

Public comments: Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements

January 22, 2016

Public comments

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is soliciting public comments relative to the Amendment that proposes changes to For-hire vessel reporting requirements. If you would like to comment, please submit here: [Comment here](http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Electronic%20Charter%20Vessel%20Reporting.php) (http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/comment_forms/Electronic%20Charter%20Vessel%20Reporting.php). To learn more, please visit the Gulf Council (<http://gulfcouncil.org/>) website.

To date, we have received 49 comments. The Gulf Council welcomes public input and considers this input carefully in the decision making process. To examine regional interests or preferences, the comments were also mapped (based on approximate location). Below is a map of 48 comments as of 2016-01-22. The comments can be viewed by clicking on the dot.





To view all public comments regarding this amendment, follow this link: [Comments \(https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BhImE1RcpIS4B_qo4ml8rCx0puaqXTIhVMCTQYFI5RM/edit#gid=664521063\)](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BhImE1RcpIS4B_qo4ml8rCx0puaqXTIhVMCTQYFI5RM/edit#gid=664521063).

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Name	Sector(s)	Comments
Capt Cliff Cox	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	I support electronic logbooks. I am currently using ELB and VMS to report my landings. This is the best way to streamline the data collection for the CFH sector.
Brandon Vaughan	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	Action 1: Alt 1 or 2 Action 2: Alt 1 or 2 Action 3: Alt 1 Weekly online reporting should provide the necessary information to achieve the desired goal.
John Dahagian	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	Action 1: preference Alternative 1 Action 2: preference Alternative 1 Action 3: preference Alternative 1 Frequent reporting is more of a burden on charter operators than should be expected by fisheries managers. It is their job to gather the data and requiring the anglers to do their work for them is burdensome and intrusive. Installation of electronic reporting devices on small charter boats is impractical and the cost prohibitive for an industry where the profit margin is so small.
Harry Julian	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	Requiring reporting while underway creates a safety issue as the distraction of the crew away from watchkeeping duties and attending to the customers is compromised. Leave the system as is.
Thomas P. Steber, Jr.	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	I am totally in favor of: Action 1 - Alternative 4 Action - 2 Alternative 4 Our Head boat Pilot Program has worked VERY WELL. Action - 3 Alternative 2 (ALL Charter for Hire
Gene		There is no reason for reef permit on 25 foot charter boat , permit should be for commercial boats that sell there fish. We dont sell fish we take people out for good time. Vessel monitoring device will run our

Bubby Hail	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	batteries dead every night, we turn batteries off at night.I have 2 charter boats one with reef permit one with out. I can keep Grouper under 9 miles with one with out, how stupid is that .No to all changes and do away with reef permit for small boats.
Gene Bubby Hail	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	Reef Permit is double edge sword for small Charter boats. we cant keep Mangrove Snapper under 12 inches in backwater and we cant keep Grouper Offshore but I can with second boat without permit This whole permit should be revised or done away with has any one looked at this how rediculous this is. My clients can not believe i can keep Grouper in one boat but not the other with permit.Reef permit should only be for commercial fisherman that sell there fish we dont sell fish.Vmd will run batteries dead in 25 foot boat and drive customers away.
Gene Bubby Hail	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	Reef permit must be revised before u people run us out of buisness. You can not put vessel md on 25 foot boat no room and will kill batteries.Should be for 35 foot boats and bigger that sell fish or headboats that do a lot of damage wiping out bottom areas.If not at least revise parts of it so we can keep mangrove snapper under 12 inches backwater. we rarely catch them that big inside should be 10 and over like normal and Grouper under 9 miles like i can do with second charter boat with no reef permit. Like we dont have enough to worry about with out all this. Dont make life on water so tuff for every one.
Gene Bubby Hail	Charter/Headboat For-Hire	Maybe Charter boats in panhandle and alabama and that area do things different than we do in Collier County, buSat we dont sell our fish so we dont need reef permit. We take recreational fisherman out for good time and some keep occasional fish to eat other wise all fish are released.So permit should be revised to say small Charter boat under a certain size taking 6 passengers or less or over certain size with selling fish endorsement.We must be allowed to keep Mangrove Snapper in back water at normal size and Grouper under 9 miles like i can in boat with out reef permit. Please let some one that under stands how stupid this permit is.
Robert F.	Private Recreational Angler,	Action 1, I support Alt 2, weekly reporting Action 2, I support Alt 2, weekly reporting Action 3, I support Alt 1, NO ACTION There is no need to require a tracking device on my vessel. I dept and arr at the same slip at the same dock on each and every trip. I routinely dept at the same time each day and return at the same time each day as I operate on a schedule. The vast majority of charter boats operate in a similar way. A tracking device serves no real purpose to enhance quota monitoring. Weekly reporting of data is more than adequate for the purpose of management and quota monitoring. The science center staff and nmfs staff have all stated that weekly reporting is all that is needed. The nmfs or science center

Zales, II	Charter/Headboat For-Hire, NGO, Other	do not have the funds or manpower to handle daily trip reporting which in many cases will be several trips during the day. A tracking device will increase the financial burden on me and could possible cause a dramatic loss of income should the device fail before I am to depart. This will also create a social burden on my customers as if I am not allowed to sail odds are other boats will be booked and the customers will lose their opportunity to fish. In many areas cell service is not available to local ports so reporting before the end of a trip will be impossible. All areas of the Gulf are not the same so a one size fits all will not work. Bob Zales, II
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