

**Data Collection Committee
Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab F**

Agenda Item IV: Presentation on Highly Migratory Species Proposed Rule

Timeline Status: Information, discussion, and feedback

Council input and next steps: On September 6th, 2024, the office for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) published a proposed rule to modify and expand data collection for commercial, for-hire, private recreational, and dealer reporting. HMS has selected preferred alternatives for each action considered in the proposed rule. Subsequently, Council staff developed a letter requesting additional clarification of several of the items listed as preferred in the HMS proposed rule. This letter is provided as background material for the Committee.

In response, HMS staff will provide a presentation outlining the contents of the proposed rule and address the clarifications requested in the letter. The Committee should review the background materials and ask questions of HMS staff. If desired, the Committee can direct Council staff to develop a comment letter on the proposed rule. The deadline for submitting comment to HMS is January 6th, 2025.

Agenda Item V: Discussion on For-hire Data Collection Amendment

Timeline Status: Discussion and feedback

Council input and next steps: The Committee will receive an update on the development of an amendment to implement electronic reporting for the Gulf for-hire industry. Council staff will review the most recent changes to the document including stipulating a regular 5-year review of the program and the inclusion of “Did Not Fish” reports to the program requirements. Specifically, the presentation will focus on the action to consider collection of economic information. The previous version of the action included an alternative to sample a portion of trips; however, operationalization of this method is arduous to implement within the electronic application technology. As a result, a methodology to sample at the vessel level is now being proposed in the most recent version. The Committee should ask question of staff and provide feedback to staff on a future version of the draft document.

Agenda Item VI: Southeast Region Headboat Survey (SRHS) Report

Timeline Status: Informational

Council input and next steps: Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) staff will provide an information update on the most recent SRHS report. This report is informational, and no action is required from the Committee.

Agenda Item VI: Updates on the Marine Recreation Information Program (MRIP) Transition and Pilot Project

Timeline Status: Informational

Council input and next steps: Dr. Richard Cody from the Office of Science and Technology (OS&T) will provide an update on the status of several research projects being conducted on addressing calibration among private recreational data collection programs in the Gulf and improving precision and accuracy for the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) portion of MRIP. Currently, a year-long pilot study is being conducted to measure how modifications to FES (question order and one-month versus two-month sampling) affect recreational effort estimation. The Committee should ask questions of staff about the progress of ongoing work associated with MRIP-FES. This presentation is informational, and no action is needed by the Committee.