

**Data Collection Committee
April 4, 2016
Greg Stunz, Chair**

Final Action: South Atlantic Amendment: Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements

Dr. Maclauchlin updated the Council on the status of the SAFMC amendment. This amendment applies to vessels fishing under South Atlantic charter and headboat permits for snapper/grouper, dolphin/wahoo and coastal migratory pelagics to improve for-hire data management. There are three actions that discuss timelines and data required from charter vessels and updates headboat timelines for reporting. Eventually, the Gulf Council will need to approve the final amendment as it applies to the joint mackerel fishery management plan even though it will only apply to vessels and permits in the South Atlantic.

Update: Commercial Electronic Reporting Pilot Program

Dr. Porch gave a presentation on the current status of the electronic reporting program, updates to the data that will be collected in the program (location, gear type, hook type, bait, etc.), vendors and participants. Twelve vessels participated but only nine submitted data. The program is refining the data collection (such as eliminating duplicative data) and improving hardware. There is not a final timetable for an amendment in the Gulf, but the SEFSC would like to begin a voluntary program by 2017. There will be an update and timeline provided for the June Council meeting.

Review Electronic Reporting Program Flowchart

Dr. Farmer went through a flow chart for electronic monitoring that was requested by the Data Collection Committee. The flow chart was very informative and included both tradeoffs for each decision point and the approximate cost for each of the main questions. The Council will need to make decisions on key points such as self-reported or automated data, how spatial data is gathered, how the data is validated, and if the data is in real time. Some of the costs presented will be the responsibility of industry, others will be the responsibility of NMFS. It was clarified that though the Council could submit a plan amendment, these programs would require funding that NMFS currently does not have. The agency will need to procure funds to be able to implement the plan, and these new data will need to run concurrently with the MRIP program for calibration between the two programs. The committee requested that the technical committee (roster below) be convened to review the flowchart and provide the Council with feedback and needs.

The committee recommends and I so **move: to convene the Technical Data Committee to review the minimum data elements that the SEFSC deems necessary and look at different hardware/software options and advise the Council on findings.**

Motion carried with no opposition.

Data Collection Technical Committee

Gregg Bray - GSMFC
Ken Brennan - SEFSC
Mark Fisher - TPWD
John Froeschke - GMFMC
Ron Salz - MRIP
Beverly Sauls - FWC
George Silva - HMS
Andy Strelcheck - SERO
Joe Jewell - MDMR
Jason Adriance - LDWF
Nicole Smith - LDWF

Mr. Chairman this concludes my report.