



NOAA
FISHERIES
SEFSC

Tab D, No. 5

Shrimp cELB interim data collection process - update

Alan Lowther
Fisheries Statistics Division
Southeast Fisheries Science Center

April 2022

Brief review of issue

1. cELB units ceased transmitting information to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on December 31, 2020, and National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) in Stennis shut down the machine receiving the electronic logbook data from cELB units on December 7, 2020.
2. cELB units are still collecting data, just not transmitting.
3. Plan for 2021 (and 2022) is for the shrimp fishery to continue to use the cELB units and the data will be manually obtained by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center on SD cards returned by the shrimpers.

Interim steps to maintain data collection

(all done last year)

1. Develop instructions for fishermen to remove old SD and install new SD card. Develop mailer for sending new card to fishermen, with return addressed mailer for the old card to go to Galveston Lab.
2. GSMFC set up table on their Oracle server to load data from SD cards and developed scanning process to isolate virus infected cards.
3. NMFS IT worked with GSMFC developers to create the process to access data table at GSMFC, pull data to a NMFS server, and run conversion code to create usable data...and QC.
4. SEFSC sent letter prior to mailing replacement cards explaining the process to shrimpers, copying GMFMC, SSA, any other groups we identified.
5. First mailing May 2021, Second mailing January 2022, Third mailing ???



Update on progress so far

- **Mailing 1:** 493 replacement SD cards (including letter, instructions, pre-paid return envelope) sent out June 1, 2021
 - 290 cards were returned (59%)
 - Two rounds of reminders (written and email) were sent
- **Mailing 2:** 455 replacement SD cards were sent out January 14, 2022
 - So far 150 cards have been returned (33%)
 - Due for another round of reminders to be sent

Issues

- Receiving data from fewer cELB boxes
 - Does not appear to be a sustainable data collection solution.
 - In need of a longer-term solution (VMS, Plotter, logbook, something)
- NMFS will communicate with vessels if we notice the unit is no longer collecting data.
- NMFS FSD is examining current estimation methods.