

GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

DATA COLLECTION COMMITTEE

Webinar

OCTOBER 26, 2020

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 Roy Crabtree.....NMFS
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1	
2	<u>OTHER PARTICIPANTS</u>
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4	Peter Hood.....NMFS
5	Alan Lowther.....NMFS
6	Tim Griner.....SAFMC
7	Clay Porch.....SEFSC
8	Joe Spraggins.....MS
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1 The Data Collection Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery
2 Management Council convened via webinar on Monday morning,
3 October 26, 2020, and was called to order by Chairman Kevin
4 Anson.

5
6 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
7 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
8 **ACTION GUIDE AND NEXT STEPS**
9

10 **CHAIRMAN KEVIN ANSON:** I would like to begin the Data Collection
11 Committee. Before we get into the agenda items, I just want to
12 briefly go over the members. It will be Dr. Stunz, Mr. Banks,
13 Mr. Boggs, Ms. Bosarge, Dr. Crabtree, Mr. Donaldson, Ms. Guyas,
14 Mr. Riechers, Mr. Sanchez, Joe Spraggins, Mr. Swindell, and Mr.
15 Williamson.

16
17 That takes us to the first item on the agenda, and that's the
18 Adoption of the Agenda. Is there any changes to the agenda? If
19 not, if someone could offer a motion to adopt the agenda.

20
21 **MR. DAVE DONALDSON:** So moved.

22
23 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We have a motion to adopt the
24 agenda. Do we have a second?

25
26 **DR. GREG STUNZ:** I will second.

27
28 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** It's seconded by Dr. Stunz. Any discussion?
29 Any opposition to the motion to adopt the agenda as written?
30 Seeing none, the agenda is adopted. Moving to Agenda Item
31 Number II, Tab F, Number 2, the Approval of the June 2020
32 Minutes. Are there any corrections to the minutes? Seeing
33 none, can I get a motion to adopt the minutes?

34
35 **MS. MARTHA GUYAS:** So moved.

36
37 **MR. DONALDSON:** Second.

38
39 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Motion by Ms. Guyas and second by Dave. Any
40 opposition to the motion? Seeing none, the minutes are
41 approved. Next is Tab F, Number 3, Action Guide and Next Steps.
42 Dr. Hollensead.

43
44 **DR. LISA HOLLENSEAD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Largely, what we'll
45 be going through today is sort of a continuation of what we
46 spoke about at the June meeting, starting with the review of
47 potential regulation changes for commercial electronic logbooks.
48 If you recall, there were some questions that the committee

1 posed to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center staff, just some
2 general questions about permitting and things, and there is a
3 background document in the briefing book that you may want to
4 reference while Dr. Julie Brown goes through the presentation,
5 and she touches on some of these questions a little bit in her
6 presentation, and so I'm going to let her speak to that as she
7 presents, but it might be good just to have that handy as a
8 reference as you go through.

9
10 We also have Dr. Alan Lowther from the Science Center who can
11 help answer your questions as well, and so the committee should
12 review these agenda materials and ask any questions and provide
13 guidance to staff on the potential development of an associated
14 policy document for these regulatory modifications. That will
15 be Agenda Item IV.

16
17 Agenda Item V will be a continued update report from Mr. Peter
18 Hood from the Southeast Regional Office discussing the SEFHIER
19 Program. As many of you are aware, the effective date for Phase
20 1 of that program will begin on January 5 of 2021, and then
21 Phase 2 requirements will be following afterwards, and so the
22 committee should be prepared to discuss the program timeline and
23 ask any questions regarding the details of that program and
24 offer any insights as well. If there's no other questions, that
25 will conclude my presentation of the action guide.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee
28 members? Okay, and so that will take us into Tab F, Number 4,
29 Review of Potential Regulatory Changes from Commercial
30 Electronic Logbook Program Implementation, and, Dr. Brown, I
31 heard you earlier. Are you going to be presenting?

32
33 **REVIEW OF POTENTIAL REGULATORY CHANGES FROM COMMERCIAL**
34 **ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION**
35

36 **DR. JULIE BROWN:** I guess I will be going through this
37 presentation, and I will just say "next" when we need to advance
38 the slide. Thanks, everyone, for inviting me here to give
39 updates. Again, my name is Julie Brown, and I guess I will ask
40 that we please wait until the end for questions, but, if
41 something is going on with my audio, or any other technical
42 difficulties, please, by all means, interrupt me, or let me know
43 in some way, shape, or form.

44
45 The council's request is going to be the main driver for what
46 I'm going to go over today, and the council asked for a
47 description of the users who will be affected by the updated
48 logbook program, and they asked for a list of the requirements

1 for the hardware and software approval. I will be going over
2 the reporting frequency and timing for users and a list of the
3 required reporting elements, and I will give a few other
4 considerations that we just want to bring awareness to.

5
6 The goal of this program was to create a data collection program
7 that can accommodate all the legal requirements of commercial
8 fishers in the Gulf and the South Atlantic. As such, 2,995
9 unique vessels must submit federal logbook reports to the
10 Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

11
12 As of 2018, 749 unique vessels have one or a combination of the
13 following permits: gillnet for king mackerel, king mackerel,
14 gulf reef fish, reef fish longline, shark directed, shark
15 incidental, and Spanish mackerel, and all of those require a
16 coastal logbook when fishing in Gulf waters.

17
18 Also, as of 2018, 335 unique vessels have one or a combination
19 of the following: Atlantic tuna longline, swordfish directed,
20 swordfish incidental, shark directed, and shark incidental
21 permits, which require a pelagic longline logbook when fishing
22 in either the Gulf or Atlantic waters.

23
24 This slide is to give context about the breadth of our logbook
25 program at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, which must
26 accommodate Atlantic commercial permits as well as the Gulf, and
27 the demarcation between those two fishing boundary zones is the
28 extension of U.S. 1 in the Florida Keys, and those permits that
29 require a coastal logbook for fishery management plans in the
30 Gulf of Mexico are here highlighted in yellow, and this slide is
31 also just a nice reference for anyone like me, who has trouble
32 keeping track of all the acronyms.

33
34 We also want to remind our audience that the Southeast Fisheries
35 Science Center does not build or maintain logbook software, and
36 potential vendors are responsible for the software that
37 satisfies our standards, and the Southeast Fisheries Science
38 Center will have the same approval process for both the Gulf and
39 the Atlantic fisheries.

40
41 The electronic vessel trip reporting systems must allow the user
42 to meet existing reporting regulations, which can be found at
43 this reference, 50 CFR 622.5. There is also going to be
44 password and electronic signature requirements. Files must be
45 transmitted through an approved thirty-party server hosted by
46 the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, ACCSP, as
47 we call that for short, via an application programming
48 interface, an API, for short.

1
2 We are currently working with ACCSP to modify eTRIPS, which is
3 their version of the software, to accommodate all the variables
4 that we have requested for the voluntary electronic reporting
5 application, and, down at the bottom of the page, we have all
6 the vendors who have participated in building software for our
7 pilot study several years ago, and we just want to help them for
8 their help in generating the feedback that we needed to develop
9 this program.

10
11 Soon, we will have the following available to any potential
12 vendor software developers, and we're going to have a technical
13 requirements document, which will also include a list of best
14 practices, and the best practices may factor heavily into the
15 approval process for any software, and examples of a best
16 practice would include questions such as is the information
17 input by the user in the correct order, are basic internal
18 audits performed, is help available 24/7, et cetera?

19
20 As with other e-logbook programs, we will require that software
21 platforms can adapt to any future regulations or requirements
22 put forth by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center or fishing
23 councils.

24
25 Here we have some more collection rules. Users should be to
26 view and edit previous trips, and they must have access to help
27 and support provided by the software vendor and not by the
28 Southeast Fisheries Science Center. We would really like to
29 encourage twenty-four-hour support from the vendors.

30
31 Transmission of data while at-sea is optional, and it would have
32 to be one of the approved vessel monitoring units, and it's not
33 mandatory, but any changes to a vessel monitoring system must go
34 through the vessel monitoring system headquarters staff.

35
36 This is just an example of the Harbor Lights eTRIPS mobile app,
37 just to give a little visual reference for what we're talking
38 about, and this software can be used on a tablet, phone, or
39 laptop. Other vendors will have their own layout and interface,
40 and it can be integrated with VMS, or you can use a little GPS
41 dongle to collect some of the fishing effort details.

42
43 Commercial fishers have traditionally submitted trip reports and
44 no-fishing trip reports via the USPS. We are modernizing this
45 process by allowing, and eventually mandating, the submission of
46 this data electronically, which would be a major advancement in
47 many areas. For starters, there is going to be no more
48 handwriting interpretation, which is kind of a topic of great

1 consternation of the staff.

2
3 Valid entries will be limited, and so you won't be able to
4 write, for instance, letters instead of numbers in a value
5 field. Gear description options are also going to be more exact
6 and better able to capture the real fishing behavior. The
7 example we always like to use is catching lobster, which we have
8 previously always categorized as a type of spearfishing, but
9 that is kind of confusing for users, because using a spear to
10 catch lobster is actually illegal, and so now we're going to
11 have more descriptive categories, such as catching by hand while
12 diving, and so hopefully that will be an improvement for our
13 users as well.

14
15 We will be updating the submission deadline for e-logbook
16 reports. Users will now be required to submit a report prior to
17 offloading their catch instead of the seven days after
18 offloading, which we currently require for paper logbooks that
19 are being mailed. The new time limit improves the quality of
20 data and compliance, and it's going to reduce the recall bias.
21 Users won't be filling out their logbook based on a trip ticket,
22 for instance, and, also, they should not be getting filled out
23 by a secretary or a spouse or anyone other than the person who
24 was actually operating the vessel. This also allows us to
25 compare trip tickets and logbooks, to match them.

26
27 Now, the monthly no-fishing reports we plan on keeping at the
28 current deadline, which is seven days after the month has ended.
29 Under the circumstance that both are submitted, the fishing
30 report and a no-fishing report, the fishing report will take
31 precedence over that, and the vessel will get compliance for
32 that month. We do not have any sort of penalty for mistakenly
33 submitting both reports for the same month.

34
35 For the header elements, these are provided by the software, and
36 the users don't need to worry about inputting these. An example
37 would be software version, transmission date, et cetera. Now,
38 the trip elements that we are collecting, these are what are
39 input by the user, and so we have an economic survey, trip
40 description, and we're also going to have set/effort-level
41 elements, such as the gear parameters, and we also have catch-
42 level elements, such as the species, the weight, the
43 disposition, and the sale of all catches, whether they were kept
44 or discarded.

45
46 The biggest conceptual change for users is that we will now be
47 asking them to provide details for each of their sets instead of
48 the entire trip, which is what they're used to. Highly

1 migratory species fishers are already used to doing this, but
2 they have to use multiple forms to do so. Now, users are going
3 to be asked to estimate a haul weight per set instead of an
4 estimated or measured weight per trip. This will give our stock
5 assessments more and more precise CPUE indices of abundance.

6
7 On the paper logbook, scientists were forced to make assumptions
8 about the distribution of catch and effort over time and space,
9 and the new logbook will allow the elements to be reported at
10 the correct level, as hopefully this little diagram can
11 illustrate for us.

12
13 At the level of the entire trip, which will have a unique
14 identifier, the user will describe the type of the trip they're
15 taking, such as whether it's commercial or for-hire, the crew
16 size, and the start and end time and location.

17
18 We are also asking users to report the economic survey elements,
19 which has also been on the paper logbook, and there's no real
20 major changes here, and one small instance is that users can now
21 specify if they use diesel or regular fuel. Initial volunteers
22 for e-logbook reporting will be asked these questions as a
23 census, instead of the survey that is currently asked of a
24 fraction of paper logbook reporters.

25
26 In this slide, instead of going over every gear attribute that
27 we're going to collect, I am only mentioning the ones that are
28 in way different from those that are already asked on paper
29 logbooks, and some of these are probably considered minor
30 details. We will be asking for a target species now. For gears
31 that use bait, we'll ask whether bait was used and the bait
32 type, and we're going to asking for set starting and end and
33 haul starting and end for selected gears. Then date, time, and
34 location elements. For cast nets, spears, and harpoons, we'll
35 now be asking for the number of gear used, and so the number of
36 pieces of the apparatus.

37
38 For bottom longlines, we're going to be asking for the length of
39 the gangion. For coastal hook-and-line gears, we will ask for
40 the J or circle hook size, and, also, for bottom longlines,
41 we'll ask for the number of lightsticks, although this isn't
42 mandatory, and a lot of these elements that have to do with
43 hook-and-line, for example j-hook size, et cetera, are already
44 being asked of the pelagic longline fleet.

45
46 As I said earlier, one major upgrade will be higher precision of
47 CPUE indices. Users will be currently reporting locations that
48 are based on a GPS coordinate instead of the one-by-one-degree

1 grid that is currently used for paper logbooks. This is needed
2 for spatial analysis, and it's also is used in the more advanced
3 stock assessment packages.

4
5 As an example, something that would go in our best practices
6 that I have mentioned earlier is that vendors are strongly
7 encouraged to produce software that would capture these elements
8 via an internal clock and a GPS on devices that have those
9 capabilities, and so smartphones or onboard GPS devices.

10
11 Another reminder from the June presentation is our exception to
12 the set-based reporting, which is based on feedback from the
13 pilot study. Handlines and cast nets we found did not naturally
14 fall into a clear set definition, and those fishing events would
15 have a slightly looser definition, based on the events where a
16 major of fishing activity has either begun or ended. This is to
17 compensate for periods of kind of passive fishing, where the
18 users are searching for suitable fishing grounds, but it's not
19 considered a major fishing event. This searching behavior would
20 not count as a fully self-contained set as the user migrated to
21 a different area.

22
23 Bandit reels, however, do fall naturally into well-defined sets.
24 However, they are not defined every time a hook is either reeled
25 into or out of the water. A new set would happen when all of
26 the lines are out of the water and fishing stops or the fisher
27 goes to a new location.

28
29 The catch-level reporting elements are, again, the estimated
30 hail amount, which I talked about earlier, the offload date,
31 time, and port, the dealer information, and the disposition. We
32 will be asking all users to report every catch, whether it was
33 sold, kept for personal use, discarded, or even seized by law
34 enforcement is an option. Discard estimates are used in
35 conjunction with those provided by observers.

36
37 As is currently the case, users will continue to have the
38 ability to check their compliance on the public NOAA website by
39 simply entering in their vessel ID number. Then they are shown
40 a list of months that have either an N or a Y next to them, Y
41 being that the vessel has compliance for that month and N being
42 that we have not received a valid report for that month.

43
44 Also, as a reminder, we already have the no-fishing reports
45 online and running smooth, as a voluntary submission at this
46 time. When I was making this presentation in August, I think we
47 had something like 2,367 reports that had been filed via this
48 online reporting system, and, again, those are for the no

1 fishing.

2
3 To wrap things up, we would like to request giving another
4 update on the program at hopefully the next meeting in December.
5 Once the infrastructure can accept electronic logbooks, we would
6 like to have a minimum of one year of voluntary submissions
7 until we start making mandatory requirements, which would be
8 developed by HMS and the councils. That's it, and so, if you
9 all have any questions, I will open the floor up and try to
10 answer them as best I can at this time.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dr. Brown. Are there any questions
13 from committee members? Ms. Levy.

14
15 **MS. MARA LEVY:** Thank you. Not so much a question, I guess, but
16 just a couple of comments. This is a really, I think, thorough
17 presentation about what the Science Center would like to do with
18 commercial reporting.

19
20 I guess I would just, not caution so much, but I know there's a
21 recognition that the council needs to develop some of the
22 documents here to actually implement these changes and make them
23 mandatory and that, during that process, there is going to be
24 the requirement to consider different alternatives and such, and
25 so I know that the Science Center would like trip-level
26 reporting, and maybe that's certainly the way to go, but we
27 wouldn't just be developing a document that does trip-level
28 reporting without considering other alternatives, like we did
29 for the for-hire reporting, right, because, right now, it's, I
30 think, weekly reporting, and it's paper for a lot of the
31 fisheries.

32
33 I mean, they all have different reporting requirements, and some
34 of them are very similar in the Gulf and South Atlantic, and so
35 we would need to look at that and actually look at what we
36 needed to change and what particular alternatives we could
37 consider in making those changes. Thank you.

38
39 **DR. BROWN:** Absolutely. What I have put in this presentation
40 are what we have proposed to be our standards, but, obviously,
41 the fishery councils would need to work together, again, with
42 each other and with the Highly Migratory staff, if they want to
43 put together any -- What's the word I'm looking for? I guess
44 alternative options and whether the alternatives are usually
45 just no changes, or something like that, and that's up to the
46 councils.

47
48 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. Ms. Boggs.

1
2 **MS. SUSAN BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do have one question.
3 On one of the slides, you had the status of 2018 with unique
4 permits, and has that changed much in 2020? Is there much of a
5 variance?
6

7 **DR. BROWN:** No, and that was just the most concrete numbers,
8 just because things were still kind of in flux when I was
9 obtaining this data, but, no, they don't change dramatically
10 from year to year.
11

12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Next, I have Ms. Bosarge.
13

14 **MS. LEANN BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This seems like a
15 lot of change for the commercial fishermen, as far as what they
16 report and how they report it and how often they report it. My
17 question was, during the pilot program that you all went
18 through, and I guess it's been five or six years ago now, with
19 these commercial fishermen, I know it was a pretty streamlined
20 pilot program, and I think we only had four commercial fishermen
21 from the Gulf of Mexico in it, but were you requiring this level
22 of detail? Were you requiring set-level detail, where they had
23 to estimate pounds, and not of every species individually, plus
24 discarded species and economic data and all that kind of good
25 stuff?
26

27 **DR. BROWN:** We didn't really have a problem. When the apps are
28 working as they should, the users will be able to just click a
29 button that would say I started my set now, and this is the
30 date, time, and location of my start set. That way, they're
31 like typing in numbers for every single one of these fields,
32 and, yes, they were -- These people that are out on the water
33 are pretty good at being able to estimate how much a fish is
34 without first taking it back to the dealer and having it exactly
35 weighed, and so they're pretty good at estimating their catch
36 within 10 percent of what it actually ended up being at the
37 dealer.
38

39 A lot of the -- Like, for the example of the economic survey,
40 all of those questions have been asked on the paper logbook for
41 many, many years, but they've just been asked for a percentage
42 of the fleet that gets selected to participate in the survey
43 each year, and I'm totally kind of pulling this out of the air,
44 but I think maybe something like 30 percent of the fleet is
45 asked to participate in that survey every year, and so, if
46 people have been commercial fishing for several years, they have
47 definitely been exposed to that survey and have had to fill that
48 out and are familiar with those elements.

1
2 **MS. BOSARGE:** Mr. Chairman, can I ask a follow-up question?

3
4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Yes.

5
6 **MS. BOSARGE:** So that economic survey -- I don't know how it is
7 in the reef fish fishery and some of these other ones that you
8 listed, but, for the shrimp fishery, yes, it's a paper survey,
9 and we fill it out, but we fill it out one time a year and not
10 every single trip. For some of the dayboat reef fish fishermen,
11 that might be every single day that they make a one-day trip,
12 and so they're going to go from filling it out once a year to
13 filling it out maybe 200 times a year, and so those are the kind
14 of things that I wondered if -- Did you actually run this
15 through that pilot program or not?

16
17 **DR. BROWN:** We don't have any shrimp trawlers currently that are
18 reporting to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, and so, if
19 that fishery was to migrate under our little umbrella, that
20 would be something that we would consider at that time.

21
22 The people that are participating in the reef fish fishery, if
23 they are selected to do the economic survey elements, they are
24 currently doing that at every trip, and so that is currently
25 something that they're already doing.

26
27 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Next, I have a few more people that would like
28 to speak. Dr. Simmons.

29
30 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARRIE SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
31 guess I have a question for Roy and Peter and the council, I
32 guess, to think about here. We've had, on our to-do list, or
33 our action schedule of amendments, to require electronic
34 reporting for the commercial sector since February of 2013, but
35 we were waiting to get the results of this pilot report from the
36 Science Center, and it seems like even more progress has been
37 made towards this program shifting to electronic reporting.

38
39 It's still not very clear to me though if this is going to be
40 several different documents to make these regulatory changes.
41 Like, for example, one document to implement the changes for
42 reef fish and make it mesh with the IFQ program, and perhaps a
43 joint document with the South Atlantic Council to cover the
44 coastal migratory pelagics, and I think we need to start
45 thinking about that, and perhaps discussing it more, and start
46 thinking about convening our APs to comment on some of this, and
47 so have you all thought about timing of that, Mara or Roy or
48 Peter?

1
2 **MS. LEVY:** I mean, I think that really depends on how the
3 council wants to handle it. I mean, if the goal here from the
4 Science Center, and the council agrees with it, is that
5 everybody is reporting through the same time period and that
6 sort of stuff, and we just need to make a wholesale change to
7 the relevant reporting regulations, there could be a Gulf and a
8 South Atlantic document, or we could potentially do one document
9 for everything, although that might be very cumbersome. I think
10 it just depends how you want to handle it, in terms of what
11 kinds of documents we're looking at.

12
13 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right, and so that's something to consider
14 as we continue discussion, and I have a couple more folks, and I
15 am keeping an eye on the clock, and we have one more
16 presentation, and we're getting past our halfway mark, and so
17 Ms. Guyas.

18
19 **MS. GUYAS:** Thanks, Kevin. Thank you for your presentation, and
20 so your picture of lobster got me asking lots of questions about
21 that, and so, because this was a small pilot, I assume there
22 weren't any active lobster fishermen that were included in the
23 pilot, but I am wondering how this would work for them.

24
25 At least in my head, I don't see how you would define like a set
26 for them, and I guess maybe for dive you could do that part of
27 it, but, for traps, I think that's a little more nebulous, and
28 I'm just wondered if you encountered that already or if you have
29 thought through that, how to do it for that fishery, that kind
30 of fishery.

31
32 **DR. BROWN:** For traps, those are a pretty well-defined set, and,
33 if the council wants for me to put together an extremely
34 detailed description of what the sets are, that's in our
35 technical requirements, and I can certainly forward that to the
36 council members, but, for diving, it would be considered when
37 you have divers go into the water and when they come out of the
38 water. If there is a -- Basically, if there's a significant
39 change in the amount of effort that's being put forth or if the
40 boat gets up and goes somewhere else.

41
42 **MS. GUYAS:** That makes sense.

43
44 **DR. BROWN:** Does that answer your question?

45
46 **MS. GUYAS:** Sort of. I was kind of thinking more about the
47 traps, since they soak for a while, and you might have different
48 soak times, depending on where you are. Are they trying to log

1 catch per trap, or catch per trap trawl? I feel like it might
2 get a little crazy, at least the way I'm thinking about it in my
3 head, and so that's why I was curious how you all are handling
4 that.

5
6 **DR. BROWN:** It would be like per string. Does that answer it?
7 We wouldn't be doing per individual like trap. It would be per
8 like a trap string.

9
10 **MS. GUYAS:** Okay, and I guess they would log how many traps are
11 on that line and how long they've been out and all that, and
12 that's how you would figure -- You would have to standardize it
13 somehow, I'm assuming, right?

14
15 **DR. BROWN:** Exactly, yes, and all of those questions are
16 currently asked on the paper logbook, and so none of those
17 estimates should be unfamiliar to people who are trap fishing.

18
19 **MS. GUYAS:** Okay, and then one more question. With the pilot
20 and with the HMS program that's in place now, do you all have a
21 sense of the difference in time burden, and I guess maybe crew
22 time, or even I guess number of crew, if there is a difference,
23 I guess due to this logbook change?

24
25 **DR. BROWN:** We are really hoping that this will be considered a
26 streamlined process, as opposed to filling out the paper forms.
27 The pelagic longline, like I said, those HMS fisheries are
28 already required to do per-set estimates of their effort and
29 their catch, and the difference is that they have to use like
30 multiple pages and mail all of those pages in at once.

31
32 We're making every effort possible to have our requirements and
33 our best practices create apps that are efficient and
34 streamlined, but there is obviously going to be variance among
35 the vendors and what they are able to produce, how user friendly
36 people consider it to be, but we're definitely making every
37 effort possible for this to be a streamlined situation, where,
38 for new values that need to be input every time you do a new
39 set, we obviously want users to be required to physically input
40 those new parameters each time, but we also have features like
41 there is going to be favorites for the species, and so you just
42 click on your favorite, or those sorts of things. Does that
43 answer your question?

44
45 **MS. GUYAS:** Sort of. Thanks.

46
47 **DR. BROWN:** Okay.

1 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Next, I have Dr. Frazer.

2
3 **DR. TOM FRAZER:** Thanks, Kevin, and so, Julie, I enjoyed the
4 presentation. I just wanted to follow-up on a question that
5 Leann asked about the estimated weights per set, and so we have
6 discussed this a lot, I guess on the council, with regard to
7 estimating weight after a trip, or coming in, and so you made a
8 comment that the estimated weights combined, I guess, from each
9 of the sets were within 10 percent of that reported to the
10 dealer, and I'm wondering how many trip-level pieces of
11 information you have to support that.

12
13 **DR. BROWN:** I would have to get back to you on that. I was
14 actually not working for NOAA or involved in the pilot program,
15 and so, to get those statistics to you, I would need to get that
16 to you at a later time.

17
18 **DR. FRAZER:** Okay. Thank you.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Last, I have Mr. Spraggins.

21
22 **GENERAL JOE SPRAGGINS:** I'm sorry. I didn't know I had it up.

23
24 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. I just have one
25 question, and then I would like some discussion from committee
26 members as to what is a preference for moving this along. We
27 have a recommendation in the action guide to develop a policy
28 document, but my question is, Dr. Brown, on page 6 of the
29 slides, of your presentation, you had reference to voluntary
30 electronic reporting application, and that was related, I guess,
31 to the eTRIPS software, and what -- Can you describe that a
32 little more, as to what voluntary -- Is that just something in
33 the future that would allow for some module that would be
34 voluntary?

35
36 **DR. BROWN:** No, and that's just to refer to the fact that,
37 initially, before we make the submission electronically
38 mandatory, we would like to have a general rollout period where
39 people can sign-up to submit these electronically on a voluntary
40 basis, just before we make the submission mandatory, and so
41 submitting a logbook will still be mandatory, but, if you choose
42 to do it electronically, we would like to have a year where
43 people could try voluntarily doing it electronically.

44
45 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Okay. Is there any desire among
46 committee members to come up with a motion to direct staff to
47 develop a policy document?

1 **DR. STUNZ:** Kevin, I am happy to make that motion, and I'm not
2 sure exactly what it needs to say, but, personally, I think I'm
3 fine to move forward on this, unless there's others on the
4 committee that don't feel that way.

5
6 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Well, if you could at least make an attempt at
7 crafting a motion on the fly, or maybe perhaps Ms. Bosarge wants
8 to address that.

9
10 **MS. BOSARGE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to -- I was
11 waiting on my hand to come up there on the screen, and I am not
12 very patient, and I'm not good at waiting on that, but my
13 suggestion was going to be -- You know, there's a lot in this
14 presentation, and, before the council gets into the amendment
15 process, which is a lot of time and effort for staff, I wondered
16 if it wouldn't be worthwhile to run this through whatever AP we
17 think is the correct one, to get some feedback from fishermen to
18 kind of parse through all these different options, and maybe
19 whittle this down to a reasonable level that the council can
20 actually get some traction and make some progress on.

21
22 I am thinking about when we went through the for-hire logbook
23 document, and that gets so deep so quickly, and this was a lot
24 of information right here, and I think it just might be
25 worthwhile to run this through maybe the IFQ AP, and I know all
26 those people have to report, but I am open to other ones, and
27 get their feedback, so that we can really hone-in on the most
28 important pieces before we start the document.

29
30 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you for your comment. Dr. Simmons.

31
32 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't know
33 that we need a motion to start work on this. Like I said, we've
34 had this on the action schedule, and I think it's Item Number
35 13, since 2013, and I think what would be helpful is, like Ms.
36 Bosarge suggested, if we start getting the APs together and work
37 with the Science Center, but, I mean, we have a lot of
38 outstanding questions regarding how many documents this may
39 entail and are we going to have to separate reef fish from the
40 coastal migratory pelagics, the coastal migratory pelagics being
41 a joint amendment, and so I'm not really sure what all changes
42 are going to have to be made regarding that, and so perhaps we
43 don't need a motion for that just yet, but has the South
44 Atlantic Council started work on this in an amendment? Does
45 anyone know, Roy or Peter?

46
47 **MR. PETER HOOD:** I don't know if we've done that or not, whether
48 they have started it or not. Sorry.

1
2 **DR. ROY CRABTREE:** I can't recall either, and I don't know if
3 Jack McGovern is on, and he may know.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** While we wait --

6
7 **MR. HOOD:** Kevin, this is Peter, and Jack just sent a message
8 that says the South Atlantic Council did begin a draft
9 amendment, but it's on hold right now.

10
11 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Okay. Thank you. Go ahead, Dr. Simmons.

12
13 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just
14 mention, again, that if the Science Center could help us, and it
15 would help us a great deal to start thinking about this document
16 and how it may be structured, and, if we could get that pilot
17 project report in hand, I think that would help us a lot.

18
19 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Although things can change, I guess, if they
20 put it on hold, but maybe kind of get with South Atlantic staff
21 to see what amendment they have developed, to maybe get an idea
22 as to what direction they would like to go too, in the meantime.
23 I have Dr. Stunz and then Ms. Levy, and I'm going to go to Ms.
24 Levy first, and she may have some comments relative to the last
25 commenter. Ms. Levy.

26
27 **MS. LEVY:** Thank you. I would just say it might also be
28 helpful, the next time we talk about this, to look at what the
29 current regulations say about reporting, because they're not
30 super detailed, right, and like they have a timing element, and
31 it's saying, if you're selected, you need to report on a form,
32 and this is when you have to get it in, and so I think the main
33 thing that the council would be looking at changing is the
34 frequency and the timing and things like that.

35
36 When we did the for-hire reporting, we didn't necessarily delve
37 into all the details about what the data elements were, and
38 those aren't in the regs. We did talk about them, and there was
39 information in the document about what those would probably be,
40 but I guess it would just be helpful to look at the regulations
41 and what we might want to change or add, to the extent we want
42 it to be enforceable. Thanks.

43
44 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Dr. Stunz.

45
46 **DR. STUNZ:** Sending it to the advisory groups, whichever ones
47 are important, I think is a good way to proceed, and maybe I
48 missed it earlier, but what is our general timeline, or is there

1 certain deadlines that we need to meet to get this going, or are
2 we just -- I am trying to get a feel for how long that would
3 take.

4
5 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** My understanding is that there will be this
6 voluntary phase, which is proposed, I guess, for 2021, and the
7 wish would be, from the agency, to begin in 2022. Dr. Brown, is
8 that incorrect?

9
10 **DR. BROWN:** Yes, that's what we had proposed.

11
12 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. Thank you. So, based on what we
13 did for the for-hire reporting, that would be fairly aggressive,
14 in my opinion, but it's something that we can at least still
15 strive for, and, unless I hear anyone else about this topic, I
16 would like to move on to the next agenda item.

17
18 It sounds like we can go ahead and send it to at least the IFQ
19 AP. If there's anyone else that would suggest another AP to
20 look into this, please do so at this time, but we would also
21 then -- Staff would be organizing and collecting some of this
22 other documentation that was referenced with Dr. Simmons and Ms.
23 Levy's comments. Does anyone else have any other comments to
24 this? Hearing none, or seeing none, is that enough direction,
25 Dr. Simmons?

26
27 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIMMONS:** Yes. Thank you.

28
29 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. That will take us to our next
30 agenda item, and that would be an Update on the Southeast For-
31 Hire Electronic Reporting Program, Tab F, Number 5. Mr. Hood.

32
33 **UPDATE ON SOUTHEAST FOR-HIRE ELECTRONIC REPORTING (SEFHIER)**
34 **PROGRAM**

35
36 **MR. HOOD:** I'm here and ready to go. What I'm going to be
37 presenting is basically an update since last June, which is the
38 last time that you received an update on SEFHIER. Back in July,
39 the cellular-based VMS final rule published, and that was the
40 rule from Headquarters that basically allowed our Office of Law
41 Enforcement to start testing cellular-based units.

42
43 The Gulf's SEFHIER final rule published, and that has an
44 effective date, as was mentioned, of January 5. We got our PRA
45 approval for the electronic reporting forms. In August, the
46 South Atlantic Council published a correction notice, which
47 basically took their effective date from September and moved it
48 to January 4, and then, also, in August, we sent out a permit

holder notification letter, which let them know that the program was going to be coming and to sort of let them know that they would be getting further communication.

In September, the nine commercially-approved VMS units, and these are satellite systems, were approved for the for-hire fishery. In October, and this is mostly for Dave Donaldson, because he had a question about PRA with the intercept survey, but we're moving along with our PRA approval, and the comment period ended in October, and we're finalizing some details to send up to Headquarters this week, and hopefully that approval will happen sometime in the near future, and then, this week, we're starting the approval process, or the review process, final review process, of the educational toolkit that will be sent out to for-hire fishermen to let them know what to expect in detail with the program.

If you remember, in the Gulf program, we have a Phase 1 and a Phase 2. Phase 1 is the trip declaration and logbook reporting, and then Phase 2 is the VMS portion of the program, and so, again, Phase 1 will be effective on January 5. The approval review of the eTRIPS and VESL software is ongoing, but I think we're at the point where we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and so I don't think we'll have any problems there.

Then I think it was back in August that we shared the tech specs with Mississippi DMR, so they could see if Tails 'n Scales can be used for reporting, and I'm not sure where they're at with that, but we did provide them with that information.

This will be on Phase 2, and so we're not exactly sure what our implementation date will be for VMS, and it will be announced at a later date. right now, I think our target is looking at some time in the spring. Satellite and cellular VMS systems, with and without forms, are currently being tested, and then, again, I mentioned earlier on that nine commercial VMS units have been approved.

In terms of landing locations, on our webpage, we'll be putting the approved landing locations up there, and I'm hoping this week. If a fisherman were to look at those landing locations and not see their location, they would need to then submit a form, and we'll have that form posted this week, also. Obviously, we don't want anybody to submit a form if the landing location already exists, and so certainly we're hoping fishermen will review that list before they submit the form.

In terms of the for-hire survey, and remember this is just sort

1 of a -- This is a validation for SEFHIER, and the survey is --
2 We're continuing to develop that. It's a collaborative process
3 between the Office of Science and Technology, the Gulf States
4 Commission, and us. I have mentioned the PRA approval process
5 and how that was moving along, and then there was an
6 approximately \$1.3 million GulfFIN expansion awarded to include
7 the -- It includes SEFHIER, and that will allow us to do state
8 coordination, and we're hoping that the Gulf survey will start
9 sometime early in 2021.

10
11 Really, this is in terms of outreach, and particularly with
12 customer support, and we have a phone line established and an
13 email address, and so, if a for-hire fisherman has any sort of
14 questions or comments, there is a way they can contact us that
15 way. We have a website established, and we're putting up forms,
16 and they can also -- We have the rules and FAQs and all that
17 sort of information up there.

18
19 We're in the process of hiring twelve new staff members and
20 contractors, and they will be doing customer service and QA/QC
21 and VMS support. As of today, I think we have at least six
22 people onboard, and we hope to have the remaining six brought on
23 sometime in the near future, hopefully during this next month.

24
25 For outreach, we have an educational toolkit that will be mailed
26 to permit holders, probably in the latter half of November, and
27 we're planning outreach sessions and the development of
28 instructional videos, and, those last three items, I just wanted
29 to give a shoutout to Emily and Carly. They have been very
30 involved in that process, and particularly Emily has been
31 working on videos, and she's sort of got her B-roll shot, and
32 she's working with a contractor who will put together a video,
33 and so that's all moving along quite nicely. With that, if
34 anyone has any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

35
36 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Peter. I have Dave Donaldson.

37
38 **MR. DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not a question, but
39 just a couple of comments. Thanks, Peter, for the update on the
40 PRA. I'm glad that's moving forward, because, at times, that
41 can be a bit of a bottleneck, and so I'm glad that we're making
42 some progress on that.

43
44 Then, just for informational purposes, with the validation
45 portion, with the states working on that, we had our first call
46 with SERO staff and the states earlier this month, and we plan
47 on routinely meeting to make sure that we have all the details
48 worked out and we're moving forward, and so I'm glad to see

1 we're making some progress with that, and I just wanted to let
2 the committee know. Thank you.

3
4 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Dave. Any other questions? Ms.
5 Levy.

6
7 **MS. LEVY:** Thank you. Just one comment about the landing
8 location. I just wanted folks that are listening to understand
9 that NMFS needs the location, because it needs to be included in
10 the forms, because you have to indicate where you're landing on
11 your trip declaration, but it's not an approval like the IFQ
12 system, and so the IFQ approves the landings, and it's required
13 to have a physical address and be accessible by law enforcement
14 and such, and these regulations don't have that, and so, if it's
15 approved for IFQ, it's approved by this program, but it's not as
16 stringent to get a new landing location, if it's not already on
17 the IFQ list, and so I didn't want people to think that they had
18 the same requirements as the IFQ program. Thank you.

19
20 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Ms. Guyas.

21
22 **MS. GUYAS:** Thanks, Kevin. Hi, Peter. So I've got to ask. Why
23 January 4 for one and January 5 for the other?

24
25 **MR. HOOD:** It's just sort of a procedural thing. I think,
26 basically, the South Atlantic one has to publish first, and I
27 think that -- The reason behind it has to do with people fishing
28 in the South Atlantic that already have a Gulf permit, and they
29 need to -- They will need to handle that -- They will need to
30 report following the Gulf procedures, and I think, somehow in
31 there, there's a reason, and Mara might be able to explain it
32 better, but, basically, one rule has to publish before the
33 other, and so that's the reason why there is that gap of a day.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Susan.

36
37 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know we're coming to the
38 end of our time, and so I'll try to make this quick, but I do
39 have a couple of questions. Peter, I'm probably jumping the gun
40 a little bit, but you said there were nine approved VMSSs, which
41 I know that's coming later in the program, and I went to the OLE
42 website, because that's where it said those approved VMSSs were,
43 and so is that correct? The VMS units listed on the OLE website
44 are approved for this program, should someone want to go ahead
45 and be looking at the cost and what they need to be prepared
46 for?

47
48 **MR. HOOD:** That's right, and so these are units that are already

1 approved for use for people that have a commercial reef fish
2 permit, and I'm sorry if I didn't elaborate enough in the
3 presentation about that, and so there are nine units out there.

4
5 There are another I would say ten units that are being examined
6 by OLE, and I'm not sure if all of those units have actually
7 been submitted to OLE for testing, but OLE, the Office of Law
8 Enforcement, is looking at those, and I think eight of those
9 units are cellular units, and some of those cellular units could
10 also be hooked up to a satellite system too, and they're called
11 hybrid systems. They can operate on either/or, and so we are
12 moving forward.

13
14 Part of the reason for delaying the effective date is we want to
15 make sure that there are enough units approved so that, as
16 fishermen start to decide what's going to work best for their
17 boat, they have a bunch of options, and so I don't know if that
18 sort of answers your question.

19
20 **MS. BOGGS:** It does, and, should someone decide they want to go
21 ahead and purchase a unit, so they can get it on their vessel,
22 and we don't know when that date is going to be, and we don't
23 want to run up to, okay, we're going to implement on March 1,
24 and everybody is out running trying to get something.

25
26 The \$800,000 that's available for funding, or grants, would they
27 be able to go ahead and apply for that now, or does it have to
28 wait until the actual date is announced for the implementation
29 for the VMS?

30
31 **MR. HOOD:** That I'm not sure about. I do know that, in terms of
32 when they go in to apply for that, they need to select what unit
33 they want, and so, basically, they need to have as much
34 information as possible before they apply for the reimbursement.

35
36 **MS. BOGGS:** Okay, and then a couple more questions, quickly.
37 I'm a little bit confused. You're looking for approval for
38 eTRIPS or VESL, and is one or the other software going to be
39 used, or are the captains going to have an option of which
40 software to use?

41
42 **MR. HOOD:** They will have an option, in terms of which one they
43 want to use.

44
45 **MS. BOGGS:** Okay. That's interesting. Then, talking about the
46 landings, I noticed, on the website, there's not a separate page
47 that we list the landings locations, and is that something that
48 you all intend to add at some point?

1
2 **MR. HOOD:** Yes, and that's a work in progress. I was hoping
3 that we would have it done by now, but we're right on the verge
4 of getting that stuff ready and up on the website.
5

6 **MS. BOGGS:** Okay, and last question, Mr. Chair. Emily, if
7 you're on the line, this may pertain to you, but I'm just
8 curious about the timing of the implementation of this, and
9 we're coming into the end of October, and we're going to be in
10 the holiday season, and a lot of these captains aren't going to
11 be around, and how successful do we think the outreach will be?
12

13 I participated in that call on Tuesday with regard to the
14 SEFHIER program, and one of the suggestions, or someone had
15 commented, I believe, on the east coast that they had done, and
16 they had point persons, like at marinas or something, so that,
17 if a captain had a question, they had someone they could go to
18 and ask and get some help. What are your thoughts, and how do
19 you all intend to roll out this outreach? Thank you.
20

21 **MR. HOOD:** I think Emily can talk about that a little bit
22 better, but I do know that we have been talking about having I
23 guess SEFHIER ambassadors, if you want to use that term, to sort
24 of have some people who are familiar with the program at
25 different docks, but, Emily, do you want to comment on that?
26 Maybe Emily is not on, and so, anyway, yes, we have been talking
27 about ambassadors.
28

29 **MS. BOGGS:** Thank you.
30

31 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Susan. Dr. Hollensead.
32

33 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to follow-
34 up on something that Ms. Boggs had mentioned, just for
35 clarification, and I think you had mentioned, during your
36 presentation -- I know you guys were trying to get the approved
37 landings sites up on the website, and I think I heard you say
38 that potentially could happen this week, depending, but I just
39 wanted to clarify if that is also the same timeline, or very
40 similar, for the approved software for reporting that would go
41 on the website as well, about a week or so out, and is that also
42 the general timeline for that?
43

44 **MR. HOOD:** With the software, like I said, with the approval
45 process, the light is at the end of the tunnel, and so it's
46 going to happen soon, but the timing is separate from some of
47 the other activities.
48

1 **DR. HOLLENSEAD:** Okay. Thank you.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** All right. We're over time, folks, and so
4 there are two folks that have their names up, and I will get to
5 those two, and then we're probably going to wrap it up. Mr.
6 Swindell. Ed, if you're talking, we can't hear you. All right.
7 Next, we'll move to Emily. Did you want to address that
8 previous question?

9
10 **MS. EMILY MUEHLSTEIN:** Sorry. I was listening in, but I wasn't
11 dialed in, and so, just to address Susan's question and sort of
12 give you guys a perspective on where we are going to go from
13 here with the outreach, we have the videos and the toolkits that
14 should be published as early in November as we can, and we
15 recognize that the timing is sort of becoming a time crunch, and
16 we're working really, really hard to get everything printed and
17 distributed to the captains as soon as we can.

18
19 Then, in early December, we are sort of talking about hosting
20 some targeted webinars that will be going to different folks,
21 and so we want to do -- For example, port agents will have a
22 targeted webinar, so we can sort of get them up-to-speed and
23 knowing that they will be liaisons for the program, sort of by
24 default, and we will also have targeted webinars for the
25 outreach folks in the different states, as well as for
26 management personnel, like yourselves as the council members and
27 whatever other state management folks are interested.

28
29 Then, also, a law enforcement webinar, and so this is all sort
30 of designed to help get a community of liaisons that are capable
31 of talking about the program and answering questions about the
32 program, and so I think that hopefully that answers Susan's
33 question.

34
35 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you, Emily. We'll go back to Ed.

36
37 **MR. ED SWINDELL:** What I wanted to know is are the nine units,
38 VMS units -- Do they all produce the same spreadsheet-type
39 format for the information, or are the people receiving the
40 information going to have to go through nine different types of
41 spreadsheets?

42
43 **MR. HOOD:** Well, what would happen is that the electronic form
44 would be -- The SEFHIER form would be on the unit, and that's
45 what the fishermen would be filling out, and so you wouldn't be
46 filling out a commercial form, and it would be a SEFHIER form,
47 and that would work within our system.

1 **MR. SWINDELL:** Thank you.

2
3 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. Susan, do you have a quick
4 question?

5
6 **MS. BOGGS:** I just have a quick comment, Mr. Chair, and this is
7 for anybody in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey Program,
8 because I've been a bit confused how that's going to be
9 affected, and my understanding is it's not going to affect the
10 reporting of the headboats, and I just kind of wanted to get
11 that out there, in case there was somebody listening and
12 wondering. The only difference will be the hail-out
13 requirement. Thank you.

14
15 **CHAIRMAN ANSON:** Thank you. That is going to wrap up that
16 portion of the agenda, because we are out of time. Seeing that
17 we had no other business brought up when the agenda was
18 approved, Mr. Chair, that concludes the Data Collection
19 Committee. Thank you.

20
21 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned on October 26, 2020.)

22
23 - - -