

**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**  
SEFSC

# SEFSC Commercial Electronic Logbook Project

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# Goals:

Create on-board electronic logbook program that can accommodate vessels participating in multiple commercial federal fisheries and across regional boundaries

## SEFSC vessel commercial logbook programs:

- HMS-Pelagic Longline, 1986
- Gulf of Mexico reef fish, 1990
- South Atlantic snapper/grouper, 1992
- Federally managed shark, 1993
- King and Spanish mackerel, 1998
- Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo, 2004



# What is logbook data used for?

- Indices of abundance for Single Species Stock Assessment
  - Hot spot and recent fishing effects
  - Environmental effects – assign to each catch-effort observations
- Social + economic assessment
  - Impacts of management on Profitability
- Estimates of discards (target and non-target)
- Validate commercial landings from Dealers

# Logbook data not used for?

- Not used for tracking Individual Fishing Quotas
  - IFQ system remains duplicative at this time
- Not used for tracking Annual Catch Limit.
- Electronically reported Dealer landings are used to determine when ACL is reached.

The SEFSC does not build or maintain logbook software.

Vendors are responsible for software that satisfies our Standards.

Overlap of participants in both for-hire and commercial fisheries.

A singular device with alternate interfaces (and data requirements) would reduce the cost and burden to fishers.

# Overview of Pilot Project Design

Installation of the e-logbook: April of 2015.

E-logbook versions from three vendors: OLSPS (Olrac) Marine, Electric Edge Systems Group Inc., and Harbor Light's Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)



Nine commercial vessels with laptops or tablets submitted total of 58 trips with days at sea ranging from 1 to 17.

All vessels had on board GPS

South Atlantic:

5 from North Carolina, 1 From Florida

HMS:

1 South Florida (buoy, trolling), 1 North Carolina/Mass. (longline)

Gulf:

2 Florida (reef longline/hand line), 2 Texas (bandit)



Most frequent feedback: fishers asked for mobile versions of the software because the laptops were too cumbersome.

Also:

- More efficient navigation through software
- Ability to search quickly when looking through tables for data entry
- As many data entry fields as possible to 'roll over' between sets.
- Display settings to accommodate night fishing



All Pilot versions of the e-logbook have tools that limit the data entry burden on commercial fishers.

Lists of valid entries for gear, bait used, and species targeted. Fishers can further refine list by creating “favorites”

The pilot project participants expressed interest in “rolling over” fields (target species, hook size and type, bait type used, etc.)

SEFSC staff suggest we limit which specific fields fishers need to enter every time to ensure that the correct information is collected.

# Reporting Changes

**Lists of valid entries. Example: species**

62 Paper logbook vs. 900+ eLogbook

## Justification:

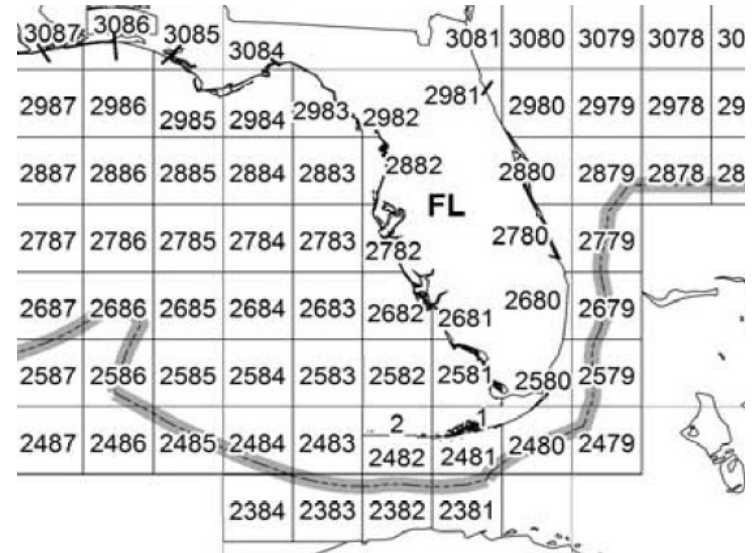
**Reduce errors**

Wahoo	4710	#	#				Sea Trout, White	3455	#	#			
Black Sea Bass	3360	#	#				Little Tunny	4653	#	#			
Bluefish	0230	#	#				Barracuda	0180	#	#			
Blue Runner	0270	#	#				Hake	1550	#	#			

# Reporting Changes

## Location: Much higher resolution

Multiple spatio-temporal points per trip and per set



# Justification

Decrease the uncertainty of biological models, ultimately improving stock assessment methods

## Identify specific hotspot fishing locations or times

Identify essential fish habitat, spawning aggregations, migration patterns, Total mortality events

# Biggest change is to set-based reporting

- HMS commercial fishers have been providing set-based reports that use multiple pages
- Coastal commercial fishers have been reporting once per trip

Hail weight/ set vs. total weight / trip

- Much higher resolution for CPUE indices

# Exceptions to set-based reporting

Feedback from fishers: Commercial Hook and line fishing and Cast Net does not fall naturally into a well-defined set.

Accommodate  
fishers by switching  
to sub-trip definition



# FISMA

- ACCSP assigns all participants a Participant ID. ID/Password = fisher submits logbooks
- ACCSP is entering into an information sharing agreement (FISMA) with SERO that will allow ACCSP Participant IDs to be linked to their corresponding permits.
- All electronic forms will be linked to fisher compliance and, provided forms are free of error, fishers will be given near real time credit for their submission.



# Fisheries Electronic Reporting

SEFSC is currently using the FER application to accept No Fishing reports.

Compliance is granted instantaneously.

Current eTrips (ACCSP) is working to incorporate our standards for No Fishing Reporting.

The image shows a login interface for the Southeast Fisheries Reporting Center. The background is a composite of three underwater scenes: a shark swimming in deep blue water on the left, a blue anchor icon above the title in the center, and a vibrant coral reef with various sea anemones and sponges on the right. The title "Southeast Fisheries Reporting Center" is displayed in green text. Below the title is a white login form with two input fields: "Username" containing the email "JULIE.E.BROWN@NOAA.GOV" and "Password" which is empty. A blue "Login" button is positioned at the bottom right of the form.

Southeast Fisheries Reporting Center

Username  
JULIE.E.BROWN@NOAA.GOV

Password

Login

# Timeline

Volunteer recruitment for Pilot 2014

Testing eLogbook Pilot April 2015

SEFSC Staff given Admin privileges in  
SAFIS Management System in 2015

Infrastructure Development at  
ACCSP and SEFSC 2015 - 2019

FER Launch 2018

Updated API  
available 2019

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019





# Timeline cont.

Ability to pull eTrips submissions into SEFSC through ACCSP's View March 2020 for testing

FISMA finalized Summer 2020

Sero permits are live at ACCSP 2020

SAFIS rebuild/"Switchboard" goes live 2020

Finalize technical requirements document for 3<sup>rd</sup> party software vendors 2020

Voluntary Implementation

Mandatory Implementation

2020

2021

2022

Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are (or will be) required on commercial Gulf reef fish vessels, South Atlantic rock shrimp vessels, various Highly Migratory Species (HMS) vessels, and for-hire charter vessels.

All potential software vendors, including ones producing VMS, are eligible to develop eLogbook software, once FISMA and Technical Requirements Document are complete.

VMS vendors must clear any form change with VMS HQ staff



# Action Guide

- Updates from SEFSC for DECEMBER 2020 meeting
- Once database infrastructure can accept electronic commercial logbooks, and we begin voluntary submissions, then Council(s) can begin drafting resolution(s)





# Questions?

