

# Update on modification to commercial coastal logbook program



Photo: NOAA Southeast Regional Office

# Background

- The commercial coastal logbook program collects data from commercial vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and throughout the Atlantic
- Commercial fishermen holding Gulf reef fish and Coastal Migratory Pelagic permits are required to fill out a coastal paper logbook within 7 days of completing a fishing trip and mail the logbook to SEFSC
- **The SEFSC is interested in requiring electronic reporting of logbook rather than continuing the current submission process of mailing a paper logbook (Council passed a motion Feb 2013)**
- A pilot study was conducted May 2015 – January 2016 to investigate the feasibility of reporting commercial data through electronic means
  - A finalized draft of the report has not been made available but a summary of findings can be found on slides 5-6 in presentation in “Background materials”
- “No Fishing” reports have moved to electronic submission only



# Program next steps and AP feedback

- The SEFSC initially recommended further modifications to the coastal logbook program to improve data collection precision (i.e. set-based level reporting and improved spatial resolution reporting)
- Before moving forward with any additional reporting requirements both the Reef Fish and CMP APs recommended (early 2021) that a series of collaborative workshops first be conducted before implementation
- **APs recommended workshops before additional data fields were implemented but stakeholders were very supportive of reporting the existing paper logbook through an electronic system**



# Next steps

- Since changes in reporting requirements are largely administrative, it is possible appropriate document would be a Categorical Exclusion
  - CE more stream lined, single action document
- South Atlantic received an initial draft of an options paper on June 13<sup>th</sup>
- A joint IPT will have to review the joint document and that document will need to be presented to the Gulf Council (tentatively at the August meeting)



# Questions?



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