Data Collection Committee
January 30, 2017
Greg Stunz – Chair

CLS America Pilot Project

Dr. Stokes gave a presentation (**Tab F, No. 4**) summarizing the CLS America electronic reporting pilot project. She summarized preliminary results of their research highlighting the need for improved matching of trips between reports and dockside intercepts. She also showed that variances estimates of catch are currently higher than comparable estimates from the APAIS. She indicated that research is ongoing to improve trip matching that may be necessary to improve results. Based on the current matching rates, she provided estimates of the sampling increases necessary to achieve estimates of variance that are comparable to the APAIS estimates. She proposed several methods to reduce variance that could be considered when developing the electronic reporting program for federally permitted for-hire vessels in the Gulf.

South Atlantic Generic For-Hire Reporting Amendment

The Committee reviewed the South Atlantic Council's Generic Amendment that would modify charter vessel and headboat reporting requirements (**Tab F, No 6a**) that was approved at their December 2016 meeting. Staff highlighted the revised text in the document that clarified that vessels possessing federal permits in both the South Atlantic and Gulf will be required to report by the more stringent Gulf reporting requirements whether the vessel is fishing in South Atlantic or Gulf waters. This Amendment would require federally permitted South Atlantic for-hire vessels to report all fish harvested and discarded on all trips regardless of where the fish were caught weekly by Tuesday following each fishing week. They are also requiring federally permitted charter vessels to report location fished electronically by manually entering latitude and longitude in degrees and minutes or by clicking on an electronic chart. Mr. Brown, a Council member on the South Atlantic Council stated that this requirement is already in place for headboats; however, their Council is currently working on updating this application for charters vessels so that fishermen can download trip location track information.

The committee recommends and I so move: To accept all the preferred selections within the South Atlantic Electronic Reporting Amendment to the full Council.

The Committee recognized that the codified text accompanying this document were not yet available but are expected to be available for review at full Council.

Gulf Generic For-Hire Reporting Amendment

Staff reviewed written comments received since the October 2016 Council meeting (**Tab F, No. 5b**). Next, staff reviewed the Gulf Generic Amendment to modify charter vessel and headboat reporting requirements (**Tab F, No. 5a**). Staff reviewed the revised notes under Actions 1 and 2 and the IPT recommendations in Action 3 that clarified the Council's intent. Staff also noted that language was added, noting that an approved emergency system would need to be developed if the

VMS or any other selected system is non-operational.

The committee recommends and I so move that: The Committee accept the IPT recommendations for the alternatives in Action 3, *Trip Notification and Reporting Requirements*.

The Committee also reviewed the IPT proposed changes to the Alternatives in Action 4. These changes clarified that the geo-positioning portion (GPS) of the reporting hardware be permanently affixed to the vessel. The Committee discussed that this was necessary for Alternative 4 but did not agree it was necessary for Alternatives 2 and 3.

The committee recommends and I so <u>move</u>: To accept the IPT recommendations for Alternative 4, in Action 4 *Hardware/Software Requirements for Reporting*.

> Require vessel operators to submit fishing records via NMFS approved vessel monitoring system hardware/software that provides vessel position data to NMFS. **The antenna and junction box area are permanently affixed to the vessel**.
> **Option a:** Charter vessels
> **Option b:** Headboats

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.