

**Data Collection Committee
January 25, 2016
Greg Stunz – Chair**

Transition Considerations of For-Hire Electronic Reporting

Dr. Ponwith gave a presentation describing some technical, management, and cost considerations necessary to implement electronic reporting in the Gulf for-hire sector. She noted that SEFSC is establishing a pilot program to test electronic reporting for Gulf of Mexico for-hire vessels. Her staff is also developing a white paper to evaluate benefits and hurdles of electronic reporting in the for-hire sector. Specifically, reporting frequency, types of approved software/hardware, program costs, and transition considerations to ensure continuity of historical time series will be evaluated.

Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements

The committee also discussed that the Technical Committee appointed at the October 2015 Council meeting should evaluate the SEFSC ‘white paper’ when complete and provide additional recommendations to the Council.

The committee recommends and I so move to convene the Technical Committee to work in concert with SEFSC and SERO to weigh various devices and platforms capable of fulfilling these requirements and review of the white paper from NOAA Fisheries and report back to the Council.

Upon completion of the technical review of the SEFSC white paper, and pilot project, the Council can evaluate these recommendations and take Final Action on the Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements Amendment.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.