

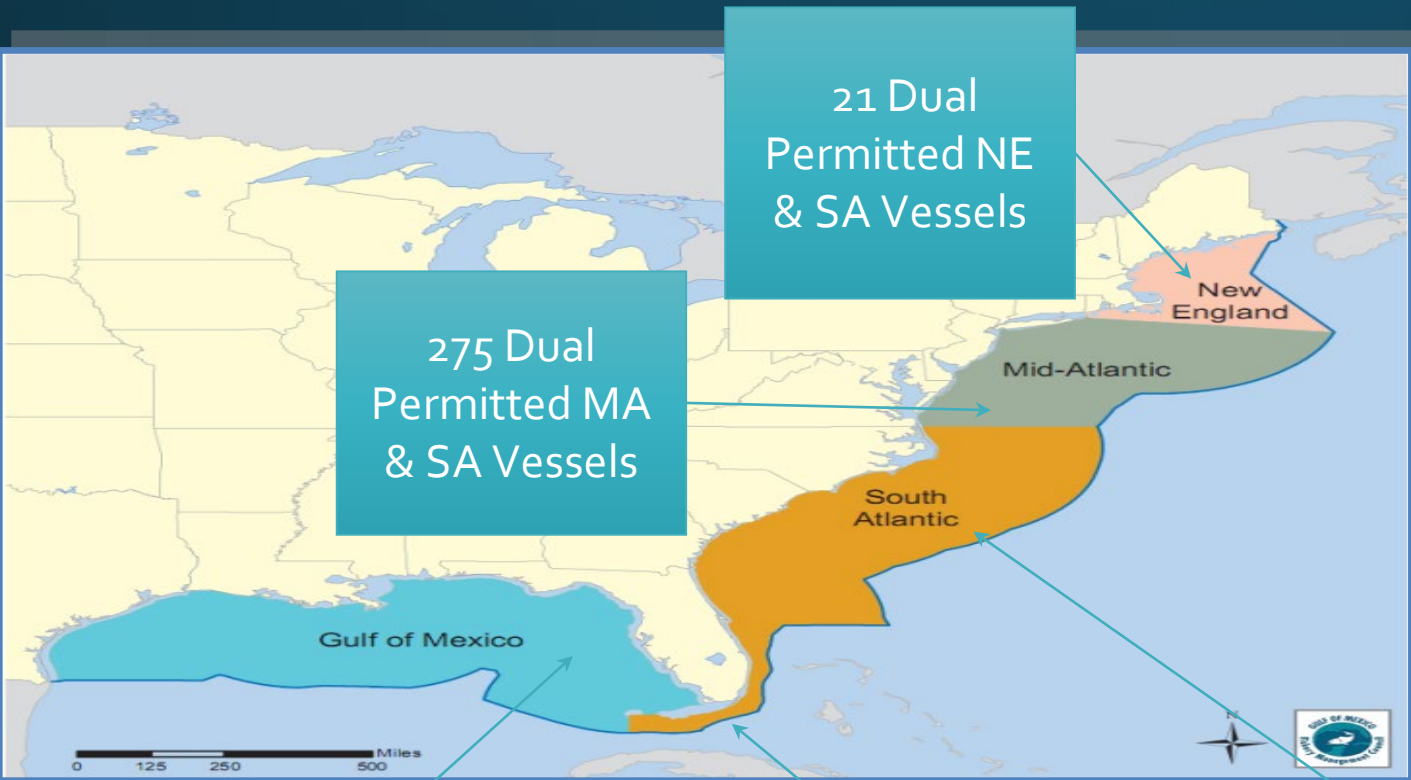


# Multiple Permits

Permit holders with permits in more than one region

- Required to report to the more restrictive electronic reporting program regardless of where fishing occurs

In certain instances, multiple electronic reports may be required.



21 Dual  
Permitted NE  
& SA Vessels

275 Dual  
Permitted MA  
& SA Vessels

1,328 GOM Permitted  
Vessels  
(~128,000 trips/year)

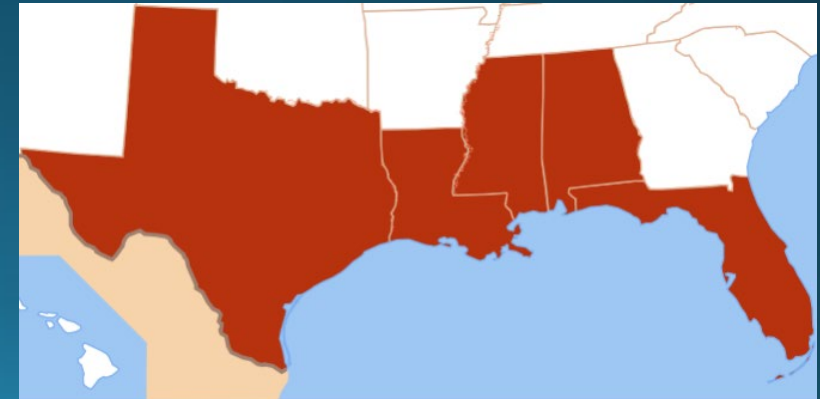
373 Dual Permitted  
GOM & SA Vessels

2,138 SA Permitted Vessels  
(~282,000 trips/year)



# Multiple Permits: *Gulf and South Atlantic*

- Gulf of Mexico Electronic Reporting Program is more restrictive than the South Atlantic program. Must adhere to the Gulf requirements regardless of fishing location
  - Trip Declaration (Hail-out) with expected return date/time and location (must be “verified” landing location)
  - Charter and Headboats must report prior to offload
  - **Phase 2 Effective Date TBD:** Permanently affixed position reporting unit (satellite or cellular VMS) device that is always “on” and transmitting (power down exemptions are possible)



# Multiple Permits: *Gulf and GARFO*

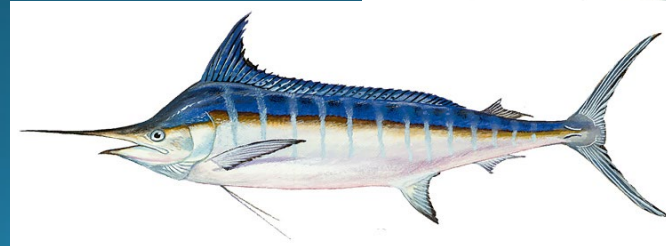
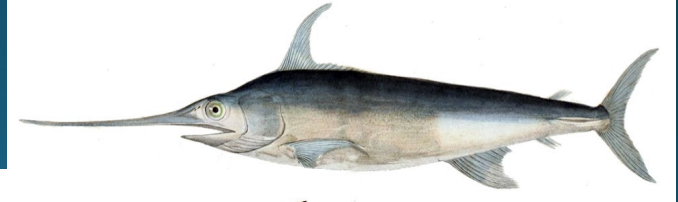
- Requires vessel trip reports (VTRs) on for-hire trips to be submitted electronically 48 hours after each fishing trip.
- Permit holders that hold both a GARFO and Gulf Permit must meet the Gulf requirements.

\*currently only eTrips, more pending approval



# Multiple Permits: *Gulf and Highly Migratory Species*

- HMS permit holders that catch HMS species can submit trip through eTrips, under the Gulf reporting timeframe.
  - Bluefin tuna, swordfish, billfish (white and blue marlin, sailfish, and roundscale spearfish)



# Roll Out Issues

- Customer Service line
  - High volume of calls, est average time 30 minutes
  - call line malfunctioning
- Applications
  - VESL account requests need to be manually verified and we've had a high volume
  - VESL app, Headboat survey trip declaration errors
  - eTrips: fishermen unsure of how to use app
  - eTrips: trip declaration confusion
- Landing locations/Port list not updating automatically, so vessels can't find their port

# SEFHIER compliance plan

SEFHIER compliance in the SRFH (Southeast Region For Hire) application under development

- For-Hire team
  - account sign up
  - declarations and logbooks submitted as required
  - data QA/QC
  - making contact if there are errors
  - logging correspondence
  - email contact when out of compliance
  - permits on hold when out of compliance
  - sending notification of each declaration by email to officers in relevant stat zones
  - weekly webinars to answer questions

# SEFHIER compliance plan

SRFH (Southeast Region For Hire) view for Port agents/OLE under development

- can search application by vessel
- vessel metrics (home port, passenger capacity, etc.)
- vessel reporting history
- vessel permit information
- correspondence history with For-Hire team
- ability to log your own correspondence with vessel that we can see
- potential tool to increase communication between SEFHIER and OLE
- Charter Activity Report



# SRFH Port agent/OLE view



Vessel:

Show Permits

☐ All

☒ Current

[Refresh](#)

Vessel Name	Home Port	State	Primary Gear	Hull ID	Passenger Capacity	Vessel Type	Year Built	Owner	Status	Num Trips	Reported States	Reported Ports	Different States	Different Port	Avg Days	Avg Crew	Avg Anglers
VOYAGER	Barneget Light	NJ	(700) HAND LINE		114		1975	UNKNOWN (RHODE ISLAND) UNKNOWN	ACTIVE	96	1	1	0	96	0	4.8	30.7





▼ Trips by Month & Permit Info

Vessel Id	Entity	Expiration Date	Permit Type	Permit	Permit Status	Effective Date	End Date	Same Owner
565381	461	02/28/2021	CDW		MAILED	03/01/2020		Y
565381	15476	02/28/2015	SC		EXPIRED	03/01/2014	02/28/2015	Y
565381	15476	02/28/2015	CHS		EXPIRED	03/01/2014	02/28/2015	Y

# SRFH Port agent/OLE view



Home / Correspondence

	Vessel Official Number	Primary	Contact Date	Follow- up	Log Group	Call Type	Contact Type	Contact Reason	Contact Recipient Name	Contact Phone Number	Contact Email Address
	99999	221	01/19/2021 08:56AM			Outgoing	Call	General communication	Glenn	9494661481	
	977129	219	01/19/2021 08:22AM			Outgoing	Call	General communication	Edgar Hooper	2524750972	

# Current enforcement plan?

## Outreach and Compliance Assistance

### Short term (6-8 months)

- education
  - making fishermen aware of the program and requirements
  - helping them get the information they need
  - following up with them on expectation that they will be reporting by a certain date
- JEA partners boarding inspections
  - submitting findings through SERO OLE

### Long term

- warnings, summary settlements, more severe if needed

# How can fishermen get started?

# 1

Make sure the information is correct on the permit paperwork.

# 3

Check that their 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

Select a software or VMS unit to use, create a user account, and install it, start reporting.

# Resources

Electronic Reporting Phone Line:

1-833-707-1632

Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm M-F EST

Program email address:

[ser.electronicreporting@noaa.gov](mailto: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/>

# Resources

## Program Team

**General Questions:** Karla Gore, Rich Malinowski, Jenny Ostroff, Rick DeVictor, Peter Hood, Jack McGovern

**Compliance:** Kendall Brancart

**Monitoring:** Anna Petracca, Tamara Heckel, Victoria Tozer

**QA/QC Data:** Alicia Breton, Shannon Stotler

**Customer Service:** Trevor Hope, Dylan Miller

**For-Hire Survey:** Mike Larkin



# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I submit a landing location request?

There is an online [form](#) on our website for landing location requests. Submit the form and within 72 hours your landing location should appear in the application for use.

## Where do I get the applications? Is there a cost?

Both are free. They are available on iTunes and Google Play. All vendors also offer help desk support. There is a toll-free number to call with questions. Visit the [website](#) for links and a comparison of the different requirements that they meet.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**What if I want to use my computer to report?**

Both eTrips and VESL have computer-based versions available.

**Is there an option to submit a report via phone? I don't know how to use a computer or tablet and I don't have a smartphone.**

There is no option to submit reports via a phone call or on paper. There is a toll-free number to call with questions. All vendors also offer help desk support.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**I have both Gulf and South Atlantic permits. Which regulations do I need to comply with?**

If you have both Gulf and SA permits (on the same vessel), you must follow the Gulf regulations. So, even if you are fishing in North Carolina you must declare your fishing trip and report before offloading.

**Can I use the software to meet the needs of different programs?**

Yes. This [table](#) outlines which software complies with the different programs.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**I have a charter/headboat permit but mostly run sightseeing tours. Do I have to report?**

You will have to complete a declaration. However if you aren't fishing on a trip, you can select "non-fishing trip" for trip type in the declaration. You will not have to submit a trip report for non-fishing trips.

**Sometimes I run as a charter, sometimes as a headboat, what do I do?**

If you are part of the SRHS (Southeast Regional Headboat Survey), continue to report as usual. If you are not part of the SRHS, follow the requirements according to your permit, selecting charter vs headboat depending on the trip.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Why do we need to report on economic questions like cost of charter, fuel and fuel used? I don't feel comfortable sharing this information with NOAA.**

These data fields were specifically requested by the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils. Collecting this type of data will give us a better understanding of the economic impacts of fishery management actions and fishery disasters.

**What happens if I decide not to report? What will law enforcement do if I am out of compliance?**

Reporting is a condition of the permit. Not reporting is considered out of compliance with the terms of the permit. Law enforcement actions may range from assisting you with complying with the regulations, to warnings and potential fines.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can I get a VMS now?

There are some units that are approved now that will allow you to submit your declaration and logbook. Others are coming. Right now your options are:

- 1) You can choose an approved unit with forms,
- 2) choose an approved unit without forms and submit forms through an app,
- 3) or just go with the app for now and wait for more units to be approved.

## How do I get reimbursed?

Reimbursement is available for any Gulf permit holder to comply with the new regulations. Reimbursement information is on our [website](#).



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Are there any approved VMS units with forms?**

All approved units are on the [website](#). At this time, only satellite based units (CLS, Faria Beede, and SkyMate) are approved with forms. We are currently testing cellular based units both with and without forms.

## **What if my VMS suddenly doesn't work as I am leaving the dock?**

Right now the position reporting requirement is not effective. You may still use an approved VMS to complete the forms. We suggest you also create an account using either eTrips or VESL, so that you will have a backup in the unlikely event of VMS failure.